

## Summary of Lower Columbia River Toxics Reduction Strategy Meeting

December 6, 2005

The Columbia River Toxics Reduction Strategy was created to develop a shared strategy for addressing toxics in the Columbia. The strategy breaks the river into four segments which include the Upper Columbia from the Canadian boarder to Grand Coulee Dam, the Mid-Columbia from Grand Coulee to the Bonneville Dam and the Snake River to Hell's Canyon, the Lower-Columbia from the Bonneville Dam to the ocean, and the Snake River from Hell's Canyon to American Falls Reservoir.

The first meeting focusing on the Lower Columbia was held September 7, 2005 in Portland, Oregon. During this meeting presentations were given on recent toxics research, the effect of toxics on tribal health, and the Bradford Island cleanup. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided a brief overview of the strategy then the group discussed the strategy and shared goals. The meeting concluded with the Lower Columbia Estuary Program (the Estuary Partnership) agreeing to be the convener for the next Lower Columbia strategy meeting.

This meeting was the second gathering for the Lower Columbia River Toxics Reduction Strategy. The meeting began with Deb Marriott from the Estuary Partnership and Mary Lou Soscia from EPA providing an introduction and welcome.

Next, everyone was asked to provide their hopes and fears for the strategy creation process. **Scott McEwen will compile the results and draft and vision statement for comment by the group.**

Kristina Davis from Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) vocalized the need to integrate this effort with Oregon and Washington's Non-Point Source (NPS) Documents. ODA is in charge of the NPS documents for Oregon. Kristina also told the group about the Pesticide Use Recording System (PURS), which will be conducting a residential pesticide use survey in 2007.

Monitoring, Data Sharing, and Early Action Project workgroups then broke into small groups to discuss next steps and agree on a work plan. Each work group reported on progress to the group as a whole and a summary of these discussions is provided in separate documents.

The group as a whole then discussed source identification. Helen Rueda from USEPA informed the group about information Marty Fitzpatrick of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) compiled on the list of NPDES dischargers releasing toxics to the Columbia River. EPA conducted similar research for Washington facilities discharging to the Columbia River. Mary Lou Soscia will be serving as the interim contact for the source identification work group and is hoping to have future assistance from ODEQ and Washington Department of Ecology.

Mary Lou Soscia closed the meeting by urging each work group to come up with 1-2 actions before the group reconvenes in late March/early April. The work groups will need to meet in January or February to develop these actions.