

MEETING SUMMARY
Upper Colorado River below E.V. Spence TMDL Implementation Update Meeting
May 25, 2016 @ UCRA offices, 512 Orient, San Angelo, Texas

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. Faith Hambleton, TCEQ gave a welcome and introduced Madelyn A. Flannagan with the Railroad Commission (RRC), who gave two PowerPoint presentations.

The first presentation was on the Ballinger Seep Site Remediation Project. Update included information about the current status of the project. Based on groundwater modeling, the proposed project design has changed. Instead of a recovery trench, the plan is now to drill and complete two recovery wells, the locations of which were determined by information obtained from the groundwater modeling. The purpose of the wells is to intercept and recover the highest chloride concentration, preventing it from migrating to the River. Water samples will be collected and analyzed from the operation of these recovery wells. Analysis of these data will guide future remediation efforts at the site.

The second presentation was on the Wendkirk Oil Field Site Remediation Project. The current site plan is similar to the Ballinger site plan. Based on groundwater modeling, the proposed project design has changed. Instead of a recovery trench, the plan is now to drill and complete two recovery wells, the locations of which were determined by information obtained from the groundwater modeling. The purpose of the wells is to intercept and recover the highest chloride concentration, preventing it from migrating to the River. Water samples will be collected and analyzed from the operation of these recovery wells. Analysis of these data will guide future remediation efforts at the site.

John Burch with the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) inquired about the river segment (1426) water quality standards and the proposed standards were discussed. Chuck Brown retrieved an email with TCEQ's explanation of the lowering of the TDS standard simultaneously with the raising of total chloride and total sulfate standards. Faith Hambleton stated that the proposed water quality standard of 1,000 mg/l chloride was not approved by EPA in the 2010 Water Quality Standards. The chloride criteria of 610 mg/L remains in effect.

John Nikolauk (UCRA) asked about the City of Ballinger's water supply. Scott McWilliams (UCRA) explained that Ballinger's PWS comes from their lake constructed on the Valley Creek watershed and that they had bought water from Abilene when the lake was almost dry. E.V. Spence is not a water source.

An overview of the upcoming 319(h) Chloride and TDS Source Investigation project was given by Chuck Brown (UCRA) with a brief demonstration given on how to use the LCRA water quality website.

Lauren Oertel, TCEQ, led a discussion regarding each of the control actions and management measures recommended in the most recent Implementation Plan update, followed by changes that would be made following the input from this meeting. Input from the TSSWCB will be solicited after the meeting, since they were unable to attend.

Following a brush control question, Brown explained the TSSWCB water enhancement program's project selection process. The OH Ivie Reservoir Basin application was discussed and how it could possibly enhance chances of upstream projects being approved at a later date.

Lauren Oertel will update the status of the control actions and management measures, and send out for the group to review.