

SELENIUM ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTH AMERICAN COAL MINING SECTOR: UNIQUE ASPECTS OF SETTING BENCHMARKS AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

OR

“EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED
TO KNOW ABOUT SELENIUM*

*But were afraid to ask.”

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Senior Environmental Scientist

Borealis Environmental Consulting Inc.

Acknowledgements: Michael Patterson
(AngloAmerican); Al Martin, Justin Stockwell
(Lorax Environmental), Marko Adzic (Teck
Resources), Stella Swanson (Swanson
Strategies)

October 28, 2015

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ What is Selenium and Why is it different? What is at Issue?
- ▶ Selenium Assessment
 - ▶ Aquatic Life Criteria/Water Quality Guidelines
 - ▶ Canada
 - ▶ United States
 - ▶ Proposal for a Canadian Aquatic Life Guideline for Selenium – NAMC-SWG
- ▶ Selenium Management
 - ▶ General Considerations
 - ▶ Mine and Facility Design Considerations
 - ▶ An Adaptive Approach to Selenium Management
- ▶ Summary and Conclusions
- ▶ Questions?

INTRODUCTION

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consists of two overlapping, wavy shapes. The upper shape is a vibrant green, and the lower shape is a bright yellow. Both shapes have a white outline and a slight gradient, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. They are positioned against a dark gray background.

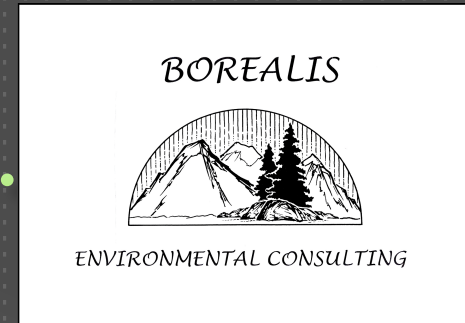
A little about me.....



Guy Gilron, Borealis Environmental Consulting

- M.Sc., Marine Ecology, University of Guelph; Thesis: Plankton Ecology
- Registered Professional Biologist (R.P. Bio.) (British Columbia)
- 18 years environmental consulting (ON, BC) - ecotoxicology, environmental effects monitoring, ecological and human health risk assessment, First Nations consultation, regulatory liaison
- 9 years in the mining industry as Director, Environment (Teck) and VP Environment, Community and Regulatory Affairs (Cardero)
- Member, SETAC; Past-President of SETAC Laurentian
- Member, North American Metals Council – Selenium Working Group
- Member, Elk Valley Selenium Task Force (previously)
- Board of Directors, Canadian Ecotoxicity Workshop
- **Editorial Board, *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management***

A little about Borealis.....



Borealis Environmental Consulting Inc.

- based in North Vancouver, BC; work with a variety of associates
- specialize in environmental impact and risk assessments, due diligence evaluations, for clients across industry sectors:
 - mining (metal and coal), oil and gas, chemical products
- recent work with various industry associations and multi-stakeholder forums, focus on the integration of science, policy, environmental management and regulatory decision-making
- expertise in the area of Selenium fate, effects, and management; work across North America

WHAT IS SELENIUM AND WHY IS IT DIFFERENT?

- Selenium (Se) – a naturally-occurring metalloid
- Increased [Se] have been monitored as a result of anthropogenic activities, e.g., mining, power generation, agriculture/animal husbandry
- Waste rock spoils associated with coal mining have the potential to increase leaching rates of Se, especially when it comes into contact with H₂O and O₂
- Essentiality/Toxicology:
 - essential for health of people, other animals, some plants (soils in BC deficient in Se)
 - in excess and in critical chemical species in diet can cause reproductive failures / abnormalities in egg-laying vertebrates (*i.e.*, fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles)
- Reproductive/developmental effects likely due to Se replacing S in amino acid synthesis

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| phosphorus 15 P 30.974 | sulfur 16 S 32.065 | chlorine 17 Cl 35.453 |
| arsenic 33 As 74.922 | selenium 34 Se 78.96 | bromine 35 Br 79.904 |
| antimony 51 Sb 121.76 | tellurium 52 Te 127.60 | iodine 53 I 126.90 |

WHAT IS AT ISSUE?

- ▶ Stakeholder concerns regarding elevated Se in effluent discharged from industrial operations (coal mines, specifically) has placed increased focus on Se assessment, mitigation and management
- ▶ Se is a complex chemical of concern which varies site-specifically:
 - ▶ potential effects are chronic, rarely acute
 - ▶ tissue threshold (of egg-laying vertebrates) vs. water concentration better correlate of effects
 - ▶ offspring of exposed individuals affected (not classic response)
 - ▶ lentic vs. lotic systems differ
- ▶ Dealing with Se must recognize the difference between existing and developing mines – reactive vs. proactive/preventative actions

This presentation: focus on considerations related to Se assessment and management during the project development phase

SELENIUM ASSESSMENT



AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES

► Current State-of-Science

- often in the primary literature, has not been incorporated into regulatory guidelines to keep up with science
- based on chronic reproductive effects on 2nd generation fish/birds/amphibians
- need to be based on controlled, long-term, chronic exposure, multi-generational lab experiments
- criteria should be derived on tissue concentration basis



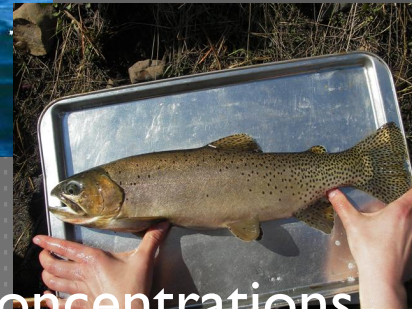
**SETAC Pellston
Workshop, 2009**

AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES, CONT'D.

- ▶ Hierarchy (less certain ---> more certain)

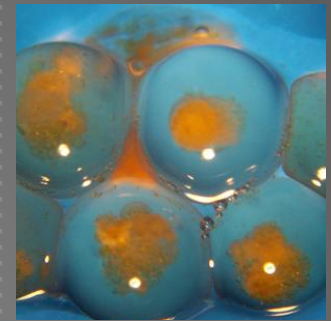


- ▶ Water Concentrations



- ▶ Whole Body/Muscle Tissue Concentrations

- ▶ Ovary/Egg Tissue Concentrations



AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES, CONT'D.

