

Addressing Public Comments on Toxic Contaminant Research Strategy

Scott Phillips
TCW meeting, May 2015

Summary of Comments

- 10+ comments from 6 different reviewers
- Topics
 - Additional issues of emerging concern (fracking, pesticides)
 - Prioritizing based on relative risk
 - Management practices (biosolids, WWTP, ag and stormwater benefit)
 - Better connection between research and P&P strategies

Issues of Emerging Concern

- Review Comments:
 - Add neonicotinoids and glyphosate (Roundup) to the emerging concern. Discuss their potential effects on aquatic organisms (not just pollinators)
 - Address fracking and associated chemicals
- Proposed Changes
 - Pesticides: modify language to include these compounds under emerging issues
 - Fracking: CBP will depend on national, regional, and jurisdictional efforts to address unconventional oil and gas (UOG)

Prioritize Based on Risk

- Review comment:
 - Put the relative risk of contaminants into perspective rather than conveying that any/all compounds present inherently equal risk.
- Proposed Changes:
 - PCBs and Hg currently are “highest risk” (widespread and fish consumption advisories). Stated in both P&P and research strategy
 - Add language to develop approaches to better identify relative risks of other contaminants

Management Practices

- Review comments:
 - Biosolids as a source of EDCs
 - WWTP and removal of PCBs
 - More mention of benefits related to ag and stormwater practices
- Proposed Change:
 - Will modify text to address all of the above

Connection between strategies

- Review comments:
 - Better reflect science needs of the P&P strategy in the Research strategy.
 - Cross collaboration with other outcomes.
- Proposed changes:
 - “Science support” section in P&P strategy better reflected in research strategy
 - Cross-collaboration : Fisheries (making fish and shellfish safer to eat), Habitats (stream health), WQ (reduce nutrients and sediment);