

TOXICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 24, 2001

A meeting of the Toxics Advisory Committee was held at DuPont's Haskell Laboratory in Newark, Delaware. Members or alternates present were:

Delaware Richard Greene	Pennsylvania James Newbold	Environmental / Watershed Maya van Rossum Dr. Laurel Standley
Industry Bart Ruitter	Academia Dr. Michael Piasecki	Public Health Interest Not represented
New Jersey Steve Lubow	Municipal Dennis Blair	Agriculture Dr. Ferdows Ali
New York Not represented	Resources Simeon Hahn	U.S. EPA Charles App, Region III

Delaware River Basin Commission

Carol Collier
Dr. Namsoo Suk
John Yagecic

Other Attendees

John Westendorf, Occidental Chemical Corp.
Jess A. Vargo, Occidental Chemical Corp.
Mark Hawley, Environ
Bruce Aptowicz, Philadelphia Water Dept.
Larry Sandeen, Rohm & Haas
Cathy Libertz, EPA Region III
Jennifer Hunsperger, Praxair
Carol Ann Davis, EPA Region III
Steve Brown, Rohm & Haas
Dr. Joe Rogan, Exelon Power
David Piller, Exelon Power
Michelle Smith, Rohm & Haas
Tom Healey, Philadelphia Water Dept.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruitter at 9:35 AM.

II. Agenda

The agenda was revised to defer discussion of existing data on chlorinated pesticides and metals, due to the absence of Dr. Fikslin, and the other topics were added, including the Expert Panel Meeting, Status of the Tributary Study, Status of the Food Web Model, and Membership Issues.

III. Update on Implementation workgroup

Carol Collier discussed a grant from the William Penn Foundation. The grant will be used to hire a consultant to prepare an issues paper and recommend appropriate members for the TMDL implementation advisory committee. DRBC plans to issue an RFP in May, interviews during June, and award the contract in July.

IV. Review of January 11, 2001 and February 26, 2001 meeting minutes

Minor changes to the January minutes recommended. Steve Lubow made a motion to approve the January minutes conditioned on the incorporation of the recommended changes. Dr. Laurel Standley seconded the motion. January minutes were conditionally approved. Review of the February minutes deferred until the afternoon. The group agreed that all future minutes should include an "Action Items" section, outlining requested actions to be performed for upcoming TAC meetings and Conclusions / Agreements made at the meeting.

V. Update on DELEP Activities

Charles App updated the group regarding 3 recent DELEP activities:

1. A general budget framework has been agreed to, with a few loose ends. States, DRBC, and others are actively seeking funding resources. Proposals have been submitted and are under review.
2. TAC was asked for input on the Partnership's proposal to seek resources and develop a plan to communicate fish consumption advisories and risk to target consumers. The TAC deferred drafting a resolution endorsing the Partnership's proposal until the lunch hour. Rick Greene advised the group of an upcoming national conference on communicating fish consumption advisories in early May in Chicago.
3. A PCB track-down meeting was held recently with the track-down workgroup. Track-down plans by the cities of Wilmington, Camden, and Philadelphia are being finalized. Field work is anticipated to begin in early summer and end in early fall 2001.

VI. Coordination of the TMDL Process

Charles App summarized the previous discussions on this topic and reiterated that the TMDL must support the applicable water quality standards existing at the time the TMDL is submitted to EPA for approval. The general consensus was that the first meeting of the standards workgroup is a high priority.

VII. Membership Issues

Carol Collier agreed to draft a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service requesting reinstatement of funding to support Dan Russel's participation in the TAC. The group agreed that the Corps of Engineers should be invited to attend TAC meetings.

VIII. Review of February 26, 2001 meeting minutes

Several changes were recommended to the February 26, 2001 meeting minutes. Approval deferred until next TAC meeting.

IX. Food Chain Model work

Rick Greene discussed food chain model calibration data. Dr. Joel Baker has been asked to prepare a proposal for collection of this data. Dr. Baker's proposal is anticipated by the end of the month (April) and is expected to outline a 2-year effort to address collection of contaminant data for different trophic levels, with focus on Zones 2 through 5 during the 1st year, and focus on Zone 6 during the 2nd year. Delaware is anticipating committing \$150K plus boat time to this effort. The group urged that Dr. Baker be asked to make a presentation at the Expert Panel meeting.

X. TAC Fish Consumption Outreach and Education Resolution

Charles App read the following resolution:

The Toxics Advisory Committee (TAC) requests that the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary pursue funding to support PCB fish consumption advisory outreach and education activities directed toward recreational and subsistence fishermen. It is also requested that the Partnership establish a process to coordinate development of the outreach and education activities with the States, the TAC, the Fish Consumption Advisory Implementation Team, and the PCB Outreach and Implementation Subcommittee.

Dr. Laurel Standley made a motion to accept the resolution. The motion was seconded by Rick Greene. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. Other Proposed Work

Rick Greene gave an overview of the Geophysical Survey work proposed by Dr. Sommerfield, and a copy of the proposal was given to the TAC. John Yagecic gave an overview of other work proposed under a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant application including proposed collection of approximately 50 surficial sediment samples for analysis of PCBs, chlorinated pesticides, and metals, and determination of air-water PCB fluxes at 3 to 5 locations by Dr. Eisenreich.

The group discussed the QA requirements for proposed work by Dr. Baker, Dr. Sommerfield, and Dr. Eisenreich. DRBC QAPP could potentially serve as a prototype or template for the academic researchers. More discussion is required to determine if the DRBC QAPPs are appropriate templates for other research.

XII. Expert Panel Meeting

The Expert Panel will convene on May 18, 2001 at DRBC. Suggestions made regarding critical items of discussion included:

- reaching agreement on the conceptual model framework;
- presentation of the proposed work by Dr. Baker;
- feedback on budgets and mass balances in zones 2 through 5;
- data issues including existing versus proposed data sets, partial congener lists (usefulness of the existing data sets), data quality, data gaps, ongoing data collection for main stem and tributary sediment, point sources, non-point sources, air-water flux, and food webs.

DRBC will prepare an agenda for the meeting.

XIII. Action Items

1. Conference call between DRBC and NOAA to investigate database development options
2. DRBC to prepare agenda for Expert Panel meeting and forward to TAC along with information packet

XIV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

XV. Upcoming TAC Meetings

May 31, 2001 at DRBC

Topics to include:

- Status of BAF calculation and supporting studies
- Fish tissue data
- SAP / QAPP / DQO overview
- Briefing on TMDL database and data tools
- Discussion of Existing Data on Chlorinated Pesticides and Metals
- Update from Expert Panel Meeting

Subsequent meetings:

June 28, 2001 at DRBC

July 18, 2001 at DRBC

August 23, 2001 at DRBC

XVI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM.