

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Results of Cyanobacteria and Microcystin Monitoring in the Vicinity of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project: September 11th and 17th, 2012

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Introduction

This technical memorandum summarizes the results for the public health monitoring conducted September 11th and 17th, 2012 for cyanobacteria species and the associated toxin, microcystin, in Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs in PacifiCorp's Klamath Hydroelectric Project (Project) and at one monitoring station in the Klamath River below Iron Gate Dam. This monitoring is particularly focused on *Microcystis aeruginosa* (MSAE), a cyanobacterium with a recent history of summertime blooms in Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs and that is known to produce microcystin. This monitoring also estimates the presence of other potentially-toxigenic cyanobacteria, including *Anabaena* spp. and *Planktothrix* (*Oscillatoria*) spp. This monitoring is being conducted pursuant to Interim Measure 15, Water Quality Monitoring Activities, contained in the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSAs) executed between the United States Department of Interior, the states of California and Oregon, PacifiCorp, and other parties.

The data summarized in this memorandum also include results from the previous 2012 public health sampling events (see Appendix 1). Subsequent memoranda will be prepared approximately every two weeks to report the results of continued monitoring.

Methods

PacifiCorp is conducting phytoplankton sampling at 5 sites (Table 1) for laboratory analysis of potentially toxigenic cyanobacteria, notably MSAE, and microcystin at:

- Four shoreline sites in coves in Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs (i.e., two cove sites in each reservoir).
- One Klamath River site below Iron Gate Dam near the hatchery bridge.

Samples are planned to be taken at shoreline locations in the reservoirs once in May and August; and twice per month in June, July, October, and November. Samples for the river site below Iron Gate Dam are scheduled to be collected twice per month in June, July and October and weekly in August and September, but the sampling schedule may change due to river and/or reservoir conditions.

Phytoplankton samples from the river sites are taken as grab samples offshore according to the standard operating procedure (SOP) developed by the Klamath Blue Green Algae Working Group (<http://www.kbmp.net/collaboration/klamath-hydroelectric-settlement-agreement-monitoring>). Additional samples, collected at open water sites in Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs, including a grab

sample at 0.5 m depth and an integrated sample over 8 m depth, will be collected as part of the baseline water quality monitoring.

Samples for potentially toxic phytoplankton are preserved in Lugol’s solution and sent to Aquatic Analysts in Friday Harbor, Washington for analysis. The laboratory analysis of phytoplankton speciation and abundance is performed on prepared microscope slides of filtered samples using phase contrast microscopy. Species are counted as algal units of cell, filament, or colony depending on the natural growth form of the species. Algal forms are identified to species or otherwise to the lowest practicable taxonomic level. Results for cyanobacteria species are reported as individual cells per milliliter.

Samples for determination of microcystin toxin are placed in a cooler on ice and shipped to the EPA Region 9 Laboratory in Richmond, California. The samples are analyzed using the competitive Enzyme-Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay (ELISA) method based on the EnviroLogix QuantiPlate Kit for microcystins. The quantitation limit is 0.18 µg/L or parts per billion (ppb). This test method does not distinguish between the specific microcystin congeners, but detects their presence to differing degrees. That is, ELISA test results yield one value as the sum of measurable microcystin variants.

Location	Approximate River Mile	Site ID
Copco Reservoir at Mallard Cove	201.5	CRMC
Copco Reservoir at Copco Cove	200.0	CRCC
Iron Gate Reservoir at Camp Creek	192.8	IRCC
Iron Gate Reservoir at John Williams campground	192.4	IRJW
Klamath River below Iron Gate dam near hatchery bridge	189.7	KRBI

Results

The July 11th sampling had cell counts at Copco Reservoir (Copco Cove) and microcystin levels at Iron Gate Reservoir (John Williams campground) above the California posting guidelines¹ (SWRCB 2010). Both reservoirs are currently posted with health advisory guidelines. Public health sampling will resume in the reservoirs when the blooms begin to recede for the purpose of lifting the health advisories. It is anticipated that public health sampling in the reservoirs will resume by mid-October.

Sampling results from the August 27 collection at the Klamath River below Iron Gate dam (KRBI) site were above the California posting guidelines. A public health advisory sign was posted at this site on August 31, 2012. However, public health sampling continues on a weekly basis at the KBRI site. The results from the September 11th and 17th sampling events show that cell counts are still above the posting guidelines (Table 2).

