



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Response to Comments

Spokane River Upriver Dam and Donkey Island Periodic Review

Facility Site ID: 65178472

Cleanup Site ID: 4213

Public comment period held:

December 23, 2015 – January 27, 2016

January 2016

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/CleanupSiteDocuments.aspx?csid=4213>

For more information, contact:

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Introduction

Accidental spills of dangerous materials and past business practices have contaminated land and water throughout the state. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Toxics Cleanup Program works to remedy these situations, which range from cleaning up contamination from leaking underground storage tanks, to large, complex projects requiring engineered solutions.

Ecology held a 30-day public comment period from December 23, 2015, through January 27, 2016, for the [periodic review of the Spokane River Upriver Dam and Donkey Island site](#). We appreciate the question we received during this time, which is included in the Response to Comments section of this document, along with our answer.

Ecology conducts a periodic review at least every five years after beginning cleanup at a site, as required by the [Model Toxics Control Act](#) (MTCA). The purposes of the review are to evaluate site conditions and to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment when environmental controls are used as part of a cleanup.

Site Background

The Spokane River drains more than 4,900 square miles in Washington and Idaho. Mining operations, industries, and municipal wastewater treatment plants located within the watershed upstream of the Upriver Dam and Donkey Island site have discharged polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the river. Two PCB deposits in river-bottom sediments were investigated and cleaned up from 2003 to 2007 in accordance with a consent decree Ecology entered into with Avista Development, Inc. and Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation.

Ecology visited the site October 23, 2013, and found it is still owned by the State and is open to public recreation. Ecology used data from sediment samples taken in 2008 and 2010 to determine the remedies are still effective.

Response to Comments

Ecology responded to one question received via email during the comment period.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kris Holm [mailto:krisholm@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 5:02 PM

To: Carter, Patti Y. (ECY) <PACA461@ECY.WA.GOV>

Subject: Upriver Dam draft

I am reviewing the draft Upriver dam cleanup study just posted to the SRRTTF site. I am particularly interested in the sampling protocols for the water column data. Is there a study QAPP available? Did Ecology use 1668c? Thanks Krisholm@comcast.net
206 829-8792

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----

From: Dowling, Brendan (ECY)
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 9:44 AM
To: Kris Holm <krisholm@comcast.net>
Cc: Bronson, Erika (ECY) <EHOL461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: RE: Upriver Dam draft

Hi Kris,

Patti forwarded on your message regarding the 5-year periodic review for the Upriver Dam site. As mentioned in the review, only sediment samples (both surface grabs and cores) were collected and analyzed for PCBs during the two post-construction monitoring events. The method that was used for the analysis was EPA Method 8082. The results for both monitoring events along with the QAPP (as an appendix to the year 4 monitoring event) can be found by clicking on the link entitled "view electronic documents" on the right-hand side of the webpage for the site:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4213>. In addition, the methods and results of the sampling conducted during the Remedial Investigation can be found in the RI Report and its appendices which can also be found in the same location. I hope that answers your questions. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Brendan Dowling
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