

TOXICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 9, 2001

A meeting of the Toxics Advisory Committee was held at the Delaware River Basin Commission offices in West Trenton, NJ. Members or alternates present were:

Delaware

Rick Greene

Pennsylvania

James Newbold

Environmental / Watershed

Maya van Rossum
Dr. Laurel Standley

Industry

Bart Ruiter

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

Not represented

U.S. EPA

Charles App, Region III

Delaware River Basin Commission

Dr. Thomas Fikslin
Dr. Namsoo Suk
Edward D. Santoro
Dr. Daniel Liao
Greg Cavallo
John Yagecic

Other Attendees

Annette Walsh
Bruce Aptowicz, Philadelphia Water Dept.
Jeff Fischer, USGS
Tom Healy, Philadelphia Water Dept.
Russ Furnari, PSE&G
Dr. Tom O'Donnell, Academy of Nat. Sci.
Paul Bent, AUS Pathways
Dr. Jeff Ashley, Acad of Nat. Sci.
Anne Witt, NJ DEP
Dr. Steve Brown, Rohm & Haas
Larry Sandeen, Rohm & Haas
Chuck Yingling, PA DEP
Tom Gulbransen, Battelle
Roy Romano, Phila. Water Dept.
Dr. Joe Rogan, Exelon Power
David J. Piller, Exelon Power
Ray Wittekind Jr, Mattion, Ltd
Dr. Rollie Hemmett, EPA Region II

I. Recommendations & Agreements

The following recommendations and agreements were reached:

- The States and DRBC agreed to discuss laboratory certification requirements and their applicability to the TMDL.
- Based on recommendations of several TAC members, Mr. Yagecic agreed to compose a written rationale for the selection of each tributary sampling location, specifically addressing those locations that are below head of tide.
- Comments on the Surficial Sediment Sampling Quality Assurance Project Plan will be provided to DRBC by August 30, 2001.
- Several TAC members requested that DRBC provide an outline of the implementation discussion points in table-of-contents format, to facilitate scheduling discussions of these topics at future meetings, and that the states provide relevant TMDL regulations to DRBC for incorporation into a matrix for side by side comparison on specific implementation issues.

II. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruitter at 9:37 AM.

III. Review of May 31, 2001 and June 28, 2001 meeting minutes

Minor changes to the May 31, 2001 minutes were recommended. Dr. Standley motioned to approve the May minutes conditioned on the incorporation of the recommended changes, Mr. App seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Minor changes to the June 28, 2001 minutes were recommended. Mr. App motioned to approve the June minutes conditioned on the incorporation of the recommended changes, Dr. Standley seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IV. Update on DELEP and EPA Activities

Mr. App reported on the following DELEP and EPA activities:

- Don Welsh officially assumed the office of Regional Administrator for EPA, Region III, on July 30, 2001. Mr. Welsh has been briefed on DELEP activities.
- Several grant applications are still in the review process. Grants will be finalized before September 30, 2001.
- The DELEP Program Office located at the DRBC offices is up and running and a program assistant to Ms. Forsyth Kineon has been hired.

- EPA pulled back the new proposed TMDL regulation for further review. In the interim, the existing regulation remains in effect. The additional review of the new proposed regulation should have no bearing on the current PCB TMDL process.

V. Update on QAPP for Tributary Sampling

Mr. Yagecic presented an update on the Tributary Sampling Quality Assurance Project Plan. Mr. Yagecic discussed the comments submitted by the TAC and outlined responses and proposed changes to the QAPP resulting from the comments.

In response to comments and field observations, tributary sampling locations were selected to obtain the appropriate balance between sampling near the head of tide (to minimize tidal influence) and capturing influences of urbanized watersheds. Based on evaluation of field conditions and comparison to solids loading estimates from USGS, Poquessing and Chester Creeks were added to the list of tributaries and Crum Creek was removed from the list. In addition, Shellpot Creek was removed from the list in anticipation of obtaining PCB information from State of Delaware activities.

Mr. Yagecic indicated that the tributary sampling QAPP will be redistributed upon incorporation of the comments.

Mr. Yagecic agreed that the number of blank samples in the original QAPP was not sufficient. Mr. Yagecic stated that the plan for collection of blank samples would be revised to include a higher frequency of blank sampling, but that funding limitations would also have to be considered. Mr. Yagecic indicated that DRBC was considering a methodology whereby discrete rinsate blank samples were collected and archived, with a composite blank sample submitted for analysis. If the composite indicated the presence of cross contamination, individual archived discrete rinsate blank samples could be submitted to the lab to identify potentially impacted analytical samples.

Some audience members indicated that there were outstanding issues regarding selection of storm events and discrete versus time weighted composite sampling. Chairman Ruitter requested that any additional comments or questions be submitted to the appropriate TAC member or directly to DRBC by e-mail.