Canada

- ▶ National Guidelines – Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME)
- ▶ Provincial Guidelines – most default to CCME value, only BC has a 'different' guideline
- ▶ Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) – based on CCME, but currently applying tissue-based thresholds (where applicable/appropriate)
- ▶ Note: most guidelines derived using the Species Sensitivity Distribution (SSD) approach, not the Safety Factor (SF) approach (still used by BC)

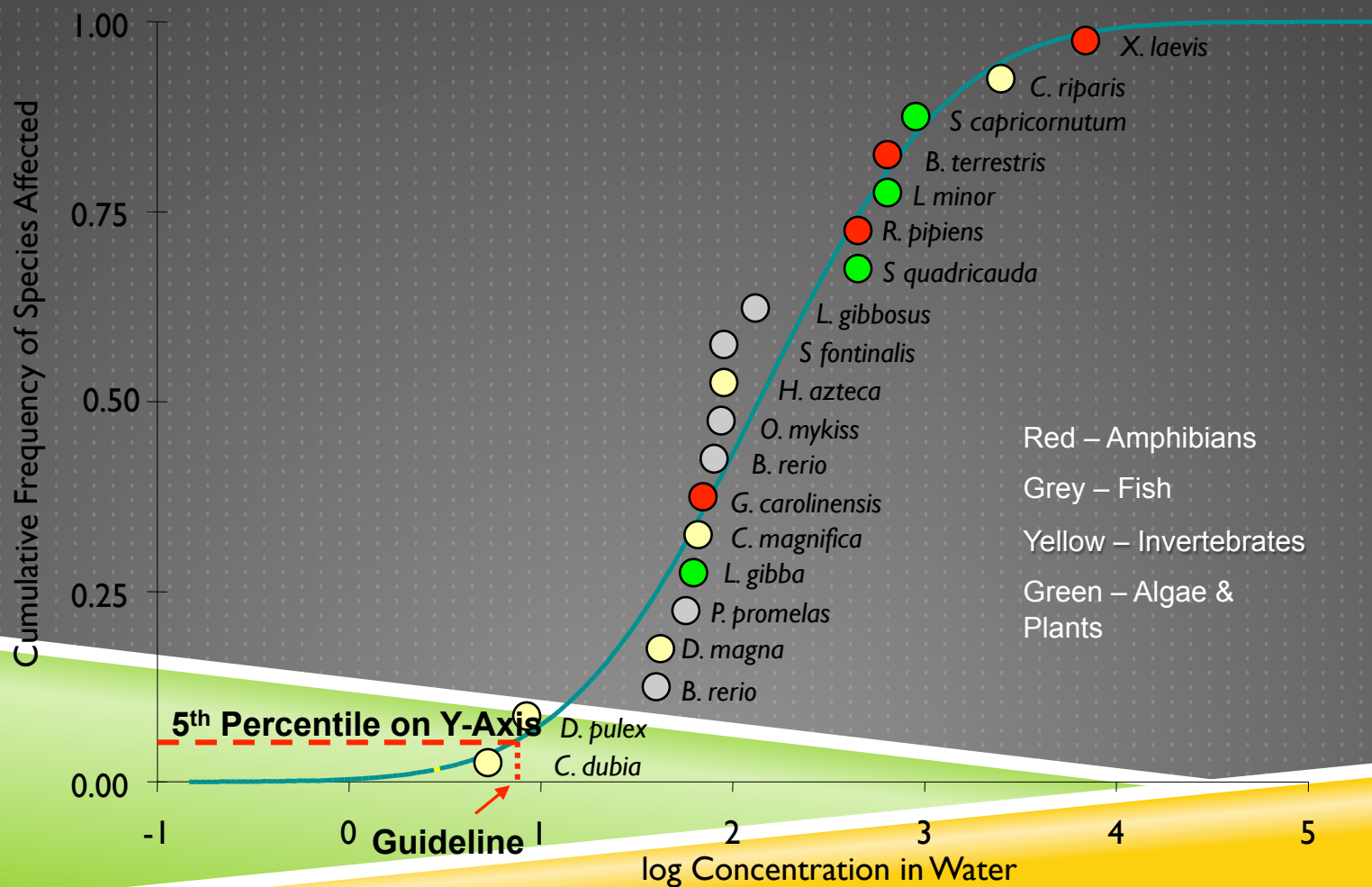
SAFETY FACTOR METHOD VS. SSD APPROACH

SAFETY FACTOR

- ▶ Guideline divided by an arbitrary safety factor
- ▶ Depends on type of key study (most based on one study)
- ▶ CCME Protocol (only when not enough data):
 - ▶ 10, 20, 100, etc.
 - ▶ (other jurisdictions: as above, and 1000, ...)
- ▶ Extrapolation from the KNOWN (measured toxic impact) to the UNKNOWN (the protective threshold value)

SAFETY FACTOR METHOD VS. SSD APPROACH

SPECIES SENSITIVITY DISTRIBUTION (EXAMPLE)



AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES, CONT'D.

Canada

- ▶ historical basis for the current Canadian national (CCME) Se guideline - 1 $\mu\text{g/L}$ to protect aquatic life
 - adopted from IJC (1981), for Great Lakes; published in CCREM (1987), “grandfathered” into CCME
 - based on field studies:
 - historical fish kills (Belews Lake/Hyco Reservoir), and not using traditional methods (*i.e.*, toxicity test data)
 - indicated that waterborne [Se] of 5-10 $\mu\text{g/L}$ associated with food web “contamination” caused predatory fish mortalities
- ▶ no current plans for revision to current guideline, despite high profile of Se; more on this later.....

AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES, CONT'D.

British Columbia (2014)

| Medium | Category | Previous (2001) | 2014 | Notes |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Freshwater | Alert | N/A | 1 μ g/L | Not science-based (1/2 of guideline) |
| | Guideline | 2 μ g/L | 2 μ g/L | Based on SF approach (not SSD) |
| Dietary (Invertebrate tissue) | INTERIM | N/A | 4 μ g/g (dw) | Weight of evidence; lowest published thresholds, no UF applied; insufficient data for full guidelines. |
| Sediment | INTERIM | 2 μ g/g (dw) | 2 μ g/g (dw) | |
| Tissue (fish) | Egg/Ovary | N/A | 11 μ g/g (dw) | SSD derived = 20 μ g/g (dw) (DeForest et al., 2012) |
| | Whole Body | 4 μ g/g (dw) | 4 μ g/g (dw) | 50% of Draft USEPA criterion |

AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES, CONT'D.

