

# Aquatic Plant Tissue Exposure Point Concentration Calculations

---

For polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), aquatic plant tissue exposure point concentrations (EPCs) were estimated from sediment using an approach that incorporated the uptake differences between low molecular weight (LMW) and high molecular weight (HMW) PAH compounds. Due to the lack of sediment-to-plant uptake information in the scientific literature, the aquatic plant uptake was assumed to be identical uptake into terrestrial plants from soil. Therefore, the bioaccumulation approach from the PAH-specific ecological soil screening levels (Eco-SSL) document (USEPA, 2007) was used to estimate the total PAH (TPAH) concentration in aquatic plants using site-specific sediment PAH data.

The 17 PAH compounds analyzed in sediment, are categorized as follows:

#### LMW PAHs:

- 2-methylnaphthalene
- Acenaphthene
- Acenaphthylene
- Anthracene
- Fluorene
- Naphthalene
- Phenanthrene

#### HMW PAHs:

- Benzo(a)anthracene
- Benzo(a)pyrene
- Benzo(b)fluoranthene
- Benzo(g,h,i)perylene
- Benzo(k)fluoranthene
- Chrysene
- Dibenz(a,h)anthracene
- Fluoranthene
- Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene
- Pyrene

The following steps in the EPC calculation approach were used (all steps are reflected in Table E-1):

1. Calculate LMW and HMW TPAH concentrations in sediment – LWM and HWM TPAH concentrations were calculated for each sediment sample (including all field duplicates) by summing the concentration of detected PAHs in each category.
2. Estimate (model) LMW and HMW TPAH concentrations in plants – On a sample-specific basis, the LMW and HMW TPAH sediment concentrations calculated during Step 1 were used to estimate plant concentrations. For LMW TPAHs, the sediment

---

concentrations were multiplied by a BCF of 2.09 (Table 6.3 from USEPA, 2007). For HMW TPAHs, the sediment concentrations were calculated using the following regression model (Table 6.4 from USEPA, 2007):

$$\ln(\text{Tissue}_{\text{aquatic plant}}) = 0.9469 \times \ln(\text{Sediment}_{\text{MW}}) - 1.7026$$

Where:

$\ln$  = log normal

$\text{Tissue}_{\text{aquatic plant}}$  = concentration in aquatic plant tissue

$\text{Sediment}_{\text{MW}}$  = Step 1 molecular weight-specific TPAH concentration

3. Calculate TPAH concentration in aquatic plants – the LWM and HMW TPAH plant tissue concentrations were summed to calculate the overall TPAH concentration in aquatic plants from sediment samples.
4. Calculate EPC – First, the higher of the normal and corresponding field duplicate concentrations were selected for samples 308A, 314, 315 and 324 (the minimum concentration was ignored). Second, the 95 percent (%) upper confidence limit (UCL) of the mean (i.e., 95% UCL) was calculated for all 27 sample-specific aquatic plant tissue concentrations from Step 3 using USEPA's ProUCL version 4.00.05. This value was used as the TPAH EPC for aquatic plants in the food web assessment.

Table D-1  
Calculation of Total PAHs in Aquatic Plant Tissues  
Gowanus Canal Remedial Investigation  
Brooklyn, New York