¹ The California State Water Resources Control Board provides guidelines for posting advisories in recreation water (SWRCB 2010). SWRCB recommends posting advisories in recreation waters under three circumstances: (1) if “scum is present associated with toxigenic species”; (2) if scum is not present, but the density of *Microcystis* or *Planktothrix* is 40,000 cells/ml or greater; and (3) if scum is not present, but the density of all potentially toxigenic BGA is 100,000 cells/ml or greater.

Table 2. Summary of public health monitoring on September 11th and 17th, 2012.

Date	Time	Location	RM	Sample ID	Depth	MSAE	AFA	ANA	Other	Microcystin (µg/l)
9/11/2012	15:45	KRBI	189.7	KR12841	SG	78,880	1,263	0	0	*
9/17/2012	18:30	KRBI	189.7	KR12842	SG	139,420	320	0	51 ⁽⁷⁾	*

* Results from microcystin analyses were not available upon released of this memo and will be released with a subsequent memo

** To be filled in with a subsequent memo

¹MSAE = *Microcystis aeruginosa* (cells/mL)

²AFA = *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* (cells/mL)

³ANA = *Anabaena flos-aquae* (cells/mL)

Other = either ⁵*Planktothrix (Oscillatoria) sp.* or ⁶*Gloeotrichia echinulata* or ⁷*Anabaena sp.* or

⁸*Lyngbya sp.* (cells/mL)

“0” value indicates non-detect by analytical laboratory

References

SWRCB. 2010. Cyanobacteria in California Recreational Water Bodies: Providing Voluntary Guidance about Harmful Algal Blooms, Their Monitoring, and Public Notification. July 2010. Document provided as part of Blue-green Algae Work Group of State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).

Appendix 1

Cumulative Cyanobacteria Species data for 2012 Public Health Samples

Date	Time	Location	RM	Sample ID	Depth	MSAE	AFA	ANA	Other	Microcystin (µg/L)
5/21/2012	12:40	CRMC	201.5	KR12800	SG	0	0	26	290 ^(b) / 329 ^(b)	**
5/21/2012	13:10	CRCC	200.0	KR12801	SG	0	0	0	58 ⁽⁵⁾	**
5/21/2012	11:30	IRCC	192.8	KR12802	SG	0	0	0	0	ND
5/21/2012	11:50	IRJW	192.4	KR12803	SG	0	0	0	0	ND
6/12/2012	15:00	CRMC	201.5	KR12804	SG	2,832	0	2,124	1,035 ⁽⁵⁾	0.29
6/12/2012	16:00	CRCC	200.0	KR12805	SG	8,575	0	0	0	0.74
6/12/2012	13:50	IRCC	192.8	KR12806	SG	0	0	0	0	0.3
6/12/2012	14:00	IRJW	192.4	KR12807	SG	0	0	67	0	ND
6/12/2012	14:10	KRBI	189.7	KR12809	SG	0	0	0	0	ND
6/25/2012	13:25	CRMC	201.5	KR12810	SG	119	0	0	24 ⁽⁵⁾	ND
6/25/2012	12:45	CRCC	200.0	KR12811	SG	284	0	56	111 ⁽⁵⁾	0.37
6/25/2012	14:15	IRCC	192.8	KR12812	SG	0	0	0	28 ⁽⁵⁾	0.16
6/25/2012	14:05	IRJW	192.4	KR12813	SG	117	0	87	0	0.19
6/25/2012	13:50	KRBI	189.7	KR12815	SG	0	0	0	0	ND
7/11/2012	11:50	CRMC	201.5	KR12816	SG	2,019	0	2,042	0	5.9
7/11/2012	12:30	CRCC	200.0	KR12817	SG	694,479	0	1,173,209	0	460
7/11/2012	14:00	IRCC	192.8	KR12818	SG	821	0	1,195	112 ⁽⁷⁾	0.86
7/11/2012	14:15	IRJW	192.4	KR12819	SG	26,670	0	3,196	499 ⁽⁷⁾	9.8
7/11/2012	14:30	KRBI	189.7	KR12821	SG	0	0	0	0	0.17
7/17/2012	18:15	CRMC	201.5	KR12822	SG	7,362	0	0	0	1.6
7/17/2012	18:45	CRCC	200.0	KR12823	SG	9,095	167	543	0	2.7
7/17/2012	19:15	IRCC	192.8	KR12824	SG	259	0	0	35 ⁽⁷⁾	0.32
7/17/2012	19:30	IRJW	192.4	KR12825	SG	0	893	3,046	7,527 ⁽⁶⁾	0.32
7/24/2012	11:00	CRMC	201.5	KR12826	SG	1,973,811	0	11,504	0	660
7/24/2012	12:35	CRCC	200.0	KR12827	SG	9,616,424	0	156,930	0	2,300
7/24/2012	12:00	IRCC	192.8	KR12828	SG	8,016	0	0	847 ⁽⁷⁾	2.3
7/24/2012	11:45	IRJW	192.4	KR12829	SG	6,497	43	107	64 ⁽⁷⁾	1.4
7/24/2012	11:30	KRBI	189.7	KR12831	SG	322	107	43	0	0.44
8/06/2012	18:30	KRBI	189.7 ***	KR12832	SG	22,812	2,619	0	83 ⁽⁷⁾	3.8
8/08/2012	12:15	CRMC	200.0	KR12833	SG	1,903,433	3,833,500	0	0	2,400
8/08/2012	13:00	CRCC	192.8	KR12834	SG	59,757,500	183,937	0	45,100 ⁽⁷⁾	43,000
8/08/2012	14:10	IRCC	192.4	KR12835	SG	63,140	26,914	649	487 ⁽⁷⁾	14
8/08/2012	14:30	IRJW	189.7	KR12836	SG	355,455	269,932	0	1,114 ⁽⁷⁾	98
8/13/2012	9:20	KRBI	189.7	KR12837	SG	31,839	1,616	0	224 ⁽⁷⁾	1.4
8/19/2012	15:50	KRBI	189.7	KR12838	SG	20,412	2,793	0	0	0.48
8/27/2012	14:20	KRBI	189.7	KR12839	SG	60,188	12,983	0	0	1.8
9/03/2012	*	KRBI	189.7	KR12840	SG	112,782	6,592	0	0	*
9/11/2012	15:45	KRBI	189.7	KR12841	SG	78,880	1,263	0	0	*
9/17/2012	18:30	KRBI	189.7	KR12842	SG	139,420	320	0	51 ⁽⁷⁾	*

