

Peer Review Plan

Date: 6/9/2011

Source Center: U. S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Washington Water Science Center
934 Broadway Ave, Suite 300
Tacoma, WA 98402

Title: Evaluation and Interpretation of the 2005 Sediment Chemistry and Sediment Toxicity Data for the Upper Columbia River Site.

Subject and Purpose: This report describes the collation, evaluation, and interpretation of sediment chemistry and sediment-toxicity data that were collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during Phase I of the Remedial Investigation of the Upper Columbia River (UCR) Site. The UCR is centered on Lake Roosevelt, a 153-mile-long impoundment of the Columbia River upstream of Grand Coulee Dam where surficial bed sediments are known to be contaminated with trace-element throughout the lake. This report provides an evaluation and interpretation of the sediment chemistry and toxicity data collected in 2005 that is more detailed than results provided by the EPA, identifies methods for interpreting the sediment toxicity data that facilitate designation of sediment samples as toxic or not toxic utilizing reference conditions within the study area, and identifies toxicity thresholds for key chemicals of concern at the UCR. The report also identifies key gaps in the existing knowledge base and suggests additional data-collection actions that could fill these gaps.

Two USGS scientists (S.E. Cox and C.G. Ingersoll) are coauthors of this non-USGS publication that was prepared for Science Applications International Corporation by MacDonald Environmental Services Ltd., at the request of the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Impact of Dissemination: This information product is considered by the USGS to be Influential Scientific Information.

Timing of Review: June-July 2011. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: This review will be conducted via individual letters. The USGS will select the peer reviewers pursuant to requirements in Survey Manual chapter 502.3 -Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review (<http://www.usgs.gov/usgs-manual/500/502-3.html>).

Expected Number of Reviewers: A minimum of two, and possible three reviewers.

Requisite Expertise: Aquatic toxicology, sediment chemistry, hydrology.

Opportunity for Public Comment: None. The opportunity for public comment is not formally incorporated for this product.

Agency Contact: peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov.