

**TOXICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

June 28, 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:

<b>Delaware</b> Not represented	<b>Pennsylvania</b> James Roth	<b>Environmental / Watershed</b> Maya van Rossum Dr. Laurel Standley
<b>Industry</b> Bart Ruitter	<b>Academia</b> Dr. Michael Piasecki	<b>Public Health Interest</b> Not represented
<b>New Jersey</b> Steve Lubow	<b>Municipal</b> Bruce Aptowicz	<b>Agriculture</b> Dr. Ferdows Ali
<b>New York</b> Not represented	<b>Resources</b> Not represented	<b>U.S. EPA</b> Charles App, Region III

**Delaware River Basin Commission**

Carol Collier  
Dr. Thomas Fikslin  
Dr. Namsoo Suk  
Dr. Daniel Liao  
Greg Cavallo  
John Yagecic

**Other Attendees**

Dennis Blair, Philadelphia Water Dept.  
George Van Rosum  
Dr. Jeff Ashley, Acad of Nat. Sci.  
Anne Witt, NJ DEP  
Dr. Steve Brown, Rohm & Haas  
Larry Sandeen, Rohm & Haas  
Jim Roth, PA DEP  
Chuck Yingling, PA DEP  
Roy Romano, Phila. Water Dept  
Carol Ann Davis, EPA Region III  
Jerry J. Pasquale, Corps of Eng.  
David J. Piller, Exelon Power  
Ray Wittekind Jr, Mattion, Ltd  
Dr. Rollie Hemmett, EPA Region II  
Forsyth Kineon, DELEP

**I. Recommendations & Agreements**

The following recommendations and agreements were reached:

- The TAC would provide comments on the tributary sampling QAPP within 2 weeks of the June 28, 2001 TAC meeting.
- Dr. Ashley will attempt to have proposals from Dr. Baker and the Academy of Natural Sciences by July 5, 2001. DRBC will circulate proposals upon receipt.

- Below head of tide evaluation for PCBs is needed.
- DRBC will plot transformer fluid mass by address.
- The Wasteload Allocation Subcommittee will provide a report in November 2001.
- For the next TAC meeting, DRBC will make a formal recommendation regarding the database, with a demonstration of real time access.
- The Water Quality Criteria discussion will be scheduled for November or December 2001.

## **II. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruitter at 9:41 AM.

## **III. Review of March 23, 2001, April 24, 2001, and May 31, 2001 meeting minutes**

Minor changes to the March 23, 2001 minutes were recommended. Mr. Lubow motioned to approve the March minutes conditioned on the incorporation of the recommended changes, Dr. Standley seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Minor changes to the April 24, 2001 minutes were recommended. Dr. Standley motioned to approve the April minutes conditioned on the incorporation of the recommended changes, Mr. Lubow seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Changes to the May 31, 2001 minutes were recommended. Further consideration of the May 31, 2001 minutes was deferred until the next TAC meeting and incorporation of the comments. The group agreed that an "Agreements and Recommendations" section should be included at the beginning of all future TAC meeting minutes.

## **IV. Update on DELEP Activities**

Mr. App announced the new Regional Administrator for EPA, Region III is Don Welsh. His official starting date is unknown at this time.

Mr. App reported that there are several grant applications in his office that are being processed, including:

- An application by the Partnership to DELEP for education and outreach activities;
- An application by DRBC for a grant from the Delaware Estuary Program for a variety of activities;
- Two applications by DRBC for money from the Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics program for 75K and 95K respectively. The 95K application includes 70K for air deposition work from the Great Waters program.

Mr. App said grant awards will be made prior to September 31, 2001.

Ms. Kineon reported on topics discussed at a two-day workshop held by the Association of National Estuary Programs. The primary focus of the workshop was education and outreach activities, including storm drain stenciling and pet waste disposal initiatives. Involvement included estuary program representatives from across the county.

## **V. Update on QAPP for Tributary Sampling**

Mr. Yagecic presented an update on the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for tributary PCB sampling. Copies of the plan were provided to the TAC and audience members. Mr. Yagecic outlined those portions of the document that had been completed or updated since the presentation at the last TAC meeting. New information included descriptions of the responsibilities of the sample collection team and sample analysis team. Dr. Fikslin stated that DRBC is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the analytical work that is tentatively scheduled for release in mid-July.

Mr. Yagecic presented a preliminary list of 18 tributaries for sampling and the selection rationale. A request was made to identify the drainage areas above the sampling location. Primary criteria used to select tributaries for sampling included:

- Listing as impaired on state 303(d) lists because of PCBs
- Mean flow
- Evidence of significant or suspected sources of PCBs
- Previous sampling results

Other considerations included land use, solids loadings, listing as impaired on state 303(d) lists due to parameters other than PCBs, fish tissue data, and sediment data. Review of Permit Compliance System and CERCLA databases indicated inconsistent or missing data coverage for different states. Mr. App agreed to provide a GIS coverage of PCB-related superfund sites in Region III.

Mr. Cavallo presented a GIS map showing transformer fluid mass by sub-watershed, used as part of the tributary selection process. Mapping of the transformer fluid mass was performed using data from a PCB transformer registration database by zip codes, however a more refined mapping effort using transformer street address locations is anticipated.

Mr. Yagecic discussed the expanded list of 109 congeners and the rationale for expanding the list. Dr. Fikslin stated that Drs. Baker and Eisenreich will also review the list of congeners so that a final consistent list of congeners can be developed.

Chairman Ruitter requested that any comments from the TAC on the QAPP be e-mailed to Mr. Yagecic within the next two weeks.

## **VI. Update on Proposals for work in Support of TMDL**

Dr. Ashley updated the group on two work proposals by (1) the Academy of Natural Sciences and (2) Drs. Baker, Eisenreich, Reinfelder, Secor, and Ashley.

### **(1) Spatial and Temporal Variability in Food Web Structures**

The work proposed by the Academy includes a literature review on spatial and temporal variability in food web structures in the Delaware River Estuary with an option to perform field assessments to validate and augment the literature findings.

### **(2) Transport, Fate, and Bioaccumulation of PCBs**

The second effort would focus on environmental transport, fate, and bioaccumulation of PCBs in the Delaware Estuary, and would include:

- Quantification of persistent bioaccumulative toxins in the Delaware Estuary food web
- Assessment of food web structure and bioaccumulation within the tidal Schuylkill River.
- Enhanced spatial resolution
- Air-water exchange of PCBs in the Delaware Estuary
- Defining sediment inventories in the Delaware Estuary
- Enhanced air deposition network in PA
- Surface water speciation and planktonic accumulation of atmospheric PCBs.

The Academy's work may be funded by DuPont, Rohm & Haas, and others. Dr. Baker and his colleague's work will be funded by the States of Delaware and New Jersey, EPA, and DRBC (through grants).

DRBC agreed to distribute the proposals to the TAC upon receipt.

## **VII. Update from Wasteload Allocation Subcommittee (Dr. Piasecki)**

Dr. Piasecki discussed the formation and purpose of the subcommittee. The subcommittee has been developing alternative ideas for wasteload allocation procedures. The subcommittee will submit recommendations to the full TAC at a later date and make a presentation at the November 2001 TAC meeting. EPA requested that they receive an advance copy of the subcommittee recommendations. The decision by the subcommittee was that the recommendations would be given to EPA at the same that they are give to the full TAC.

## **VIII. Database evaluation (Cavallo)**

Greg Cavallo presented an evaluation of data management systems for managing PCB data. Two systems were evaluated, one from Battelle and the other from NOAA. The TAC discussed cost, system requirements and usability of the two systems. The group agreed that more information was needed before a recommendation could be made. Dr. Fikslin suggested that an

interactive demonstration of Battelle's data management system be presented at the next TAC meeting and that a final recommendation be made at that time.

**IX. Water Quality Criteria Update (Fikslin)**

Dr. Fikslin reported on the availability of new data necessitating the revision of criteria for approximately 16 parameters. He stated that the Uses and Criteria Subcommittee of the Water Quality Advisory Committee are involved in an effort to revise the Commission's standards (remove older requirements, re-format them). As part of this effort, within the next year they will decide what criteria needs to be added/updated from our current criteria. Dr. Fikslin indicated the need for input from the Committee.

Dr. Fikslin reported that six of DRBC's current criteria for metals were based upon the old 304a criteria documents. They have now been updated and these updates convert to new criteria. Since DRBC is revising their standards, consideration should be given to including revised toxics criteria.

Another criteria discussion involved the status of the PCB Criteria Workgroup. A June 12th meeting was held and an e-mail was sent. Dr. Thomas Fikslin reported on the issues presented. The next follow-up meeting will be held on July 12.

**XIV. Public Comment**

No public comments were presented.

**XV. Upcoming TAC Meetings**

The next meeting of the Toxics Advisory Committee was scheduled for August 9, 2001 at DRBC. The TAC meeting previously scheduled for July 18, 2001 was canceled.

**XVI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM.

**XVII. Action Items**

No action items.