

Upper Columbia River RI/FS
Settlement with Teck Cominco, Human Health Risk Assessment,
and the Tribal Exposure Assessment Survey:
Consumption and Behaviors with Potential for Exposure

This presentation will provide an overview of the Upper Columbia River Site with an emphasis on the recent settlement and the planned Tribal Exposure Survey for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation (CCT). The CCT value natural resources which have been contaminated by pollution in the Upper Columbia River (extending 150 river miles from the U.S./Canadian Border to the Grand Coulee Dam in Northeastern Washington State). Specific dietary, as well as other resource uses/practices and the precise nature and extent of contamination have not yet been defined. The survey instrument will measure current food consumption rates and other uses/practices to inform exposure assessment. The survey will inform the types and locations of sample collection, laboratory analysis, and inclusion in the human health risk assessment as part of an ongoing Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study being prepared by EPA and Teck Cominco, Inc.

The survey has two objectives:

- 1) Quantify consumption and use of local resources (*e.g.*, foods, herbs, medicines, and materials used in production of clothing, ornaments, and infrastructure) that have the potential to influence exposure to chemical contaminants associated with the Upper Columbia River site (UCR site)

- 2) Record data on foods and other consumed materials in a database of nutritional characteristics (*e.g.*, caloric and essential nutrient content) of these foods or materials

Survey interviews would be conducted by trained members of CCT to facilitate access and acceptance by the community. The survey will use scientifically rigorous assessment methods, commonly used by epidemiologists. This may include the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Automated Multiple-Pass Method (AM/PM) or the Nutrition Data System for Research (NDS-R). CCT confidentially will be balanced with EPA information requirements. Results of the survey will support exposure assessment, risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication activities at the UCR site to inform and promote healthy dietary and lifestyle choices for members of the CCT.