

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Upper Columbia River Site, Northeast Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

October 2007

Teck Cominco submits revised Work Plan

On August 22, EPA formally disapproved the draft Work Plan submitted by Teck Cominco American, Inc. in December 2006 for the next phases of work on the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS). The company was given 30 days to incorporate EPA's comments and submit a revised plan. Teck Cominco submitted a revised Work Plan on September 21. EPA must approve the Work Plan before any work can begin.

The disapproval of the draft Work Plan came after months of working closely with Teck Cominco and our tribal, federal, and state partners to identify what changes were needed and determine how to best incorporate them into the revised Work Plan.

EPA, in consultation with the Colville and Spokane Tribes, Washington Department of Ecology, and U.S. Department of Interior, provided extensive technical comments on the draft Work Plan. In general, the plan did not adequately address several important requirements, such as how gaps in existing data will be evaluated and what new studies will be needed to fill those gaps. Some of these include:

- Determining the bioavailability of the slag in sediments;
- Studying how contaminated sediments are transported within the river system and their potential effects to surface water;
- Assessing impacts from wind-blown dust.

The purpose of the Work Plan is to identify additional work that is needed to support future cleanup decisions by EPA, and develop a schedule for sampling and analysis. During the RI/FS, EPA will oversee all work, including validating and interpreting data collected by Teck Cominco and their technical consultants.

We are hopeful the revised Work Plan will meet EPA's requirements so that Teck Cominco can begin gathering the additional data needed for the RI/FS.

Fish tissue report to be released in October

EPA has completed its Data Evaluation Report for fish tissue samples collected in 2005. The report is undergoing review from our partner agencies and will be released to the public later this month. Copies will be available at the Information Repositories, or you can download it online at the project web site listed below.

Questions? Please contact:

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Call toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

Visit the project web site:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/upperc>

Information Repositories:

Visit one of the Information Repositories below for more information, including full copies of technical documents. Be sure to call ahead for hours.

Northport: Northport Town Hall, 315 Summit St., (509) 732-4450

Colville: Colville Public Library, 195 S. Oak St., (509) 684-6620

Inchelium: Inchelium Tribal Resource Center, 12 Community Loop, (509) 634-2791

Nespelem: Colville Confederated Tribes Office of Environmental Trust, Building #2, (509) 634-2413

Grand Coulee: Grand Coulee Library, 225 Federal St., (509) 633-0972

Wellpinit: Spokane Tribe Department of Natural Resources, 6290 B Ford-Wellpinit Road, (509) 258-7709, extension 13

Spokane: Spokane Library, 906 W. Main, (509) 444-5336, ext. 5404



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