PAH/Category	301 GC-SD301-0.0-0.5 Normal	302 GC-SD302-0.0-0.5 Normal	303 GC-SD303-0.0-0.5 Normal	304 GC-SD304-0.0-0.5 Normal	305 GC-SD305-0.0-0.5 Normal	306 GC-SD306-0.0-0.5 Normal	307A GC-SD307A-0.0-0.5 Normal	307B GC-SD307B-0.0-0.5 Normal	308A D-062310-01 Field Duplicate	GC-SD308A-0.0-0.5 Normal	308B GC-SD308B-0.0-0.5 Normal	309 GC-SD309-0.0-0.5 Normal	310 GC-SD310-0.0-0.5 Normal	311 GC-SD311-0.0-0.5 Normal	312 GC-SD312-0.0-0.5 Normal	313 GC-SD313-0.0-0.5 Normal
Low Molecular Weight (LMW) PAHs																
2-methylnaphthalene	120 U	500	370	350 UJ	3,300 J	360 UJ	270	270 U	610 UJ	680 J	250 U	250 U	1,700 UJ	210 U	350	160 U
Acenaphthene	160	3,100 J	1,300	6,400 J	3,200 J	2,100 J	1,100	1,200	610 UJ	1,600 J	250 U	250 U	1,700 UJ	300	390	160 U
Acenaphthylene	270 J	2,100 J	270 U	4,200 J	2,700 U	360 UJ	230 U	270 U	760 J	620 UJ	720	250 U	1,700 UJ	210 U	1,100	160 U
Anthracene	330	3,000 J	1,800	7,300 J	3,300 J	3,900	1,000	1,500	660 J	2,400 J	250 U	610	1,700 UJ	550	810	730
Fluorene	130	1,400	270	4,100 J	260 U	360 UJ	360	270 U	610 UJ	1,800 J	250 U	250 U	1,700 UJ	260	500	160 U
Naphthalene	120	660	280	7,600 J	7,200 J	360 UJ	230 U	270 U	610 UJ	1,000 J	250 U	250 U	1,700 UJ	370	390	160 U
Phenanthrene	510	5,500 J	4,300 J	19,000 J	8,900 J	8,000 J	1,600	1,400	4,300 J	21,000 J	520 J	1,300	2,000 J	1,700 J	2,600 J	1,700 J
Total PAHs, LMW - Sediment <sup>1</sup>	1,520.0	16,260.0	8,050.0	48,600.0	25,900.0	14,000.0	4,330.0	4,100.0	5,720.0	28,480.0	1,240.0	1,910.0	2,000.0	3,180.0	6,140.0	2,430.0
Total PAHs, LMW - Aquatic Plant <sup>2</sup>	3,176.8	33,983.4	16,824.5	101,574.0	54,131.0	29,260.0	9,049.7	8,569.0	11,954.8	59,523.2	2,591.6	3,991.9	4,180.0	6,646.2	12,832.6	5,078.7
High Molecular Weight (HMW) PAHs																
Benzo(a)anthracene	1,100	4,200 J	3,400 J	11,000 J	6,500 J	5,100 J	1,900 J	2,200 J	2,500	12,000 J	1,600	1,700	4,800 J	1,600	2,400 J	1,300
Benzo(a)pyrene	1,200	5,200 J	3,600 J	8,400 J	5,400 J	4,800 J	2,800 J	2,400 J	2,900	8,100 J	1,700	250 U	8,700 J	1,900	2,300 J	1,300
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	1,000	3,500 J	3,400 J	8,900 J	6,000 J	7,100 J	3,100 J	2,900 J	2,200 J	11,000 J	1,200	250 U	11,000 J	1,800	1,900 J	1,900 U
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	610	2,200 J	2,200	4,800 J	260 U	3,900 J	1,600	2,300	2,400	7,400 J	1,000	1,300	4,100 J	1,100	1,900	1,300
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	870	2,800 J	2,800 J	6,900 J	4,600 J	4,100 J	1,900	2,600	2,500 J	8,300 J	820	250 U	5,400 J	1,400	1,400	860 U
Chrysene	790 J	4,200 J	2,900 J	11,000 J	6,300 J	5,500 J	2,300 J	1,900 J	2,000 J	12,000 J	1,300 J	1,200 J	4,400 J	1,400 J	2,300 J	730 J
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	200	920	520	1,400 J	700	1,500 J	460	990	910	2,500 J	420	340	1,700 UJ	400	800	210
Fluoranthene	1,200 J	6,600 J	4,200 J	12,000 J	9,300 J	6,900 J	3,600 J	3,400 J	3,800	24,000 J	1,800	2,200	8,200 J	2,700 J	4,700 J	2,200 J
Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene	1,000	3,000 J	2,400	9,000 J	3,900 J	5,300 J	2,100	1,500 J	1,900	7,100 J	1,200	2,500	5,300 J	1,800	1,200 J	1,700 J
Pyrene	1,400 J	9,500 J	5,900 J	18,000 J	13,000 J	9,600 J	5,000 J	4,400 J	3,900	22,000 J	2,200 J	2,600 J	13,000 J	2,100 J	4,900 J	1,900 J
Total PAHs, HMW - Sediment <sup>1</sup>	9,370.0	42,120.0	31,320.0	91,400.0	55,700.0	53,800.0	24,760.0	24,590.0	25,010.0	114,400.0	13,240.0	11,840.0	64,900.0	16,200.0	23,800.0	10,640.0
Total PAHs, HMW - Aquatic Plants <sup>2</sup>	1,050.5	4,360.1	3,293.5	9,080.1	5,680.9	5,497.3	2,636.4	2,619.3	2,661.6	11,230.4	1,457.4	1,311.1	6,565.8	1,764.2	2,539.5	1,184.9
Total PAHs																
Sediment <sup>3</sup>	10,890	58,380	39,370	140,000	81,600	67,800	29,090	28,690	30,730	142,880	14,480	13,750	66,900	19,380	29,940	13,070
Aquatic Plants <sup>4</sup>	4,227	38,344	20,118	110,654	59,812	34,757	11,686	11,188	14,616	70,754	4,049	5,303	10,746	8,410	15,372	6,264

