Accepted Manuscript

Research papers

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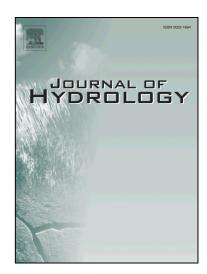
PII: S0022-1694(18)30227-0

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2018.03.055

Reference: HYDROL 22688

To appear in: Journal of Hydrology

Received Date: 1 June 2017 Revised Date: 19 March 2018 Accepted Date: 20 March 2018



Please cite this article as: Lintern, A., Leahy, P., Deletic, A., Heijnis, H., Zawadzki, A., Gadd, P., McCarthy, D., Uncertainties in Historical Pollution Data from Sedimentary Records from an Australian Urban Floodplain Lake, *Journal of Hydrology* (2018), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2018.03.055

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

UNCERTAINTIES IN HISTORICAL POLLUTION DATA FROM SEDIMENTARY RECORDS FROM AN AUSTRALIAN URBAN FLOODPLAIN LAKE

A. Lintern^{A,E, F}, P. Leahy^B, A. Deletic^A, H. Heijnis^C, A. Zawadzki^C, P. Gadd^C, D. McCarthy^{A,D}

^A Monash Infrastructure Research Institute, Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University,
Wellington Road, Clayton, Victoria 3800, Australia

^B EPA Victoria, Applied Sciences Group, Ernest Jones Drive, Macleod, Victoria 3085, Australia

^C Institute for Environmental Research, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, New

Illawarra Road, Lucas Heights, New South Wales 2234, Australia

^D Environmental and Public Health Microbiology Laboratory (EPHM Lab), Monash University,

Australia

EDepartment of Infrastructure Engineering, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3010,

Australia

^FCorresponding author, email: anna.lintern@monash.edu

ABSTRACT

Sediment cores from aquatic environments can provide valuable information about historical pollution levels and sources. However, there is little understanding of the uncertainties associated with these findings. The aim of this study is to fill this knowledge gap by proposing a framework for quantifying the uncertainties in historical heavy metal pollution records reconstructed from sediment cores. This uncertainty framework consists of six sources of uncertainty: uncertainties in (1) metals analysis methods, (2) spatial variability of sediment core heavy metal profiles, (3) subsampling intervals, (4) the sediment chronology, (5) the assumption that metal levels in bed sediments reflect the magnitude of metal inputs into the aquatic system, and (6) post-depositional transformation of metals. We apply this uncertainty framework to an urban floodplain lake in South-

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