

UPRIVER DAM PCB SEDIMENTS SITE

(Spokane River PCB Contamination Project)



DRAFT CONSENT DECREE FOR THE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Washington Department of Ecology is proposing to enter into a Consent Decree to perform a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the Upriver Dam PCB Sediments Site. The study will focus on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in sediments. The area to be studied is from approximately rivermile 80 at the Upriver Dam to approximately rivermile 85 located upstream of the Dam near the Centennial Trail footbridge. The Site is located in the County of Spokane, Washington (Figure 1).

The proposed Consent Decree will be a legal agreement between Ecology, Avista Development, Inc. and Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation regarding actions which will be performed as part of the RI/FS. The proposed Consent Decree will be implemented under the authority of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Chapter 70.105D (RCW).

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation (RI) is to gather more information to determine the nature and extent of PCBs in sediments in and along the Spokane River at and upstream of the dam along the portion of the river hydraulically influenced by Upriver Dam.

The Feasibility Study will identify and evaluate potential alternatives to address PCBs at the Site. An RI/FS Report will be made available to the public for comment before becoming final.

After the 30-day comment period for the proposed Consent Decree, Ecology will

respond to comments received and may negotiate modifications, if appropriate.

Ecology invites the public to review and comment on the Draft Consent Decree for the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study from October 25 through November 23, 2002.

The box on the right indicates where documents may be reviewed, comments sent and additional information obtained. If ten or more persons request a public meeting or hearing on the Draft Consent Decree for the RI/FS, Ecology will grant the request.

Health Advisory

In March 2001 an updated health advisory was issued by the Spokane Regional Health District (in cooperation with state departments of Health and Ecology), advising people to avoid or significantly limit their consumption of fish caught from certain locations of the river. See the box on page one for the website location of the advisory.

OCTOBER 2002 FACT SHEET

COMMENTS ACCEPTED:

October 25, through November 23, 2002.
This fact sheet is available in English, Russian, Spanish, Hmong and Vietnamese on Ecology's website under the Spokane River section at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites.html>

For assistance in Russian:

Pavel Gerasimchuk (509) 893-3723

Para asistencia en Espanol:

Sr. Antonio Valero (509) 454-7840

REPOSITORIES: (document review)

WA Department of Ecology

Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205-1295
Ms. Johnnie Harris (509) 456-2751

Argonne County Library

4322 North Argonne Road
Spokane, WA 99206
Ms. Judy Luck (509) 926-4334

Spokane Public Library

906 West Main, Spokane, WA 99202
Ms. Dana Darylmp (509) 444-5300

Technical questions/ submission of written comments, contact: Mr. John Roland

WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 625-5182 or 1-800-826-7716
E-mail: jrol461@ecy.wa.gov

Mailing list or public hearing request contact:, Ms. Carol Bergin

WA Department of Ecology
1-800-826-7716 or (509) 456-6360
E-mail: cabe461@ecy.wa.gov

PCB details see Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/facts17.html

March 2001 Health Advisory for Spokane River Fish Consumption:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/spo_riv/spo_riv_fish_adv.pdf

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a group of manufactured synthetic chemical products, either solids or oily liquids. In product form they may range from colorless to light yellow in color and have no smell or taste. These chemicals were historically used as insulating fluids, coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors or other electrical equipment; as heat transfer and hydraulic fluids; in inks; carbonless paper; and, other uses. The manufacture of PCBs stopped in the United States in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and may cause harmful health effects.

The potential human exposure to PCBs from the Spokane River is primarily through the eating of fish caught from the river. The contaminated sediments are not known to be associated with community swimming locations.

Between 1978 and 1984 PCBs were found in fish samples collected by Ecology from the Spokane River. Additional studies done in the late 1990s show fish collected from certain locations still contain significant contamination.

The information collected from recent studies also resulted in a further understanding of PCBs in sediments and PCBs coming from Spokane-area point sources (i.e., industrial and municipal permitted discharges). Avista, Kaiser and Liberty Lake Sewer District have been identified as potential contributors to PCB contamination in Upriver Dam sediments through historic discharges of effluent wastewater to the Spokane River.

Other Studies

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under authority of CERCLA (the federal Superfund) has also been conducting studies on the Spokane River. The USEPA studies have focused on metals such as zinc, arsenic, cadmium and lead associated with historic mining operations in Idaho. These metals have been broadly distributed throughout the upper Spokane River, including and extending beyond the fine grained sediment areas behind Upriver Dam where PCBs are located. The USEPA Record of Decision (September 2002) selects capping or dredging as the cleanup alternatives to reduce metals risks in sediments associated with Upriver Dam. A final alternative has not been selected between these two options. For more information on the USEPA metals cleanup efforts in the Coeur d'Alene Basin see the following website:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cda>

The RI/FS to be performed by Kaiser and Avista is expected to be completed near the end of 2004. The USEPA metals RI/FS has been completed, but additional assessment work is anticipated near Upriver Dam. Ecology plans to coordinate, to the extent possible, the cleanup actions focused on PCBs in sediments at the Upriver Dam Site with the USEPA's plans.

Ecology is also developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessment of PCBs in the Spokane River. This issue deals mainly with PCBs and water quality rather than the PCBs in sediments. A draft report of the TMDL assessment is expected in 2004.

What Happens Next?

Ecology will review all written comments submitted on the proposed Consent Decree for the PCB RI/FS, and, if necessary, may negotiate modifications to the Consent Decree. A Responsiveness Summary will be prepared to answer comments received. It will be available in the repositories listed on page one. Once the Consent Decree is finalized and approved by the appropriate courts, work will begin on completing the RI/FS.

How You May Be Involved:

- ◆ **Review the Draft Consent Decree for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study October 25, through November 23, 2002.** Copies of the Consent Decree are available for review at the repositories listed in the shaded box on page one. Files may be reviewed at Ecology in Spokane Monday through Thursday, 8-5 p.m. by appointment only.
- ◆ **Submit written comments by November 23, 2002** to Mr. John Roland, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed in the shaded box on page one.
- ◆ **Share this information** with interested individuals or groups.