

State of Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

To: DEQ Water Quality Staff

Date: June 1, 2012

From: Greg Aldrich  
Interim Administrator, Water Quality Division *AKA*

Subject: Implementing Site-Specific Background Pollutant Criteria  
for NPDES Permit Holders, Revision 1.0

This memorandum transmits Version 1.0 of the Implementing Site-Specific Background Pollutant Criteria Internal Management Directive (SSBPC IMD) and is effective immediately.

The purposes of the SSBPC IMD are to provide guidance for Department of Environmental Quality staff in establishing a Site-Specific Background Pollutant Criterion (SSBPC). The SSBPC was recently (June, 2011) authorized by the Environmental Quality Commission to address background pollutants that are intercepted by a municipality or industry, and later returned to the same body of water. The IMD describes the conditions for granting a SSBPC and the procedures for collecting ambient and effluent data, and using it to calculate the SSBPC. Finally the IMD describes the various administrative functions required to implement the final SSBPC.

As an accompaniment to the revised IMD, we have prepared a blank SSBPC Worksheet for use in calculating a SSBPC. The worksheet and IMD are available on the Permit Writer's Corner at the following address: <http://deq05/wq/wqpermits/PCGuidance.htm>

To ensure the consistency of permits statewide and promote efficient use of the department's limited resources, all DEQ personnel are directed to closely adhere to the SSBPC IMD and the procedures for calculation and implementation of the criterion. Before beginning the development of a SSBPC, it is recommended that the permit writer contact the Surface Water Management Section for assistance in establishing a sampling plan and calculation of the criterion (Spencer Bohaboy at 503-229-5415). It will also be necessary to review the SSBPC calculations and findings with the Standards Section prior to submittal of a proposed permit containing a SSBPC for public notice.

Development and editorial review of the SSBPC IMD was conducted by a panel of permit writers and staff including Dennis Ades, Sonja Biorn-Hansen, Spencer Bohaboy, Jane Hickman, Andrea Matzke, Steve Schnurbusch and Mer Wiren. I would like to recognize these individuals and thank them for their hard work and diligent attention to this process.

Cc: Water Quality Managers  
Regional Administrators