United States

▶ States:

- ▶ Utah (2011; based on bird egg tissue)
- ▶ Kentucky (2013; tiered approach)
- ▶ West Virginia, Colorado, others pending, awaiting USEPA

▶ National/Federal

- ▶ USEPA (DRAFT) – currently in expert & public review

AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES, CONT'D.

Utah (2011) – based on water bird tissue (eggs) dw for Great Salt Lake

- ▶ < 5.0 mg/kg: routine monitoring with sufficient intensity to determine if dw [Se] within the Great Salt Lake ecosystem are increasing.
- ▶ 5.0 mg/kg: increased monitoring to address data gaps, loadings, and areas of dw uncertainty identified from initial Great Salt Lake Se studies.
- ▶ 6.4 mg/kg: Initiation of a Level II Anti-degradation review by the State for all dw discharge permit renewals or new discharge permits to Great Salt Lake (may include an analysis of loading reductions).
- ▶ 9.8 mg/kg: Initiation of preliminary TMDL* studies to evaluate selenium dw loading sources.
- ▶ > 12.5 mg/kg: Declare impairment. Formalize and implement TMDL*. dw

*TMDL=total maximum daily load

AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES, CONT'D.

Kentucky (2013) – based on [water] and [fish tissue], uses a tiered approach

- ▶ Step/Tier 1. Water column Se_{total} concentration $> 5.0 \mu\text{g/L}$ threshold?
 - ▶ if [water column] for Se_{total} is $\leq 5.0 \mu\text{g/L}$ the water body is meeting its aquatic life use.
 - ▶ if [water column] for Se_{total} is $> 5.0 \mu\text{g/L}$, proceed to Step/Tier 2.
- ▶ Step/Tier 2. Site is in attainment of fish tissue criterion? (i.e., whole body [$8.6 \mu\text{g/g } Se_{total} \text{ dw}$] or egg/ovary tissue [$19.3 \mu\text{g/g } Se_{total} \text{ dw}$]).
 - ▶ if each species-composite fish tissue has concentration $<$ the appropriate tissue-based criterion, water body meets chronic standard.
 - ▶ if a species-composite fish tissue has concentration exceeding tissue criterion, the site is considered in non-attainment of the water quality standard.

AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES, CONT'D.

U.S. EPA – 2015 (2nd DRAFT; Public Comment period closed)

| Medium | Category | Previous (Interim) | Proposed (2015?) |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Freshwater | Lentic (slow-moving waters) | 5 μ g/L | 1.2 μ g/L |
| | Lotic (fast-moving waters) | 5 μ g/L | 3.1 μ g/L |
| Tissue (fish) | Whole Body | 7.91 μ g/g (dw) | 8.0 μ g/g (dw) |
| | Muscle Tissue | N/A | 11.3 μ g/g (dw) |
| | Egg / Ovary | N/A | 15.8 μ g/g (dw) |

PROPOSAL FOR A CANADIAN AQUATIC LIFE GUIDELINE FOR SELENIUM

- ▶ Overview of the North American Metals Council - Selenium Work Group (NAMC-SWG)
 - ▶ Industry-funded, engaged in technical research on issues pertaining to Se (NOTE: not exclusive to metal mining)
 - ▶ Activities include:
 - ▶ sharing of information on Se impacts, guidelines/criteria, mitigation, and treatment technologies
 - ▶ development of Se effects thresholds, water quality tissue-based standards
 - ▶ identification of field programs and analytical methods
- ▶ As part of its ongoing efforts, the NAMC-SWG develops papers on these topics and shares them publicly:

<http://www.namc.org/selenium.html>

PROPOSAL FOR A CANADIAN AQUATIC LIFE GUIDELINE FOR SELENIUM

- ▶ History of Initiative
- ▶ 2008: CCME Subcommittee of NAMC-SWG established
 - ▶ direct and coordinate research aimed at developing/deriving a Third-Party Contributed Guideline for consideration.
- ▶ 2009: BCMOE provided an update regarding Se WQG revision; CCME likely to consider a provincial guideline over a Third-Party Contributed Guideline, should Se be prioritized for guideline revision.
- ▶ Subsequently:
 - ▶ NAMC-SWG continued with initiative
 - ▶ BCMOE developed a revised guideline document (now finalized, and published)

PROPOSAL FOR A CANADIAN AQUATIC LIFE GUIDELINE FOR SELENIUM

- ▶ History of Initiative, cont'd.
 - ▶ How could NAMC-SWG work to contribute to CCME's future revision of a freshwater aquatic life guideline for Se?
 - ▶ BC Se guideline based on the "Safety Factor" approach (not used by CCME, when there are sufficient data).
 - ▶ CCME – and most other international jurisdictions - recommends the Species Sensitivity Distribution (SSD) approach in the development of WQGs.

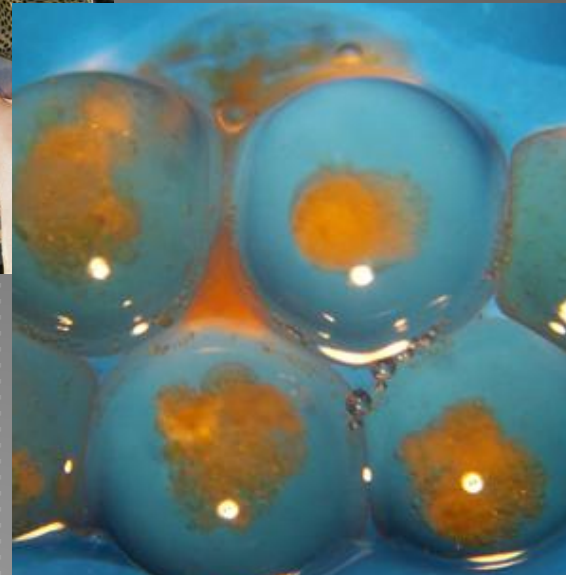
PROPOSAL FOR A CANADIAN AQUATIC LIFE GUIDELINE FOR SELENIUM

▶ Summary of Work Completed to Date

- ▶ Phase I - Development of a tissue-based threshold, developed according to CCME protocols (DeForest *et al.*, 2012).
- ▶ Phase II - Derivation of a water-based guideline, 'back-calculated' from the tissue-based guideline, using data generated by project team, and using statistically-derived bioaccumulation factors (DeForest *et al.*, 2015; *in press*).

