

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - Sept. 21, 2000, 9:00 AM - 9:25 AM

Participants:

Brad Frazier, USFWS
Merril Coomes, City of Coeur d'Alene
Tom Dahl, Dahl Environmental
Anne Dailey, EPA
John Roland, Ecology
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane

Draft EcoRA Review Period Extension to Nov. 6, 2000

- In response to two requests for extension to the review period and after reviewing the schedule, **EPA has determined that comments received prior to November 6, 2000, can be considered when finalizing the EcoRA document.**
- Although not required by the National Contingency Plan, the Draft Ecological Risk Assessment was released as early as possible to facilitate public involvement and allow parties to identify any issues as soon as possible for timely consideration.
- It is important to note that the record on the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, including the Ecological Risk Assessment, remains open through the end of the process.

Draft EcoRA Errata Sheet

- ==>>Draft EcoRA was mailed on August 31st to the EcoRA Work Group for review.
- As with any draft document, we have noted errors in the Draft EcoRA. We sent out an errata sheet next week which will identify substantive errors that may impact your review. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Update of CdA EcoRA schedule:

- The EcoRA review schedule continues to be as follows:

8/31/00	Draft EcoRA mailed to EcoRA work group for review
9/27-28/00	EcoRA work group workshop in CDA regarding draft EcoRA document (to be held at USFS facility in CDA on Kathleen Road) - Agenda for the workshop to be sent via separate email
9/28	6 PM - 9 PM, ID CAC & WA CAC Workshop regarding the Draft EcoRA

Revision:

==> 11/06/00 Written comments on Draft EcoRA due to EPA

Soil Amendment Treatability Study:

- On 9/20/00 there was discussion of a USFWS proposal to evaluate the reduction in Pb bioavailability to waterfowl using soil amendments, discussion of third party comments on the USFWS proposal and discussion of next steps.
- The Inplace Inactivation and Natural Ecological Restoration Technologies (IINERT) group was provided with the USFWS soil amendment treatability study proposal in early August to conduct a 3rd party review of the USFWS waterfowl soil amendment feeding proposal. IINERT is an industry (Cominco, DuPont, etc.), academic, and government group that reviews treatment/restoration technology proposals, among other things. The IINERT group members have participated in studies on amendments at other EPA Superfund mining sites.
- Reviewers had comments on the proposal which were discussed and some revisions will be made accordingly.
- Key among the next steps is that EPA will task our contractor, URS Greiner, under the CDA RI/FS contract (Treatability Study Task #9) to 1) gather information needed to evaluate amendments (e.g., types of material, geochemical mechanism, results of previous studies, cost, reaction time, other considerations, etc.), 2) to identify surrogate tests (e.g., extraction tests) for evaluation of amendments, and 3) provide recommendations regarding a field pilot study
- Also, it is important to keep in mind that there are a number of questions regarding soil amendments, one of which is will amendments reduce Pb bioavailability to waterfowl. Other important questions regarding soil amendments include stability/weathering, how is plant growth affected, human impacts, (re)application rates, and other issues. The proposed waterfowl feeding study is designed to only address the bioavailability to waterfowl question. Other evaluations would be needed to answer the other questions.
- Timing is such that the waterfowl feeding study would likely not be conducted until fall 2001 due to reaction times needed for the amendments, lab space availability and optimum conditions for testing the waterfowl.

Next Teleconference:

- Next EcoRA call will be on October 5, 2000 at 9 AM PST
- Call-in number is 206-553-4557; no pass code required
- topics of discussion will include:
 - status of the EcoRA
 - follow-up from the EcoRA Work Group workshop held 9/27-28/00 in CdA
 - other topics as appropriate