

Minutes November 23, 2020

Present: Mindy, Joe, Hilary, Matt, Carroll, Jay

Business

- RI/FS update (Joe)
 - Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA)/Sediment toxicity phase 3: Draft soil approach steps 1-6 (TRV) – there were only a few CCC comments; mainly we asked for a brief summary about how the baseline toxicity values were obtained and the level of certainty in these values as some were based on a single study. Kathy was on this month's EPA call and notes that Teck has been contentious about the EPA comments on the UCR soil studies for plants and invertebrates (don't want to do additional data collection) and on the requested technical memos (clarified that this was in the original agreement despite them refusing to provide any additional technical memos, so they will likely comply). Joe is not sure that there are adequate baseline values. Kathy wants comments on the Bioassay results as she is concerned about them – we will look at the spreadsheet provided. She said that some of the reference values for the Toxicity study are of concern. Teck has finally admitted that they are giving up on the TIE studies (resin studies) which we have been recommending.
 - Denise Mills has taken over running the RI/FS and Chris has been promoted. Kathy seems to feel that she works better with Denise.
 - Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) – EPA finished their response to comments and the document is with SRC for updating. EPA have the FOYA team review the document for redacting next, likely in a few weeks. The Spokane Tribe appendix is also complete and is with the tribe for comments. An updated Public version of the HHRA should be out for review in early December. Still no EPA/Teck decision on which blood level will be used (hoping for 5 vs. 8).
 - Tech air monitoring question: Request for air monitoring QA and control measures: EPA finally got an acceptable response from Teck and did a sensitivity analysis with the data. The most relevant measure was arsenic and a magnitude of 4.6 would be needed for the level to have a major impact on HHRA, so there are no concerns at this time with air for the HHRA. This has been explained in the response to comments. Also submitted were the 2012 to 2014 monitor data from Columbia Gardens.
 - Jay mentions that he just got the public guide from LRF.
 - Soil amendment/technology (SATES): Phase 3/phase 4 (field testing and monitoring plans). Application of the first amendment was made to one plot but the rest was canceled due to weather. This raised a number of concerns. Joe observed the first day of amendment application and was very disappointed. An all-new team was used so they were not familiar with the area. The application was problematic as the soluble triple super phosphate had not been tested in the field. They applied it to one quarter of the plot at a time which was optimal. The control water was soaking into the ground but 10% of the phosphate did not dissolve. Also, the potash did not dissolve at all; this was used to control the pH. In addition, there was supposed to be a 4-foot buffer zone to avoid spillover, but the team sprayed all the way to the edge of the plot into the buffer zone. Joe took pictures and sent them to Robert after our discussion on Thursday. Another disappointing aspect is that no-one from the CCT, Ecology or EPA was there to observe.

Joe made several recommendations. Marc mentioned that they were planning to do some control sampling from the buffer zone and this would not be possible if amendment was applied there.

- Aerial delineation: nothing new
- Sediment transport (keeping the thought alive)
- Bossburg (no new action – beach remains closed)
- Removal action – all done but no additional information received. Mindy will contact Monica for a project summary for the next call and hopefully the newsletter.
- Skeo news (Joe) – Eric mentioned that contract with EPA ends Dec 21. Robert will contact Debra Sherbina for an extension of funds. Freya needs to be contacted. Mindy will follow-up with Robert.
- T-shirts and dues (Hilary) – Shirts are available from her. Asks if there is an order form on the website or FaceBook.
- Website (Jamie) update - deferred
- Epidemiologic study update (Jamie) - deferred
- Air monitoring (Mindy) conversation with Jenks/Dave McBride on hold. Have not had a chance to do this but on the EPA call on Thursday, Robert Tan noted that EPA is in conversation with Dept. of Ecology to apply for a grant for air monitoring. Robert says this is looking promising. It is for multipurpose funding, so there are competing needs but the amount is between \$100-140,000 annually. They are also more amenable to training someone local to help.

New business

- Newsletter – in progress for January

Adjourned.