

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - March 16, 2000, 9 AM - 10 AM

Participants:

Brad Frazier, USFWS	Julie Campbell, USFWS
Frank Frutchey, CAC RI/FS Task Force	Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill
Brad Sample, CH2M Hill	Matt Kadlec, Ecology
John Roland, Ecology	Dana Houkal, URS
Anne Dailey, EPA	Jeff Fromm, IDEQ
Dan Winstanley, CH2M Hill	Don Heinle, CH2M Hill
Steve Hughes, URS	Dick Martindale, EPA
Mary Jane Nearman, EPA	Jack O'BRIEN, CAC RI/FS Task Force
Merril Coomes, City of CDA	Joe Goulet, EPA

Final Receptor Table for the EcoRA

- Dailey emailed the final receptor table out the EcoRA workgroup on March 9th
- the final receptor table provides a list of more than 70 plants and animals to be evaluated in the EcoRA and is the result of substantial input via EcoRA meetings, many EcoRA teleconferences, a joint CAC RI/FS Task Force & WA CAC meeting and numerous separate phone conversations; many changes have been made in response to stakeholder input
- Frank Frutchey noted that elk are feeding on the grasses now and suggested that we include grasses in the receptor list and suggested that the genus agrostis (common grasses) is typical of many grasses, it was noted that multiple grass species are included in the "plant community" receptor group even though specific species names are not included on the receptor table
- Frank asked about agricultural habitats - not evaluating impacts to agricultural or cultivated species but are looking at species that may feed in agricultural areas
- Frank asked about inclusion of the data he collected from his property and Don Heinle indicated that EPA and its contractors have the data and it will be evaluated in the data analysis phase of the EcoRA
- Frank asked about the presence of the Northern harrier on the list and Don Heinle noted that the Northern harrier hawk is also known as the marsh hawk, is a fairly large bird, eats rodents/small bird/muskrats/snakes, and flies close to the ground in agricultural areas
- Frank asked how we will be evaluating the species - we responded that we'd be using all available site-specific toxicological data, data from other sources, and laboratory toxicological studies

- Are we looking at evaluation of soil amendment in the FS and what it does to the bioavailability to waterfowl? Mary Jane Nearman indicated that there had been discussions with USFWS about the relevance/usefulness of additional feeding or

bioavailability studies

There was discussion about the article by Zaz Hollander in today's (3/16/00) Spokesman Review concerning the receptor table. There are some misquotes and misleading statements in the article. For example, the statement that 500 to 1800 ppm lead is killing birds is not correct - this is the range at which we are seeing sublethal effects. Another example is that 71% of the total bird deaths are due to metals exposure - not 71% of the birds that came to the basin died due to lead. Julie Campbell indicated that USFWS had tried to clear things up with Zaz Hollander.

Status of Background Report

- Dailey asked Don Heinle about the status of the background report. Don reported that URS/CH2M are looking at the Stratus background work and are reconciling calculational procedures. Parts of the background memo are done but not completed since the Stratus folks are out of the office right now.

Feasibility Study (FS) -Tech Memo 2 - ARARS & PRGs

- Tech Memo 2 for the Feasibility Study will be going out soon with the ARARS (applicable or relevant and appropriate regulations) and preliminary remediation goals (PRGs)
- "developmental PRGs" have been identified in advance of completion of the EcoRA because we are doing the risk assessment in parallel with the FS and the FS team needs to know what the cleanup targets are likely to be so that they can evaluate remedial alternatives
- final risk-based levels could be higher than the PRGs since many of the PRGs are set at background concentrations
- Frank Frutchey noted that Colin Wagner, Ridolfi, called to get information about the areas that had been treated

ESA Listing of Threatened and Endangered Species

- Dailey reported that EPA from USFWS received the revised list of threatened and endangered species likely to occur within the area of EPA's RI/FS and removal activities in the CDA basin and Spokane River. (An initial list had included species for the entire counties in the project area but the revised list has been refined to include just the project area not the whole counties.
- Frank Frutchey asked whether there are terrestrial T&E plants - Ute's ladies tresses is a T&E plant identified in the FWS list
- There was some question about whether T&E plants need to be evaluated at an individual level; Joe Goulet thought he might know of something which suggests that T&E plants did not need to be evaluated at an individual level but Dailey noted that

available EPA guidance (most recently from 10/99) provides no distinction between T&E plants and animals.

- Don Heinle has made progress on the cumulative risk profile on the aquatic portion of the EcoRA

Schedule

- EPA has heard community requests that the RI/FS schedule be slowed down and is presently exploring options. No final decisions regarding schedule changes have been made. The bottom-line is that the draft EcoRA report will be somewhat delayed but we do not yet have a new schedule.

Next Teleconference

- Next EcoRA call will be on April 6, 2000 at 9 AM PST

- call-in number is 206-553-4616; no pass code required

- topics of discussion will include:

- discussion of Migratory Bird Treaty Act and evaluation of individual-level biological organization in the EcoRA

- report on progress of the EcoRA

- EcoRA schedule

- other EcoRA issues as appropriate