Notes:

1 - Sum of detected LMW or HMW PAHs

2 - Aquatic plant bioaccumulation based in terrestrial plants via PAH Eco-SSL document (USEPA, 2007); For LMW PAHs, BCF of 2.09 taken from Table 6.3, and for HMW PAHs, BCF is regression model equation taken Table 6.4

3 - Sum of LMW and HMW Total PAHs in sediment

4 - Sum of LMW and HMW Total PAHs in aquatic plants

5 - 95% UCL calculated using ProUCL Version 4.00.05; maximum of "Normal" and "Field Duplicate" samples

Table D-1  
Calculation of Total PAHs in Aquatic Plant Tissue:  
Gowanus Canal Remedial Investigation  
Brooklyn, New York

PAH/Category	314		315		316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324		325	95% UCL <sup>b</sup>
	D-06182010-01	GC-SD314-0.0-0.5	D-06182010-02	GC-SD315-0.0-0.5	GC-SD316-0.0-0.5	GC-SD317-0.0-0.5	GC-SD318-0.0-0.5	GC-SD319-0.0-0.5	GC-SD320-0.0-0.5	GC-SD321-0.0-0.5	GC-SD322-0.0-0.5	GC-SD323-0.0-0.5	D-06212010-01	GC-SD324-0.0-0.5	GC-SD325-0.0-0.5	
	Field Duplicate	Normal	Field Duplicate	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Field Duplicate	Normal	Normal	
Low Molecular Weight (LMW) PAHs																
2-methylnaphthalene	15,000	4,500 U	700,000 J	870,000 J	3,100 U	2,200 U	2,600 J	5,500 J	720 J	380	500	400	230 U	190 J	3,900 J	--
Acenaphthene	330,000 J	460,000 J	460,000 J	580,000 J	3,100 U	19,000	6,100 J	20,000 J	1,700 J	370	620	240	230 U	310 U	950	--
Acenaphthylene	100,000 J	150,000 J	110,000 J	130,000 J	3,100 U	12,000	13,000 J	10,000 J	3,600 J	260 U	320 U	480 J	230 U	310 U	240 U	--
Anthracene	230,000 J	350,000 J	360,000 J	610,000 J	3,100 U	16,000	9,700 J	21,000	3,200 J	1,100	1,500	830	450	330	2,800 J	--
Fluorene	99,000 J	130,000 J	420,000 J	540,000 J	3,100 U	13,000	3,200 J	11,000 J	1,100 J	430	460	330	230 U	310 U	1,400	--
Naphthalene	5,500	5,600	800,000 J	1,600,000 J	3,100 U	17,000	2,000	9,100 J	1,100 J	460	840	690	280	310 J	5,100 J	--
Phenanthrene	350,000 J	470,000 J	840,000 J	1,100,000 J	3,100 U	42,000 J	8,800 J	37,000 J	2,800 J	1,300	1,400	1,300	470	620	3,400 J	--
Total PAHs, LMW - Sediment <sup>1</sup>	1,129,500.0	1,565,600.0	3,690,000.0	5,430,000.0	--	119,000.0	45,400.0	113,600.0	14,220.0	4,040.0	5,320.0	4,270.0	1,200.0	1,450.0	17,550.0	--
Total PAHs, LMW - Aquatic Plant <sup>c</sup>	2,360,655.0	3,272,104.0	7,712,100.0	11,348,700.0	--	248,710.0	94,886.0	237,424.0	29,719.8	8,443.6	11,118.8	8,924.3	2,508.0	3,030.5	36,679.5	--
