Progress Report on ERA Weight of Evidence Framework Development
18 May 06

1. **Status.** EPA is leading development of a detailed weight of evidence (WOE) decision framework needed to rigorously evaluated the relative weight of each line of evidence (LOE) being used in the ERA for Portland Harbor. A draft version of the WOE framework tables were presented on May 9 by Jennifer Peterson (OR DEQ) and Bob Gensemer (Parametrix). Feedback from the group was generally positive, and a consensus was reached to continue development of the WOE framework for the ERA. It was further decided that EPA (Bob Gensemer, and Joe Goulet, leads) and DEQ (Jennifer) would lead the next round of framework development, with support and peer review from LWG (Lisa Saban, lead). This subgroup held an organizational conference call on 17 May, where it was decided that Jennifer would first work on the framework "key" and Bob would do a final QA check on the measurement endpoint table to be sure it is accurate and consistent with the WOE framework.

2. **Outstanding Issues**
    - Subgroup agreed that *measurement endpoint and LOE table* will still be maintained on a parallel path with the more detailed WOE framework tables. We still need to double-check its accuracy against the WOE framework, and to ensure that LOEs of most importance to making 3A vs. 3B data gaps decisions continue to be highlighted.
    - The *WOE "key"* (i.e., descriptions of each WOE attribute, definitions, and ranking schemes) needs to be reasonably complete before populating the detailed WOE framework tables for each receptor. This is the first priority for the subgroup at this stage.
    - Next step will be to *populate some of the WOE tables for one or two receptors* as a trial to evaluate whether the overall scheme or "key" are working as intended.
    - Next step after this example will be to do the detailed work of *populating the WOE framework tables for all receptors and LOEs*.
    - Still some disagreement on "grey areas" on LOE table. More detailed WOE tables should help resolve.
    - Transition Zone Water – further discussion required to resolve LOE and WOE for evaluation of transition zone water.

3. **Path Forward**
    - Subgroup hopes to have WOE "key" completed in draft form by the end of May
    - Subgroup hopes to have measurement endpoint table QA'd and completed by end of May. *It is thought that this table will be the primary means of facilitating 3A vs. 3B data gaps decisions.* The more detailed WOE framework tables would be helpful, but will require more time to develop than may currently be available to inform these decisions.
    - In June, subgroup will begin work on populating the WOE framework tables. Time required to fully complete this task is as yet uncertain, but we propose that the smaller subgroup continue to work together to expedite development of the draft framework as soon as possible.

- *Overall goal is to have WOE framework completed in draft form by late June or early July if possible so that the EPA and LWG teams can review and revise in time for use/application in time for use in the Round 2 Comprehensive report.* Firm deadlines have yet to be established. Depending on the timing and extent of peer review needed for the framework, it may also be able to help inform 3A vs. 3B data gaps decisions.