Surface Water Quality Standards and other Ecology Activities – the Context for this Meeting

Washington State Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
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What's been happening…

Ecology completed WQS triennial review – Summer 2011

- Result: a 5-year plan to address rule revisions, guidance and policy on implementing the rule

Working with Toxics Clean-up Program on Sediment Management Standards issues that have CWA connections:

- Fish Consumption Rates
- Source Control

Developing a Broader Approach

Concept: Integrated Pollution Control Strategy to Reduce Toxics Concentrations in the Environment

1. Washington currently has numerous sources of toxics to the environment.
2. We detect toxics in many different environmental media.
3. We exceed criteria levels for many toxics .
4. These chemicals are generally regulated media-by-media.
5. Want to integrate cross-program strategies to maximize controls over both the **short-term and long-term.**
6. **Increase efficiency of actions, predictability of requirements.**

What is the Integrated Pollution Control Strategy?

Conceptual approach to address both short-term and long-term reductions of toxics.

An outcome of discussions around:

- clean-up sites recontaminated by stormwater discharges (MTCA/SMS rule-making discussions).
- concern that clean-up sites can be sources of pollutants to the water column (SWQS/SMS coordination discussions).

Integrated Pollution Control Strategy: Building Blocks

This strategy is currently addressed by three agency projects:

- Draft Fish Consumption Rate (FCR) Technical Support Document (will support discussions around risk management decisions).
- Sediment Management Standards rule-making: will include a CWA FCR.
- Surface Water Quality Standards rule-makings - 2 phases – implementation tools followed by criteria adoption.

How it fits together

Integrated Pollution Control Strategy to Reduce Toxics Concentrations in the Environment			
Three separate but concurrent processes support the Integrated Pollution Control Strategy			
Timeline	**Process 1. Water Quality Program Rule Revisions**	**Process 2. Fish Consumption Rate Technical Support Document**	**Process 3. Sediment Management Standards (SMS) Rule Revision**
Fall. 2011 – Fall 2012	**Phase 1 Implementation Tools Rule-making**	**Public comment Conference Public comment ends Dec. 30 2011**	**SMS Rule-making**
Fall 2012 - 2014	**Phase 2 Human Health Criteria (HHC) Rule-making**		

This meeting: SWQS Phase 1 Implementation Tools

- Current tools are limited to 5 and 10-year time frames.
- TMDLs and regular permitting situations sometimes result in permit-required control activities that will require more than 10 years to attain compliance with WQS (e.g., nutrient controls and toxics controls).
- We need a mechanism to get past the 10-year "wall" and grant compliance while efforts to meet criteria are ongoing.