

Columbia/Snake River Mainstem TMDL

**Presentation to Columbia/Snake TMDL Workshops
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
October 29 and 30, 2001
Lewiston, Idaho and Pasco, Washington**



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Geographic Scope

- **Columbia River from the Canadian border (RM 745.0) to the Pacific Ocean.**
- **Snake River from it's confluence with the Salmon River (RM 188) to it's confluence with the Columbia River (Columbia RM 324.3).**



TMDLs under this effort

- **Columbia/Snake River Mainstem Temperature TMDL**
- **Lower Columbia River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL**
- **Lake Roosevelt/Mid Columbia/Snake River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL**



Other Related Activities

- **Endangered Species Act**
- **2000 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion**
 - **Water Quality Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives**
 - **Appendix B called for development of a Water Quality Plan**



Clean Water Act Requires...

As enacted in 1972, section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires States to:

- Identify waters not meeting State water quality standards – 303(d) list**
- Set priorities for TMDL development**
- Develop a TMDL for each pollutant for each listed water**

EPA to approve or disapprove State submissions, and if disapproved, to act in lieu of State



What is a TMDL?

- **The amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.**
- **The sum of allowable loads from point and nonpoint sources, considering seasonal variation and a margin of safety.**
- **Determines sources of pollutants causing or contributing to impairment.**
- **Allocates responsibility for reductions needed to achieve water quality standards.**



State and Tribal Agencies with a CWA role in the Project Area

○ States

- ❑ **Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**
- ❑ **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**
- ❑ **Washington Department of Ecology**

○ Tribes

- ❑ **Colville Confederated Tribes (EPA promulgated standards)**
- ❑ **Spokane Tribe of Indians (tribal approved standards)**
- ❑ **Other Columbia Basin Tribes - federal trust**



Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Temperature

- **Columbia River RM 0 to RM 309.3 from the Pacific Ocean along the Washington/Oregon border is currently listed as water quality impaired for temperature on both the Washington and Oregon 303(d) Lists.**
- **Snake River from it's confluence with the Salmon River to it's confluence with the Columbia River is listed as water-quality impaired for temperature on the Washington, Idaho and/or Oregon 303(d) Lists.**



Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Temperature (cont)

- **The Columbia River RM 545.1 to RM 745.0 from Chief Joseph Dam to the Canadian Border is listed as water-quality impaired for temperature by the State of Washington.**



Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Dissolved Gas

- **Columbia River RM 0 to RM 309.3 from the Pacific Ocean along the Washington/Oregon border is currently listed as water quality impaired for dissolved gas on both the Washington and Oregon 303(d) Lists.**
- **Snake River at the Washington border to it's confluence with the Columbia River is listed as water-quality impaired for dissolved gas on both the Washington and/or Oregon 303(d) Lists.**



Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Dissolved Gas (cont.)

- **The Columbia River RM from the confluence with the Snake to the Canadian Border is listed as water-quality impaired for dissolved gas by the State of Washington.**



Roles of Key Players

- **Oregon and Washington developing dissolved gas TMDL for Lower Columbia - 2/2002**
- **Washington developing dissolved gas TMDL for Mid-Columbia and Lower Snake TMDL - 12/2002**
- **EPA is taking technical lead on temperature TMDL - expected to be completed 12/2002**
- **EPA developing dissolved gas TMDL for portions within tribal waters**
- **EPA in lead to work with tribes**



Consultation and Coordination with Columbia Basin Tribes

- **July 2001 Letter to Tribal Chairs committing to tribal consultation and coordination process and providing an update on process**
- **Grant to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop and implement tribal consultation and coordination**
 - **September Meeting/CRITFC**
 - **Mid/Upper Columbia meeting - 2002**
 - **Other meetings**
- **Upcoming letter to Tribal Chairs informally notifying them of the opportunity to consult**



Lake Roosevelt TDG TMDL

- **"Tribal waters" require EPA to develop this effort**
- **Build upon temperature modeling efforts**
- **Washington Ecology committed to coordinate with the Tribes**
- **Spokane and Colville are key - near term discussions to scope out this effort**
- **Meeting with Bureau at Grand Coulee - November 5/6**
- **Coordinate with Transboundary Gas Group**



Coordination Efforts

- **EPA/State/Tribal Team meeting on a monthly basis to address technical, policy and outreach issues**
- **Tribal staff participation is key to TMDL development**
- **Western Governors' Association helping to facilitate**



Outreach Efforts

- **Pre-decisional informational meetings are planned to share information as TMDLs are developed**
- **July Workshops**
- **October 29 - Lewiston Red Lion - 6:30 - 9:30pm**
- **October 30 - Pasco/Franklin County PUD-6:30-9:30pm**
- **At request of three Governors, Western Governors Association is providing outreach support**
- **There will be a formal public process in 2002**



What is the technical process?

- **Define the numerical targets for the TMDL.**
- **Characterize existing conditions.**
- **Identify sources and evaluate linkages between sources and temperature/dissolved gas response of the river.**
- **Quantify loading capacity.**
- **Allocate loads.**



For more information

- **Region 10 Home Page**

www.epa.gov/r10earth/index.htm

- **Columbia/Snake Rivers TMDL Web Page**

www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbiainstemtmdl.htm

- **Office of Water TMDL Home Page**

www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl/index.html