PHASE I

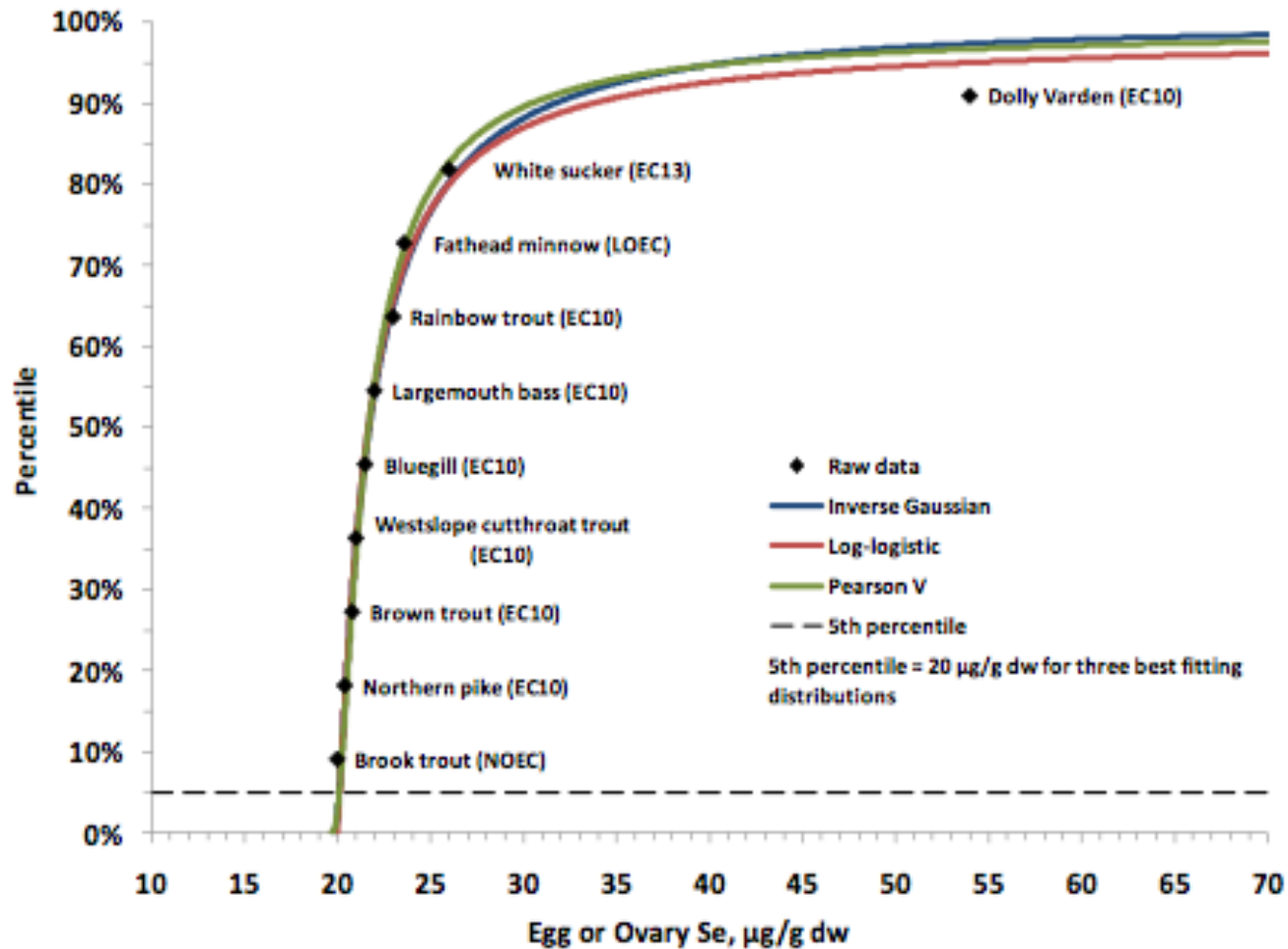
- ▶ Development of a tissue-based threshold



SELENIUM TISSUE-BASED WQG BASED ON THE SSD APPROACH

- ▶ Used CCME toxicity endpoint hierarchy:
 - ▶ $EC_{10} > EC_{11-25} > MATC > NOEC > LOEC > EC_{26-49} > \text{nonlethal } EC_{50}$
- ▶ SSDs developed for:
 - ▶ all species, Canadian species, Canadian “coldwater” species, excluding “uncertain” thresholds (*i.e.*, brook trout, white sucker)
- ▶ Sensitivity Analysis:
 - ▶ Regardless of data set (above), 5th percentile of SSDs = 20 µg/g dw
- ▶ Paper published in *IEAM* journal in June 2012:
 - ▶ DeForest, D., Gilron, G., Armstrong, S., and Robertson, E. 2012. Species Sensitivity Distribution (SSD) Evaluation for Selenium in Fish Eggs: Considerations for Development of a Canadian Tissue-based Guideline. *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*. 8(1) 6-12.

Figure 1. Species sensitivity distributions (SSDs) based on all egg or ovary Se toxicity thresholds for fish species that occur in Canada. See Table 1 for sources of toxicity thresholds.