High Molecular Weight (HMW) PAHs																
Benzo(a)anthracene	230,000 J	320,000 J	260,000 J	490,000 J	4,800	38,000 J	25,000 J	21,000 J	9,000 J	3,000 J	3,300 J	1,900 J	940	1,500	6,300 J	--
Benzo(a)pyrene	140,000 J	200,000 J	110,000 J	140,000 J	7,100	48,000 J	15,000	14,000 J	6,500 J	4,100 J	3,100 J	2,200 J	1,800	310 U	5,200 J	--
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	110,000 J	210,000 J	170,000 J	98,000 J	11,000	17,000	17,000 J	13,000 J	5,000 J	3,400 J	2,000	1,600 J	1,900	5,300 J	3,400 J	--
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	50,000	74,000 J	41,000 J	53,000 J	3,700	10,000	9,000 J	7,400 J	3,200 J	2,400	1,500 J	1,700	1,100	1,500	2,600 J	--
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	94,000 J	120,000 J	45,000 J	67,000 J	4,900	15,000	11,000 J	8,800 J	3,800 J	2,400	2,500 J	1,700	520	1,100	3,500 J	--
Chrysene	190,000 J	320,000 J	250,000 J	490,000 J	6,700 J	19,000 J	24,000 J	22,000 J	7,200 J	2,800 J	3,100 J	1,800 J	740 J	1,100 J	6,500 J	--
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	14,000	14,000	8,200	10,000	3,100 U	2,200 U	3,100 J	2,500 J	1,100 J	650	320 U	390	440	600	740	--
Fluoranthene	400,000 J	630,000 J	290,000 J	530,000 J	8,200	27,000 J	31,000 J	29,000 J	14,000 J	3,500 J	4,200 J	2,500 J	230 U	2,000	7,400 J	--
Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene	67,000 J	120,000 J	54,000 J	63,000 J	5,600	13,000	11,000 J	11,000 J	4,200 J	2,100 J	1,400	1,900	1,200	1,800	1,700 J	--
Pyrene	450,000 J	670,000 J	420,000 J	630,000 J	15,000	62,000 J	44,000 J	47,000 J	15,000 J	5,500 J	5,500 J	3,900 J	230 U	310 U	11,000 J	--
Total PAHs, HMW - Sediment <sup>1</sup>	1,745,000.0	2,678,000.0	1,648,200.0	2,571,000.0	67,000.0	249,000.0	190,100.0	175,700.0	69,000.0	29,850.0	26,600.0	19,590.0	8,640.0	14,900.0	48,340.0	--
Total PAHs, HMW - Aquatic Plants <sup>c</sup>	148,226.7	222,363.8	140,429.0	213,941.9	6,766.8	23,454.8	18,165.1	16,859.5	6,957.9	3,147.0	2,821.6	2,112.0	972.9	1,629.9	4,967.5	--
Total PAHs																
Sediment <sup>3</sup>	2,874,500	4,243,600	5,338,200	8,001,000	67,000	368,000	235,500	289,300	83,220	33,890	31,920	23,860	9,840	16,350	65,890	1,950,282
Aquatic Plants <sup>4</sup>	2,508,882	3,494,468	7,852,529	11,562,642	6,767	272,165	113,051	254,283	36,678	11,591	13,940	11,036	3,481	4,660	41,647	2,522,138