The group agreed that upon acceptable resolution of all comments, the TAC should provide some formal endorsement of the QAPP. The group agreed that a TAC resolution would be an appropriate mechanism for endorsing the QAPP.

Based on recommendations of several TAC members, Mr. Yagecic agreed to compose a written rationale for the selection of each sampling location, specifically addressing those locations that are below head of tide. The TAC discussed whether or not state lab certification was required

for this project. DRBC and the TAC agreed that additional discussion was required to determine which state certification requirements were applicable.

Mr. App and Mr. Lubow suggested that some review of the QAPP by the expert panel was required. DRBC initially indicated that review of the QAPP was outside the charge of the expert panel, which was assembled to provide information on model development, but ultimately agreed to send the QAPP to the expert panel.

VI. Discussion of TMDL Implementation Policies and Procedures

Dr. Fikslin presented several portions of the current policies and procedures for implementation of TMDLs as outlined in the document *Implementation Policies and Procedures: Phase I TMDLs for Toxic Pollutants in the Delaware Estuary (DRBC, May 1995)*. Dr. Fikslin proposed that several items be discussed at future meetings of the Toxics Advisory Committee, including:

- Design flows
 - *Tributaries (in the regulations)*
 - *Point sources (in the regulations)*
 - *Non-point sources (not in the regulations)*
- Point source initial concentrations
- Margin of Safety
 - *Incorporated into design conditions or a proportion of the TMDL?*
- Reserve allocations
- Sediment interactions
 - *Initial conditions*
- Tributary concentrations
- Storm water
- Cooling water
- Wasteload and Load allocations

During subsequent discussion, several TAC members questioned how these proposed discussions were different from work already undertaken by the Wasteload Allocation Subcommittee (chaired by Dr. Piasecki) and the Implementation Workgroup (chaired by Ms. Collier). It was suggested that further clarification of the duties and products of these groups be provided.

Several TAC members requested that DRBC provide an outline of the implementation discussion points in table-of-contents format, to facilitate scheduling discussions of these topics at future meetings, and that the states provide relevant TMDL regulations to DRBC for incorporation into a matrix for side by side comparison on specific implementation issues.

VII. Surficial Sediment Quality Assurance Project Plan

Mr. Yagecic handed out a draft QAPP for surficial sediment sampling for review and comment. The QAPP calls for collection of approximately 50 surficial sediment samples in the tidal Delaware River, zones 2 through 5. Areas to be sampled will be determined based on draft results from the work being performed by Dr. Sommerfield. Chairman Ruiter requested that comments be submitted to DRBC by August 30, 2001.

VIII. Presentation on Battelle Database Capabilities

Mr. Tom Gulbransen from Battelle Environmental Management Information Systems provided a presentation on his company's database capabilities. In the presentation, Mr. Gulbransen outlined Battelle's approach to information system development and management and demonstrated various web-based tools that could be used to manage, retrieve, and display environmental data.

After the presentation, the TAC drafted the following resolution:

The Toxics Advisory Committee (TAC) recognizes that a database management system is an essential element of the overall PCB strategy. The TAC recommends that the DRBC proceed to expeditiously acquire a database which has the following capabilities:

- 1. Flexible database structure.*
- 2. Real-time sample tracking capabilities.*
- 3. Flexible quality assurance/quality control protocols.*
- 4. An interactive, multiple user Web-based GIS.*
- 5. Storet compatibility.*

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. App and seconded by Dr. Standley. The motion was approved.

IX. Baker Eisenreich Proposals (Dr. Fikslin, Mr. Greene)

Dr. Fikslin updated that TAC on proposals by Dr. Baker and Dr. Eisenreich. Chairman Ruiter requested that comments be provided to DRBC by e-mail.

The Commission has authorized the Director and Staff to enter into agreements with the Academy of Natural Science, the University of Delaware, and Rutgers University. Discussions with the principal investigators are ongoing. Both proposals should be finalized shortly. Dr. Fikslin discussed the final congener list and the effort to make consistent the analytical methods being used the academic researchers.

X. Update on the Transformer database (Mr. Cavallo)

Mr. Cavallo updated the TAC on the EPA transformer database and provided a copy of a GIS map showing the mass of transformer fluid in each watershed. Some TAC and audience members inquired about which data set EPA used to populate the database. Mr. Cavallo indicated that many transformer locations had been plotted by street address, but that some additional positional information has been requested for some of the larger facilities.

XI. Public Comment

No public comments were presented.

XII. Upcoming TAC Meetings

The next meeting of the Toxics Advisory Committee was scheduled for September 17, 2001 at DRBC. The TAC agreed that this meeting would be exclusively for discussion of the QAPPs and the studies by the academic investigators.

A meeting with the Expert Panel was scheduled for September 11, 2001. The location for the Expert Panel meeting will be announced.

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 PM.

XIV. Action Items

A meeting will be held within the next two weeks to finalize the Academy Proposal and to send out the next version of the Eisenreich Proposal.