PHASE II

- ▶ Derivation of a water-based guidelines



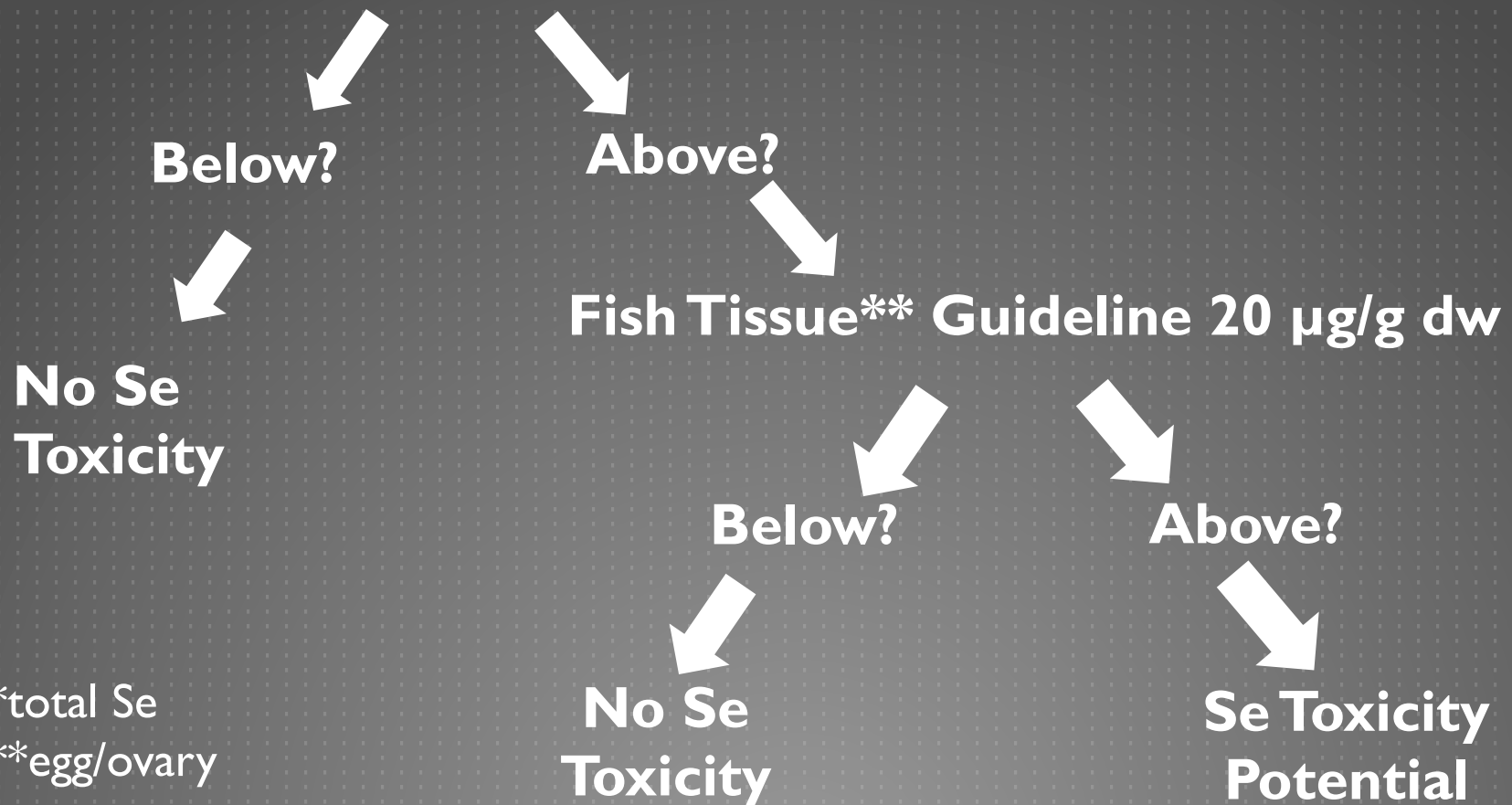
Table 1. Summary of possible waterborne selenium screening guidelines from the approaches evaluated.

| Approach | Description | Water Se ($\mu\text{g/L}$) | |
|---------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | Lotic or Selenate | Lentic or Selenite |
| Quantile regression | Field-based water-to-particulate Se data | 6.5 | 3.0 |
| | Laboratory-based water-to-particulate selenate or selenite data ¹ | 5.1 | 1.5 |
| | Pooled laboratory selenate/field lotic and laboratory selenite/field lentic | 4.7 | 1.9 |
| | Mean of all quantile regression approaches: | 5.4 | 2.1 |

¹ Assuming that selenate data are representative of lotic conditions and selenite data are representative of lentic conditions.

SE WQG PROPOSED TIERED APPROACH

**Water Screening Guideline:
Lentic ($2.1 \mu\text{g/L}^*$) and Lotic ($5.4 \mu\text{g/L}^*$)**



*total Se
**egg/ovary

AQUATIC LIFE CRITERIA / WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES, CONT'D.

