

Draft Meeting Summary
Utah Water Quality Standards Workgroup
March 19, 2012

See supporting materials at <http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/WQS/workgroup/index.htm#wqsmtgs>

Attendance

Name	Affiliation
Chris Bittner	DWQ
Jeff Ostermiller	DWQ
Paul Dremann	Trout Unlimited
Florence Reynolds	Salt Lake City
Reed Obendorfer	CUWCD
Leah Ann Lamb	DWQ
Merritt Frey	River Network
Pascaline Loricourt	DWQ
Nicholas Von Stackelberg	DWQ
John Isanhart	USFWS
Lisa Kirschner	Parsons Behle & Latimer
Leland Myers	CSDS
Theron Miller	JRFBWQC
Ben Holcomb	DWQ
Brad Rasmussen	Aqua Engineering
Kelly Payne	KUC
Mike Rau	CUWCD

Selenium Antidegradation Trigger: Resolving USEPA’s disapproval of the 6.4 mg/kg trigger in footnote 14, Table 2.14.2 in R317-2) was discussed by the workgroup. Lareina Guenzel clarified that the other triggers were not “EPA actionable” because they don’t change the magnitude, duration, or frequency of the standard. Jeff Ostermiller indicated that this trigger was based on the previous antidegradation rules all facilities may not have completed a review and the trigger was intended to identify feasible methods to reduce selenium loading to Gilbert Bay. Three options were discussed: deleting the trigger, deleting all of the triggers, or revising the action required by the trigger. The trigger could be deleted because current Se loading to Gilbert Bay is not threatening birds and any additional loading would be required to go through an antidegradation review under the current rules. All of triggers could be removed from rule and adopted into the assessment methods. Leland and Jeff explained the stakeholders thought the triggers were an essential part of the selenium standard when it was adopted. DWQ’s preference is to determine an alternate action if a meaningful action can be identified. The issue was tabled to give the workgroup time to consider alternate actions.

Biological Assessment Rule. The group discussed the proposed biological rule presented by Ben Holcomb. Most of the discussion centered on condition E. of the proposed rule language (see supporting materials), whether it is appropriate, and if the condition should be guidance or rule. The word “all” was discussed as being too broad. Workgroup members agreed to make specific recommendations to Ben Holcomb within 2 weeks.

Antidegradation Implementation Guidance. Nicholas Von Stackelberg discussed the status of the antidegradation implementation guidance. Nick recommended that the workgroup agree on non-controversial issues to finish an interim draft of the guidance. Merritt expressed concerns with the application provision that the social and economic importance of POTW's was self evident and this language will be deleted and the issue taken up with the subworkgroup. Merritt recommended broadening the scope of the economic importance evaluation and will provide recommended language. The subworkgroup will also discuss how antidegradation should address new WQBELs added to a permit because presumably assimilative capacity will be used. DWQ will investigate how Idaho addressed this situation. The group agreed to removed the language that considers greenhouse gases but keep the concept of holistic consideration of the impacts from different treatment technologies.

Methylmercury Implementation Guidance. Chris Bittner presented USEPA's recommendations and the workgroup was asked for feedback on how Utah should implement the tissue-based standard when it's adopted.

Variations. Chris Bittner presented an introduction to variations. The group discussed how variations were being used with the implementation of nutrient criteria and specifically Montana's approach. Lareina will provide EPA letters regarding Montana's economic impact evaluations. EPA is also working on tools for standardizing and streamlining the evaluations of social and economic impacts.

Adjourn: The next meeting was rescheduled for June 11, 2012 at 1:00 pm. Meeting schedules will be posted on the Standards Workgroup website.