

TOXICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 23, 2001

A meeting of the Toxics Advisory Committee was held at Rohm & Haas in Bristol, Pennsylvania. Members or alternates present were:

Delaware Richard Greene	Pennsylvania James Newbold	Environmental / Watershed Dr. Laurel Standley Mary Ellen Noble
Industry Bart Ruitter	Academia Not represented	Public Health Interest Not represented
New Jersey Steve Lubow	Municipal Dennis Blair	Agriculture Not represented
New York Not represented	Resources Simeon Hahn	U.S. EPA Cathy Libertz, Region III

Delaware River Basin Commission

Carol Collier
Dr. Thomas Fikslin
Dr. Namssoo Suk
Dr. Daniel Liao
Pamela Bush
John Yagecic

Other Attendees

Bruce Aptowicz, Philadelphia Water Dept.
Larry Sandeen, Rohm & Haas
Dr. Joe Rogan, Exelon Power
Rollie Hemmett, USEPA
Jeff Ashley, Academy of Natural Science
Steve Washburn, Environ
Susie Chun, USEPA, Region III
Roy Romano, Philadelphia Water Dept.
George van Rossum, Del. Riverkeeper Network

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruitter.

II. Review of December 13, 2000 meeting minutes

December 13, 2000 meeting minutes were approved.

III. Update on DELEP Activities

Cathy Libertz updated the group regarding recent DELEP activities including:

1. A recap of the outreach meetings held in PA, NJ, and DE.
2. The National Estuary meeting was held in Washington, DC. An additional 20K will be allocated next year for tracking invasive species.
3. The next EIC meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday of that week.
4. The next DELEP conference call will be held in April 2001.
5. Due to an EPA budget cut, 20K has been cut from EPA's commitment to the DELEP from 120K to 100K. EPA will apply for additional money for the stakeholder process.

IV. New Members

Simeon Hahn of NOAA was introduced as Dan Russel's alternate representing Resource agencies.

V. Ongoing and Upcoming Work

Tom Fikslin and Rick Greene summarized existing and upcoming work in support of the PCB TMDL including:

1. Tom Fikslin discussed USGS sampling and analysis for PCBs at 3 locations (Lehigh River, Schuylkill River, and Delaware at Trenton) for baseflow and storm events. Jeff Fisher of USGS will be asked to continue sampling at the Schuylkill and Delaware locations. Other tributary sampling is needed to determine dissolved and particulate PCBs especially at the model boundaries.
2. Rick Greene described the geophysical survey techniques and deliverables proposed by Dr. Sommerfield. Work would include sediment types as a function of location by side scan sonar and other methods, 8 deep core samples in shallow water to be dated using cesium 137 radio dating. Aliquots of the core may be analyzed for PCBs. EPA III expected to provide 5 to 10 days boat time. State of Delaware prepared to fund geophysical work, corings, and radio dating (not the PCB analysis).
3. Tom Fikslin discussed Dr. Eisenreich's proposal to Sea Grant to study air-water exchange and investigate historical PCB concentrations in sediment.
4. Tom Fikslin stated that Battelle Laboratories may be available to develop a database for the TMDL project.
5. Rick Greene discussed an anticipated proposal from Dr. Joel Baker and Dr. Ashley to characterize trophic transfer of PCBs in the tidal river and tidal estuary.

The group discussed the feasibility of using long term fish tissue data and mean flow rates to back calculate an estimate of long term water concentrations for PCBs. The consensus was that the approach may have value as a principle, but may not account for all exposures.

The group discussed the value of expanding the sediment sampling to collect more samples throughout the zones to be modeled, including an area adjacent to a Superfund site on the Delaware River. Dr. Fikslin stated that EPA is working on sediment sampling at the Superfund site and has characterized the ground water load for PCBs from that site. Chairman Ruitter recommended that EPA be asked for additional boat time for the upcoming sampling work, so that sediment sampling could be expanded.

Tom Fikslin asked if Dr. Eisenreich's work could dovetail with Dr. Sommerfield's work. Rick Greene said that Dr. Eisenreich's work would have to happen sooner to take advantage of Dr. Sommerfield's work.

The group discussed whether the Expert Panel members could also perform work on the project, in addition to their expert panel duties. The consensus was that the expert panel members could work on project elements but must recuse themselves from reviewing their own work. The group also stated that the expert panel is for model development, and that the panel is separate and distinct from the peer review panel anticipated for future stages of the project.

VI. PCB Strategy

Discussion continued on the Industrial and Municipal comments on the PCB strategy. It was proposed that Industry and Municipal representatives would provide a written text change incorporating their comments for the TAC to review.

VII. Project Schedule

Larry Sandeen presented a draft project schedule for development of the TMDL. Printed copies of the schedule were provided. Additional work on the project schedule is needed, including determination of timeframes for completing sub elements of the plan. There was interest by some to further refine the project schedule. Others were concerned about the level of detail and about whether a detailed schedule could be developed before the model framework was identified. Additional discussion is needed.

VIII. Action Items

1. Industrial and Municipal representatives to provide revised PCB Strategy for TAC review.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Upcoming TAC Meetings

April 24, 2001 at DuPont in Newark, DE

Topics for April 24, 2001 TAC meeting to include:

- Discussion by EPA TMDL Process Specialist
- Chlorinated Pesticides and Metals

Topics for May 31, 2001 TAC meeting to include:

- Fish Tissue Data
- Tributary Sampling QAPP

XI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.