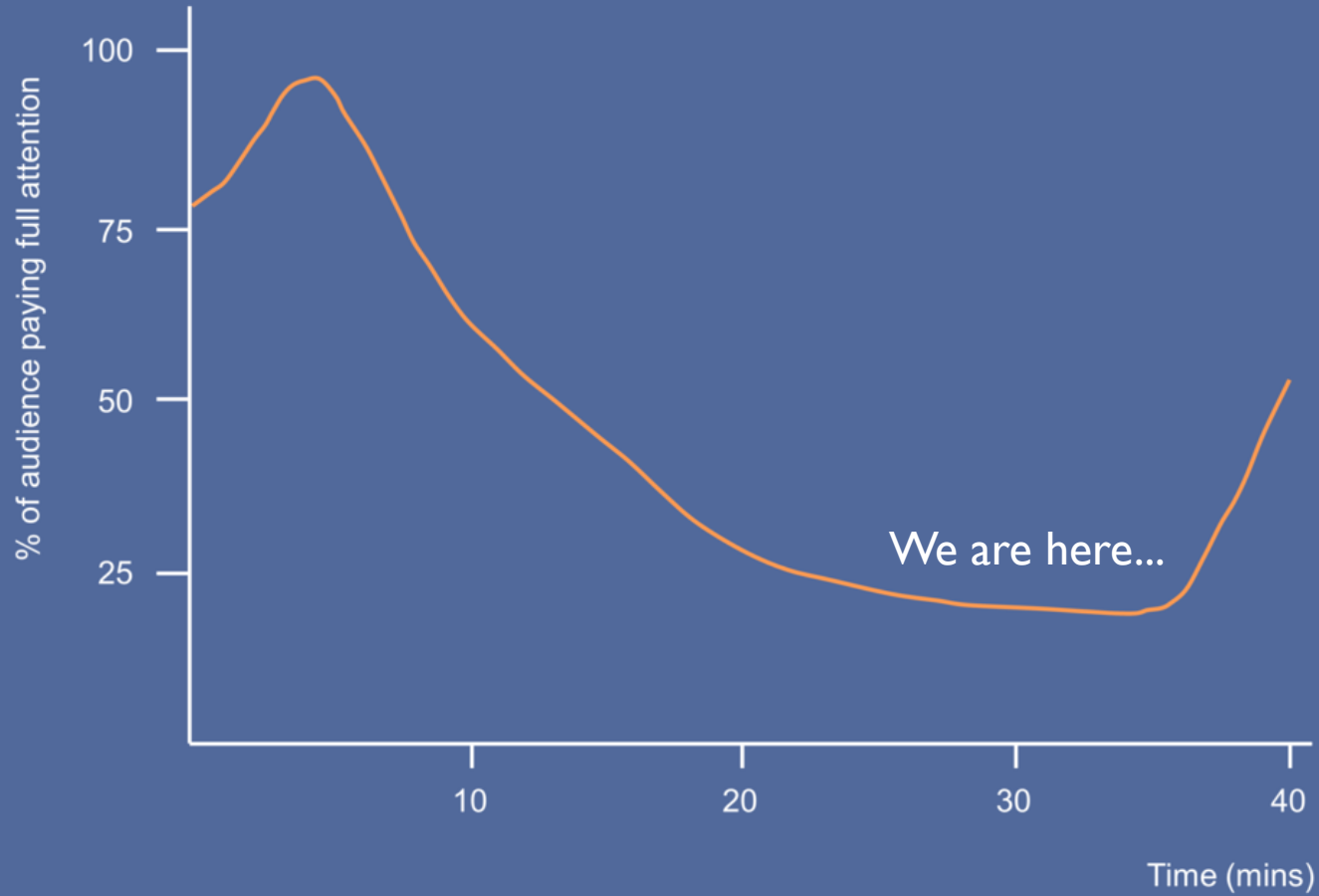
U.S. EPA (2nd DRAFT) 2015 vs. NAMC-SWG (DeForest *et al.*, 2012, 2015)

| Medium | Category | Previous | USEPA DRAFT (2015) | DeForest <i>et al.</i> 2012 (IEAM) DeForest <i>et al.</i> , 2015 (EST) |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| Freshwater | Lentic (slow moving) | 5 μ g/L | 1.2 μ g/L | 2.1 μ g/L |
| | Lotic (fast moving) | 5 μ g/L | 3.1 μ g/L | 5.4 μ g/L |
| Tissue (fish) | Whole Body | 7.91 μ g/g (dw) | 8.0 μ g/g (dw) | N/A |
| | Muscle Tissue | N/A | 11.3 μ g/g (dw) | |
| | Egg / Ovary | N/A | 15.8 μ g/g (dw) | 20 μ g/g (dw) – based on extensive bioaccumulation studies |

NEXT STEPS

- ▶ NAMC-SWG:
 - ▶ requesting consideration of a Third-Party Contributed Guideline [revision] for Se.
 - ▶ contacting provincial representatives in order to obtain a “champion/sponsor” for this initiative.
- ▶ Guidelines Development Project Team of the CCME Water Management Committee
 - ▶ consider need for revision of the current Se Guideline for the Protection of Aquatic Life (Freshwater) (i.e., $1 \mu\text{g/L}$)

INTERMISSION



Mills HR, 1977

NUMBER
OF IMPENDING
TREATMENT PLANTS

WEIGHT ON OUR
SHOULDERS, Kg

BOILING
POINT of
CLIENTS, K

34

78.96

MELTING
POINT of
REGULATORS, K

958

Too Many

OXIDATION
STATES

494

Se

DENSITY
of BRAIN AFTER
THINKING ABOUT
SENELIUM, g/cm³

0.0

[Ar]Help⁴
Senelium

ELECTRON
CONFIGURATION

NAME

“Senelium”

(sə'nē lē əm): Noun: from Latin *senilis*,
to be driven crazy!

Back to Sleep!