* Results were not available upon release of this memo and will be release with the subsequent memo

**Bottles were damaged during shipping and could not be analyzed

*** Previously listed incorrectly as 201.5

Appendix 2

Laboratory Data Sheets September 11th and 17th, 2012 Public Health Sampling

Phytoplankton Sample Analysis					
Sample:		Klamath Basin			
Sample Site:		KR 12841			
Sample Depth:					
Sample Date:		11-Sep-12			
Total Density (#/mL):		4,442			
Total Biovolume (um ³ /mL):		710,596			
Trophic State Index:		47.4			
Species	Density #/mL	Density Percent	Biovolume um ³ /mL	Biovolume Percent	Group
1 Microcystis aeruginosa	4,382	98.6	631,039	88.8	bluegreen
2 Aphanizomenon flos-aquae	60	1.4	79,556	11.2	bluegreen
Microcystis aeruginosa cells/mL =		78,880			
Aphanizomenon flos-aquae cells/mL =		1,263			
Note: Toxic Algae Only					
Aquatic Analysts			Sample ID: QG05		

Phytoplankton Sample Analysis					
Sample:		Klamath Basin			
Sample Site:		KR 12842			
Sample Depth:					
Sample Date:		17-Sep-12			
Total Density (#/mL):		4,120			
Total Biovolume (um ³ /mL):		1,138,989			
Trophic State Index:		50.8			
Species	Density #/mL	Density Percent	Biovolume um ³ /mL	Biovolume Percent	Group
1 Microcystis aeruginosa	4,101	99.5	1,115,358	97.9	bluegreen
2 Aphanizomenon flos-aquae	13	0.3	20,151	1.8	bluegreen
3 Anabaena sp.	6	0.2	3,480	0.3	bluegreen
Microcystis aeruginosa cells/mL =		139,420			
Aphanizomenon flos-aquae cells/mL =		320			
Anabaena sp. cells/mL =		51			
Note: Toxic Algae Only					
Aquatic Analysts			Sample ID: QG30		