PRG Meeting Summary - June 18, 2008

The LWG met with EPA on June 18 to discuss PRGs. Several agreements in principle were reached and action items for the next PRGs meeting with EPA (set for July 2) were discussed. A summary of meeting agreements and path forward for the next meeting are discussed separately below.

Meeting Agreements in Principle:

1. PRG Process – The general process for setting PRGs was discussed again.
    a. It was recognized by LWG and EPA that a specific schedule regarding early PRG development has not been determined. In the immediate, LWG and EPA are looking for agreement on PRG methods by start of July and completion of draft PRGs by October 2008.
    b. It was agreed that the negotiation and review process needs to be streamlined in order for early PRGs to actually be developed at the pace needed. This includes:
        i. Agreeing to guiding principles for the PRG development by July 2 target date, rather than diving into all the details now.
        ii. A streamlined submittal presenting PRG results and a streamlined EPA review of that submittal (rather than a detailed report and comprehensive review)
    c. It was agreed that the early PRG results deliverable would contain a table of all calculated PRGs, notes for reasons why any PRGs could not be developed, and notes for any PRGs that are based on broad assumptions or extrapolations. Also, brief companion text describing the basic approach to deriving the PRGs would be included.
2. PRG Chemical List
    a. It was agreed that the chemical list for early PRG development would be inclusive of most of the chemicals expected to be found to pose risk in the BLRA (as well as can be predicted at this time).
    b. It was agreed that this list would be developed on a receptor basis for ecological risks and a pathway basis for human health risks. This would result in a matrix of chemicals on one axis vs. receptor/pathways on the other axis, with an "X" (or similar) in those boxes where PRGs would be developed.
3. PRG Methods Agreements
    a. It was agreed that the early PRGs table (per item 1c) would contain PRGs in "increments" for each receptor/pathway including:
        i. Order of magnitude risk levels and HQ 1 for human health
        ii. One target level for each ecological receptor
    b. For **bioaccumulation-based PRGs** the following general approach was agreed to:
        i. FWM or BSAFs (depending on chemical) would be used to calculate sediment concentrations that meet target tissue levels

ii. Water concentration in the FWM would be set to zero and background (as defined by background group), yielding two PRGs for each receptor/pathway increment.
iii. BSAF development will follow Burkhard (2006) guidance (taking into account EPA's pending comments on BSAF development in Round 2 Report).

c. For **benthic toxicity** PRGs the following was agreed to:
   i. The logistic regression and floating percentile models will be used to define site specific thresholds
   ii. Guidance Sediment Quality Values (SQVs) will be used to define thresholds
   iii. Narrative PRGs based on toxicity benchmarks (bioassay hit criteria) applied to bioassay results

   Whether and how these three lines of evidence can be weighted and combined to map areas of concern was discussed but **not** agreed to. It was agreed this could be part of later conversations on area of concern development.

d. For **human health direct contact** sediment PRGs, it was agreed that these would be back calculated following RAGs guidance. It was noted that diver exposure parameters had not yet been defined, but EPA/LWG would do so within next two weeks.

e. For **ecological dietary-**based PRGs the following was agreed to:
   i. Follow methods consistent with the above bioaccumulation-based PRGs
   ii. Prey fractions will be set consistent with the BERA approach

Outstanding Items to Be Discussed on July 2

1. Background based values for consideration with PRGs
2. Methods for calculating bioaccumulation based PRGs in the FWM for summed or TEQ chemicals.
3. Inclusion of ARARs in sediment PRGs
4. As time allows – discuss how PRGs would be used to develop "not to exceed" or point specific values.

Action Items

<u>LWG Action Items</u>

1. Come prepared to discuss July 2 topics (per above)
2. Develop draft chemical list/matrix for discussion on July 2

<u>EPA Action Items</u>

1. Review above agreements on methods and determine whether any additional broad method topics need to be discussed.
2. Email LWG with any additional method topics prior to July 2