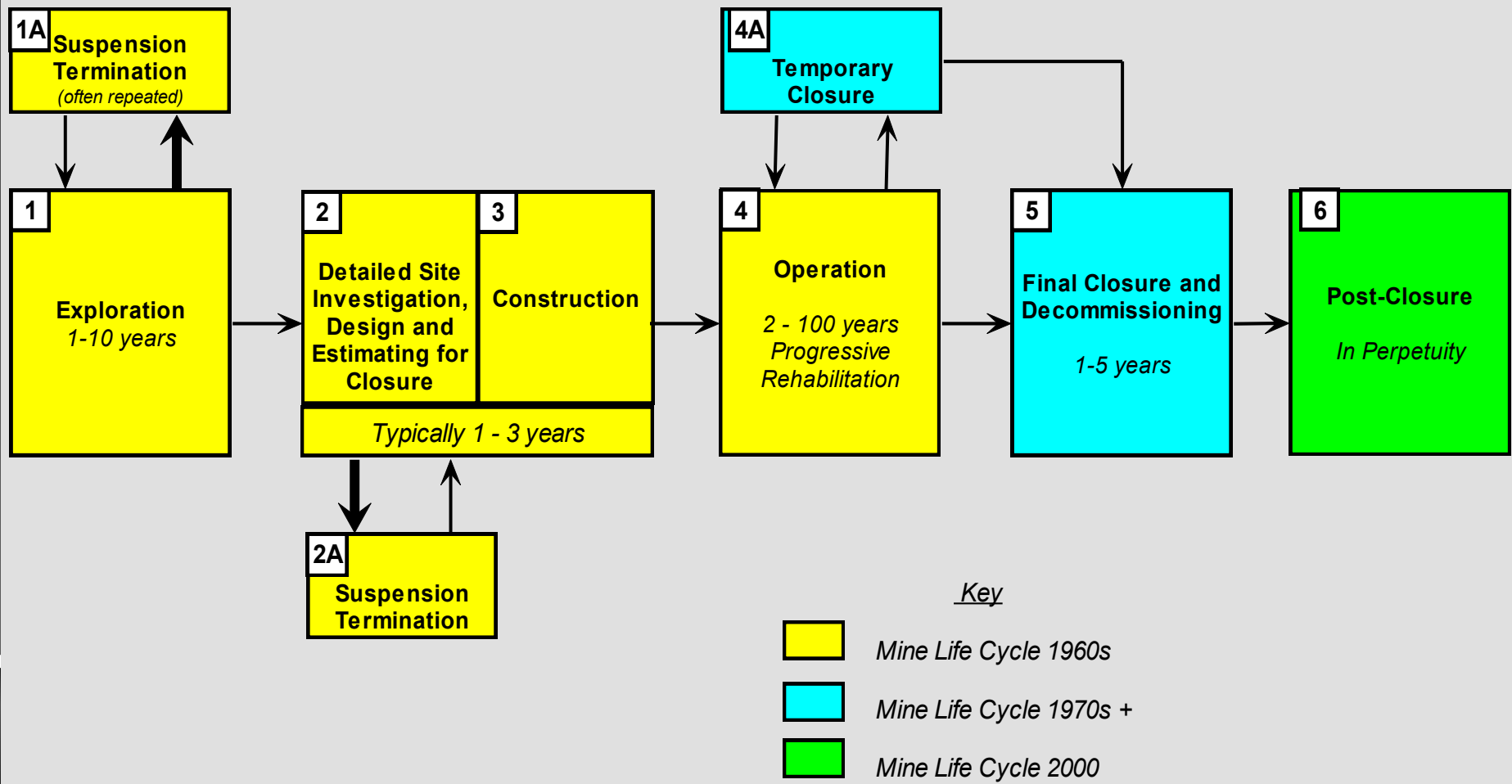
SELENIUM MANAGEMENT



GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Where does Se assessment/management fit into coal mine project development?
- ▶ The Mining Life Cycle
 - ▶ Project Development in context
- ▶ Project Development Phases:
 - ▶ Exploration and Mine Planning
 - ▶ **Environmental Assessment and Permitting**
 - ▶ Construction

The Mining Life Cycle



* Thanks to Ian Thomson, On Common Ground

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS - CONT'D.

- ▶ Where does Se assessment/management fit into coal mine project development? – cont'd.
- ▶ Project Development Phases:
 - ▶ Exploration and Mine Planning (NI 43-101 – compliant)
 - ▶ Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA)
 - ▶ Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS)
 - ▶ Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS)*



GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS - CONT'D.

- ▶ Project Development Phases, cont'd.:
 - ▶ Environmental Assessment and Permitting*
 - ▶ Environmental Assessment Report (and Certificate)
 - ▶ Based on an comprehensive EA (incl. baseline studies, effects assessments and management plans – to deal with impact mitigations)
 - ▶ Permitting
 - ▶ permits related to discharge (air, water)
 - ▶ *Mines Act* Permit (BC) – including reclamation bonding.

***Note: EA and Permitting often initiated prior to BFS**

SELENIUM IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – KEY ELEMENTS

▶ Baseline studies

- ▶ **Hydrology/Limnology** – climate, design events, flow
- ▶ **Hydrogeology** – groundwater flow, quality
- ▶ **Geochemistry** – ‘source terms’ from waste rock
- ▶ **Water quality** – receiving environment, predicted effluent quality
- ▶ **Fish/Aquatic Biota** – ecological receptors

▶ Effects Assessment

- ▶ Water Balance, Aquatic Effects Assessment (including assimilative capacity)
- ▶ Ecotoxicity Evaluations/Modelling/Risk Assessment
- ▶ Human Health

▶ Management Plan(s)

- ▶ Water Management Plan
- ▶ Se Management Plan
- ▶ Environmental Management System

Feasibility
Mine Plan
Water Management Plan

Water Quality Predictions/Projections

- Water Balance (modelling)
- Groundwater Modelling/Assessment Feeds into Water Balance
 - Geochemical Source Term Development
- Draft Water Quality Predictions/Projections, Screening, Reporting
 - (not just for Se, but requires multi-element analysis)

Parallel Processes

- Scenarios to Model
- (End of Mine Closure scenarios)

Iterations

Effects Assessment
(water quality, flow, aquatic biota)

Model final mitigation

- Environmental Management Levels (EMLs)/ Site Performance Objectives (SPOs)
- Hydrodynamic modelling

EA Submission

Mine Permits (effluent discharge)

Modified from Lorax Environmental (2013)

SELENIUM ASSESSMENT / MANAGEMENT KEY ELEMENTS

- ▶ **Engage** early with applicable regulatory agencies
 - ▶ e.g., Environment, Mines, Natural Resources, DFO
- ▶ **Understand** stakeholder concerns
 - ▶ What are communities and FNs concerned about? How can concerns be addressed?
- ▶ **Establish** appropriate benchmarks, thresholds
 - ▶ Are EMLs/SPOs appropriate due to site-specificity? Will regulators accept these?
- ▶ **Ensure** that predictions/projections are based on current/recent, best available, quantitative information
 - ▶ What is the quality of baseline data? How can uncertainty be reduced?

SELENIUM MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ **Understand** the assimilative capacity of receiving environment
 - ▶ **Research** available technologies to assure their efficacy
 - ▶ **Evaluate** cost-benefit of any/all technologies
- What is the size of the Initial Dilution Zone (IDZ)?
 - What impact does dilution have on [Se] in receiver?
 - How will full-scale treatment plant deal with final effluent volumes? How efficient will a treatment system be?
 - Design for in-stream concentrations (vs. traditional 'end-of-pipe')

MINE AND FACILITY DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Ensure that “clean”* water is kept clean
 - ▶ Optimize the volume of water reused and recycled on site
 - ▶ Minimize clean water coming into contact with waste rock, coarse coal refuse
- ▶ Ensure aquatic effects assessment results (e.g., water quality predictions, water balance) feed back to mine design engineers early in FS → water management diversions and structures (e.g., sedimentation ponds)

* “Clean” = not impacted by on-site activities

MINE AND FACILITY DESIGN PRINCIPLES – CONT'D.

