

Comments for the Effluent Limit Development Guidance (ELDG)

Meeting Date	Comment Date	Commenter	Comment No.	Section	Page	Topic	Comment
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	1			General topic: Detection Limits	<i>General Comment</i> : Will technical guidance be provided for use of non-detect values in analyses of water quality data for use in the RPA/ development of WQBELs? For example, the Idaho DEQ presents methods used for non-detect results in their analysis of the data collected during their 2016 BLM sampling efforts in the <i>Draft Statewide Monitoring for Inputs to the Copper Biotic Ligand Model</i> , Section 2.4 Data Handling (State of Idaho Dept of Env Quality July 2017 Draft). For reference, the TSD, which is referenced in section 3.1.2.2 of the ELDG, does not provide guidance on use of non-detects in water quality data analysis.
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	2	3.2.1.1	50	required flow data	Suggested edit: "For example, the 1Q10 and 7Q10 require at least 10 years of <u>low continuous</u> flow data"...Same for the mention of "low" in the first sentence of the next paragraph. While the 1Q10 and 7Q10 represent the data statistics for the low flow critical conditions the calculations require continuous/ year round data to determine actual low flow periods and not ten years of just low flow data.
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	3	3.3.1	54	waterbodies with unassigned designated use	Suggested consideration: "Designated and presumed uses apply unless a use attainability analysis (UAA) is conducted by DEQ and approved by EPA. In the development of the UAA, DEQ may consider a <u>site specific analysis completed and presented by a discharger to assess the site specific beneficial uses of a receiving waterbody.</u> "
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	4	3.4.3	69	site-specific conditions	Site specific conditions should be defined for the permit writer. For example: " <u>Site specific conditions may include consideration of biomonitoring data, an exposure assessment of the mixing zone, a metal translator study,....</u> "
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	5	3.7.3	145	Section title	This section is really not just about human health, suggest title change.
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	6	3.7.3	145	Unobtainable Water Quality Criteria	Based on the discussion during the public meeting on 7/19/2017 related to this section and the recent reversal of the human health arsenic standard, we are suggesting some guidance on the issue of unobtainable standards and how a permit writer would address that issue for existing dischargers.
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	7	3.7.7	148	Metal Translators	Suggested addition: Site-specific metal translators may be developed for a receiving water by completing a translator study of the downstream reach (downgradient of the mixing zone) to support the development of water quality based effluent limits and to complete the RPA.
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	8	3.7.8.4	149	water column translator	Suggested consideration: A discharger may develop a site-specific water column translation of fish tissue criterion for a receiving water for consideration by the permit writer in calculating effluent limits.
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	9	3.7.9.1.1	151	percentile of IWQCs for copper criteria developed using the BLM	Consider allowing the permit writer flexibility in determining the conservative percentile value. The current IDEQ <i>DRAFT Implementation Guidance for the Idaho Copper Criteria for Aquatic Life (IDEQ July 2017 Draft)</i> does not list a specific percentile, the following comment is based on guidance from Section 5.5.2 of that document. Suggested edit: "When there are at least 24 monthly IWQCs, the copper criteria used for permit development should be based on <u>the 10th percentile a conservative percentile of all of the IWQCs</u> . If data indicate that seasonal or flow tiered criteria are appropriate, then criteria should be based on <u>10th percentile a conservative percentile of the IWQCs calculated specifically for each tier, during low flow conditions and the 10th percentile of IWQCs during high flow. A conservative percentile can be achieved by demonstrating that copper concentrations at the selected percentile will not lead to a TU greater than 1.0 more than once every three years.</u> " IPDES discusses this in section 3.7.9.2.
7/19/2017	25-Jul-17	KC Harvey Environmental, LLC	10	3.7.9	150	existing dischargers and copper criteria used in the RPA and WQBEL calculations	Consideration should be made to provide "interim limits" for existing dischargers in relation to current permitted effluent limits and calculating effluent limits for a renewal permit. For example, in a scenario where an existing discharger has current copper WQBELs and is renewing an NPDES permit but does not have sufficient data to develop copper criteria using the BLM data (scenario discussed in Section 3.7.9.4). If the discharger has initiated a monitoring plan for collecting the required parameters, then the current permit limits (that were initially developed using hardness-based criteria) could be applied until sufficient BLM data is collected (at least 12 to 24 months of data per section 3.7.9.1.1) and a BLM copper criteria developed.