

REQUIREMENT FOR ANALYZING FOR SEDIMENT CONVENTIONALS IN REFERENCE AREAS AND WATER QUALITY IN BIOASSAYS

CLARIFICATION PAPER

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PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

PSDDA agency review of recent bioassay test data has noted some apparent toxicity occurring in Puget Sound reference area sediments and test sediments, which appears to be related to the sediment "conventional" parameters of ammonia and sulfides, and grain size. In future, measurement of sediment conventional parameters (grain size, TOC, Total Volatile Solids, Total Solids, Ammonia, Total Sulfides) will be required of all reference area sediments during biological testing. Additionally, water quality monitoring of reference and test sediments will be required at the beginning and end of the amphipod bioassay, *Neanthes* 10-day acute bioassay, and sediment larvae (i.e., bivalve or echinoderm) bioassays unless specifically waived by the PSDDA regulatory agencies prior to testing. These data are deemed necessary to aid in the interpretation of the bioassay test results as noted in the Phase II MPR (page 5-27 and 5-32 to 5-33).

PROPOSED MODIFICATION

1. Sediment conventional parameters will be run on all reference sediments.
2. Ammonium/ammonia and total sulfides will be measured as water quality parameters in the amphipod bioassay, *Neanthes* 10-day acute bioassay, and the sediment larvae (bivalve or echinoderm) bioassay, unless waived by the PSDDA regulatory agencies.

REFERENCES

Phase II MPR (pages 5-27 and 5-32 to 5-33; page A-18)