Notes:

1 - Sum of detected LMW or HMW PAHs

2 - Aquatic plant bioaccumulation based in terrestrial plants via PAH Eco-SSL document (USEPA, 2007); For LMW PAHs, BCF of 2.09 taken from Table 6.3, and for HMW PAHs, BCF is regression model equation taken Table 6.4

3 - Sum of LMW and HMW Total PAHs in sediment

4 - Sum of LMW and HMW Total PAHs in aquatic plants

5 - 95% UCL calculated using ProUCL Version 4.00.05; maximum of "Normal" and "Field Duplicate" samples

General UCL Statistics for Full Data Sets	
User Selected Options	
From File	WorkSheet.wst
Full Precision	OFF
Confidence Coefficient	95%
Number of Bootstrap Operations	2000
Sediment_TPAHs	
General Statistics	
Number of Valid Observations	27
Number of Distinct Observations	27
Raw Statistics	Log-transformed Statistics
Minimum	10890
Maximum	8001000
Mean	526509
Median	58380
SD	1697250
Coefficient of Variation	3.224
Skewness	3.963
Relevant UCL Statistics	
Normal Distribution Test	Lognormal Distribution Test
Shapiro Wilk Test Statistic	0.335
Shapiro Wilk Critical Value	0.923
Data not Normal at 5% Significance Level	Data not Lognormal at 5% Significance Level
Assuming Normal Distribution	Assuming Lognormal Distribution
95% Student's-t UCL	1083625
95% UCLs (Adjusted for Skewness)	95% Chebyshev (MVUE) UCL
95% Adjusted-CLT UCL (Chen-1995)	1329969
95% Modified-t UCL (Johnson-1978)	1125146
Gamma Distribution Test	Data Distribution
k star (bias corrected)	0.319
Theta Star	1648206
MLE of Mean	526509
MLE of Standard Deviation	931555
nu star	17.25
Approximate Chi Square Value (.05)	8.851
Adjusted Level of Significance	0.0401
Adjusted Chi Square Value	8.467
Anderson-Darling Test Statistic	4.389
Anderson-Darling 5% Critical Value	0.846
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test Statistic	0.325
Kolmogorov-Smirnov 5% Critical Value	0.182
Data not Gamma Distributed at 5% Significance Level	
Assuming Gamma Distribution	
95% Approximate Gamma UCL	1026119
95% Adjusted Gamma UCL	1072672
Potential UCL to Use	Use 95% Chebyshev (Mean, Sd) UCL
Note: Suggestions regarding the selection of a 95% UCL are provided to help the user to select the most appropriate 95% UCL.	
These recommendations are based upon the results of the simulation studies summarized in Singh, Singh, and Iaci (2002)	
and Singh and Singh (2003). For additional insight, the user may want to consult a statistician.	

Aquatic-Plants_TPAHs					
General Statistics					
Number of Valid Observations		27	Number of Distinct Observations		27
Raw Statistics			Log-transformed Statistics		
Minimum	4049	Minimum of Log Data	8.306		
Maximum	11562642	Maximum of Log Data	16.26		
Mean	601282	Mean of log Data	10.37		
Median	15372	SD of log Data	1.951		
SD	2289812				
Coefficient of Variation	3.808				
Skewness	4.625				
Relevant UCL Statistics					
Normal Distribution Test		Lognormal Distribution Test			
Shapiro Wilk Test Statistic	0.289	Shapiro Wilk Test Statistic	0.844		
Shapiro Wilk Critical Value	0.923	Shapiro Wilk Critical Value	0.923		
Data not Normal at 5% Significance Level		Data not Lognormal at 5% Significance Level			
Assuming Normal Distribution		Assuming Lognormal Distribution			
95% Student's-t UCL	1352904	95% H-UCL	967754		
95% UCLs (Adjusted for Skewness)		95% Chebyshev (MVUE) UCL	562781		
95% Adjusted-CLT UCL (Chen-1995)	1745242	97.5% Chebyshev (MVUE) UCL	728897		
95% Modified-t UCL (Johnson-1978)	1418278	99% Chebyshev (MVUE) UCL	1055198		
Gamma Distribution Test		Data Distribution			
k star (bias corrected)	0.24	Data do not follow a Discernable Distribution (0.05)			
Theta Star	2501306				
MLE of Mean	601282				
MLE of Standard Deviation	1226373				
nu star	12.98				
Approximate Chi Square Value (.05)	5.88	Nonparametric Statistics			
Adjusted Level of Significance	0.0401	95% CLT UCL	1326127		
Adjusted Chi Square Value	5.576	95% Jackknife UCL	1352904		
		95% Standard Bootstrap UCL	1298878		
Anderson-Darling Test Statistic	4.655	95% Bootstrap-t UCL	21755179		
Anderson-Darling 5% Critical Value	0.878	95% Hall's Bootstrap UCL	12745008		
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test Statistic	0.336	95% Percentile Bootstrap UCL	1443483		
Kolmogorov-Smirnov 5% Critical Value	0.185	95% BCA Bootstrap UCL	1903311		
Data not Gamma Distributed at 5% Significance Level		95% Chebyshev(Mean, Sd) UCL	2522138		
		97.5% Chebyshev(Mean, Sd) UCL	3353294		
Assuming Gamma Distribution		99% Chebyshev(Mean, Sd) UCL	4985938		
95% Approximate Gamma UCL	1327445				
95% Adjusted Gamma UCL	1399871				
Potential UCL to Use		Use 95% Chebyshev (Mean, Sd) UCL		2522138	
Note: Suggestions regarding the selection of a 95% UCL are provided to help the user to select the most appropriate 95% UCL.					
These recommendations are based upon the results of the simulation studies summarized in Singh, Singh, and Iaci (2002)					
and Singh and Singh (2003). For additional insight, the user may want to consult a statistician.					