- ▶ Progressive Reclamation throughout life of mine – standard practice
- ▶ Maximize potential use of:
 - ▶ innovative design and siting of waste rock dumps
 - ▶ backfilling (above ground, underground)
 - ▶ end pit lakes (surface)

Overall.....”Design for Closure”



AN ADAPTIVE APPROACH TO SELENIUM MANAGEMENT

- ▶ The Adaptive Approach:
 - ▶ Throughout the EA and Permitting phase(s), need to consider various options so as to anticipate the various potential outcomes of aquatic effects assessment (impacts and mitigations)
 - ▶ “Fine-tune” as you go through EA and permitting

AN ADAPTIVE APPROACH TO SELENIUM MANAGEMENT – CONT'D.

- ▶ Option 1. No constraints, mitigations unnecessary
- ▶ Option 2. Diversion of mine-influenced waters
- ▶ Option 3. On-site utilization of affected waters ('Reuse and Recycle')
- ▶ Option 4. Active management of mine-influenced waters
- ▶ Option 5. *In situ* treatment
- ▶ Option 6. Active treatment

Less
treatment

Various
Mitigation
Tools

More
treatment



AN ADAPTIVE APPROACH TO SELENIUM MANAGEMENT – CONT'D.

- ▶ **Option I. No constraints, mitigations unnecessary**
 - ▶ Based on geochemical source terms (from static and kinetic tests), water quality modelling predictions, overall water balance
 - ▶ This option would be based on [Se] not exceeding applicable risk thresholds such as:
 - ▶ generic aquatic life criteria (e.g., BCMOE, CCME, USEPA)
 - ▶ Site Specific Water Quality Objectives (SSWQO) – existing mines
 - ▶ Environmental Management Levels (EMLs)/Site Performance Objectives (SPOs) – developing mines
 - ▶ Latter two – based on multi-generational toxicity tests and/or bioaccumulation modelling; requires monitoring to validate
 - ▶ In all cases, need to consider the potential for elevated background concentrations

AN ADAPTIVE APPROACH TO SELENIUM MANAGEMENT – CONT'D.

▶ **Option 2. Diversion of mine-influenced waters**

- ▶ Based on the principle that clean water is diverted from waste water
- ▶ In cases of moderate Se exceedances of the above-mentioned risk thresholds (e.g., an order of magnitude), mine-influenced waters could be diverted from sedimentation ponds located at various points on the property to:
 - ▶ non-fish bearing waters
 - ▶ waters of low habitat quality
 - ▶ [reduces risk to potential receiving water receptors]
- ▶ This option may require habitat compensation

AN ADAPTIVE APPROACH TO SELENIUM MANAGEMENT – CONT'D.

- ▶ **Option 3. On-site utilization of affected waters ('Reuse and Recycle')**
 - ▶ Se-impacted waters may be suitable for use on site for activities such as:
 - ▶ Coal washing and processing in a Coal Handling and Processing Plant (CHPP)
 - ▶ Dust suppression on roads and stockpiles
 - ▶ In the case that partial or full treatment is implemented, this option reduced the volume of discharge water to be treated

AN ADAPTIVE APPROACH TO SELENIUM MANAGEMENT – CONT'D.

- ▶ **Option 4. Active management of mine-influenced waters**
 - ▶ The release of Se-impacted waters could be restricted by the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment
 - ▶ Active management, through the use of water storage and timed release could be used to match site loads with assimilative capacity of the receiver.

AN ADAPTIVE APPROACH TO SELENIUM MANAGEMENT – CONT'D.

▶ Option 5. *In situ* / passive treatment

- ▶ In cases whereby [Se] in effluent would be significantly higher than those discussed above (*i.e.*, nearing 2 orders of magnitude)
- ▶ A number of *in situ* treatment approaches can be considered, including: passive systems (bioreactors)/*in situ* treatment approaches (e.g., engineered wetlands).



AN ADAPTIVE APPROACH TO SELENIUM MANAGEMENT – CONT'D.

► Option 6. Active treatment


- Also in cases where [Se] in effluent would be significantly higher than those discussed above (*i.e.*, nearing 2 orders of magnitude)
- Active treatment technologies – either total or partial - may to be considered, depending on:
 - (a) the magnitude of [Se] above benchmarks; and,
 - (b) the volume of water requiring treatment.



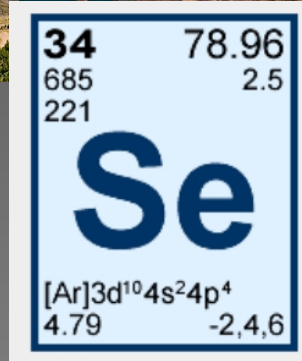
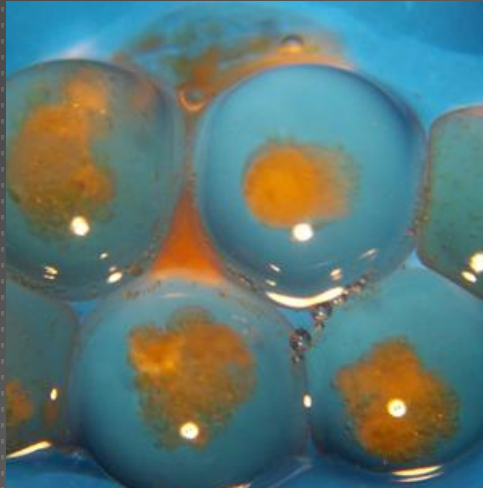
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Se – unique characteristics, unique regulations/
guidelines
 - ▶ challenge of keeping guidelines current with rapidly-
changing science
- ▶ 2014/2015 – the year of changing Aquatic Life
guidelines/regulations?
 - ▶ BC (finalized; 2014)
 - ▶ USEPA (draft; 2015)
 - ▶ {note: Health Canada just revised DWQG from
10 to 50 ppb}
- ▶ **NAMC Proposal for new CCME Guideline (Canada)**
 - ▶ **News to follow.....**

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Recently, greater focus on the potential effect(s) of Se in effluent discharged from coal mines (mostly in North America)
 - ▶ Se is a complex chemical of concern; site-specific issues (site receptors, lentic vs. lotic receiving waters) need to be considered
 - ▶ Coal mines going through project development have an opportunity to proactively assess, mitigate and manage Se using a range of tools, including mine design parameters, mitigation principles and treatment technologies
 - ▶ There are a number of mitigation/management options to be considered using an adaptive approach
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THANK YOU



QUESTIONS?