From: Nickel, Brian
To: Lauri.Monnot@deq.idaho.gov
Subject: Fish tissue mercury sampling question
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 5:00:00 PM

Lauri:
I was talking to Jill Nogi about sampling requirements for mercury in fish tissue, specifically the required sampling frequency.
I'm also working on the City of Sandpoint permit in northern Idaho, and mercury in fish tissue is a problem in that watershed as well (Lake Pend Oreille, upstream from Sandpoint's discharge to the Pend Oreille River, is 303(d) listed due to high concentrations of mercury in fish tissue).
Unfortunately, a cooperative sampling effort isn't a realistic option for Sandpoint, because they are the only major NPDES discharge in the area.
Jill mentioned that some staff from the DEQ state office had been involved in the revisions to the mercury fish tissue sampling language that will be going into the final permit for Star and the draft permits for Nampa, Caldwell, and Meridian. My question for you is: Does DEQ consider the sampling frequency for the current batch of Lower Boise watershed permits, for individual sampling plans (i.e., once every 2 years for three sampling cycles, then once every 5 years thereafter) to be a sampling frequency that should be generalized to other discharges in Idaho that discharge quantifiable concentrations of mercury in watersheds impaired by high concentrations of mercury in fish tissue, or was this intended to be specific to the Lower Boise watershed?
Thanks,
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