

## Minutes October 31, 2022

### Business

- RI/FS update (Joe)
  - HHRA – EPA has taken the lead on developing the remedial action objectives (RAO, see attached). Joe and Mindy have the 1-page document on the preliminary RAOs and will provide comments by Nov 10. From the document: “Following the risk assessment, Remedial Action Objectives are developed to clarify the goal(s) of any actions that may need to be taken at the site.” They are using the 3 “receptor” categories – residents, outdoor workers and recreational visitors. The air pathway has been removed based on HHRA findings. They are proposing “For lead, this is defined as having no more than a 5% probability having a blood lead level of 5 µg/dL; for non-cancer risks a hazard index of no more than 1; or a cancer risk of no more than 10<sup>-4</sup>.” The focus is to reduce exposure to lead and arsenic (and prevent it for workers and recreational users) and prevent “unacceptable site-related risk from exposure to methylmercury, dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in fish harvested from the UCR.” A little unfortunate that they didn’t list cadmium and thallium, but if you clean up lead you will likely remove these as well and these chemicals are still in the BERA.
  - BERA
    - We sent in comments on the DRAFT Technical Memorandum Upper Columbia River Site Sediment Background Evaluation, September 2022. The comments focused on adding more data specific to Teck’s role in the transport of metals and release of metals from slag and to be more specific about data gaps. EPA was surprised that this was presented as a complete study. But Teck is trying to focus only on slag and not on effluent discharge (absorbed on clay and fines and swept down river). Their modeling comes up with 2 scenarios - one shows higher levels of contaminants than another and likely that is due to effluent. They also mentioned Metaline Mine and they might try to blame some of the contamination on them. We hit on some general comments – that Tech should admit that they own all the slag and should mention the need to do sediment transport to the border. They should also discuss mines and tailings upstream in Canada.
    - Regarding the EPA call – there is a major meeting with Teck tomorrow. Preparation is being done by EPA as Teck is bringing many experts to the meeting. As far as we know, the upland RIFS, RAO and new lead policy (5 microg/dL) are the only things on the agenda. Not sure if Teck is on board with upland lake study.
    - We received slides about the Sediment Study Bathymetry (depth) Measurement to review by mid-Nov. Bonnie had sent Teck a list of items they wanted for the hydrodynamic model on Oct 10. Teck has been creating Powerpoint presentations rather than preparing reports and giving EPA no opportunity to see anything before the meetings. We encouraged them to ask to review the presentations before hand so they can prepare comments.
  - SATES (October sampling event) - Joe was out with the crew and all the field sampling is still consistent. It is interesting that the Teck team has changed since the start of the project. Rob Or thought that the covered up areas (board cover) were from the bench-scale study not prior sampling, but Joe knew what those were and informed them.

- EPA call information (Mindy missed this month) Still no data from OSU on bioavailability information. The results of the Colville tribe vegetation study likely don't matter as much if there is no effect of amendments. Most of the remaining studies will be coming out next year.
- Removal action and Northport boat launch cleanup at 15 residential properties and one common-use area (at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Columbia). They are all done with clean up. Noone on this call had any word from property owners about how things were done.
- Air monitoring (Mindy) – No new information on hiring. Joe talked to Whitney at the sampling event and Andy Dunau said that 35 people have applied to host air monitors so there should be enough people.
- Northport air monitoring station 2004-2017. We will need to look to DOE to understand more about this. No further info. Chuck Gruenfelder (WA Dept of Ecology) did not have any additional information on this. Not sure anyone knows since John Roland died. Chuck brought everyone up from Ecology for the sampling and took them all on a tour of the various sites. Chuck offered to have Joe come along but he stayed to see sampling. Jay asked arranging a tour for us to the various sites. We will contact Chuck to ask about that and/or suggest to Andy that this be part of the bus tour. There should be a Lake Roosevelt Forum conference this spring.

#### New Business

- Website update – we have now passed 5000 views. Jamie is back and will be able to focus more on CCC. Hil asks about a new address for annual report to IRS – not sure that this was resolved. Mindy will ask Matt to follow-up with Hilary on this.

Adjourned.