

**TOXICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MAY 31, 2001**

A meeting of the Toxics Advisory Committee was held at DRBC Offices in West Trenton NJ. Member or alternates present were:

**Delaware**  
Richard Greene

**Pennsylvania**  
James Newbold

**Environmental/Watershed**  
Maya van Rossum  
Dr. Jeff Ashley

**Industry**  
Bart Ruitter

**Academia**  
not represented

**Public Health Interest**  
Not represented

**New Jersey**  
Steven Lubow

**Municipal**  
Bruce Aptowicz

**Agriculture**  
Dr. Ferdows Ali

**New York**  
Not represented

**Resources**  
Not represented

**U.S. EPA**  
Charles App, Region III

**Delaware River Basin Commission**

Dr. Thomas Fisklin  
Dr. Daniel Liao  
Greg Cavalo  
Dr. Namsoo Suk  
Ed Santoro  
John Yagecic

**Other Attendees:**

Larry Sandeen, Rohm Hass  
Tom Belton, NJ DEP  
Cathy Libertz, EPA, Region III  
Chuck Yingling, PA DEP  
Roy Romano, Phila. Water Dept.  
Daniel Reilly, Mattion, LTD  
Dr. Joe Rogan, Exelon Power  
Jess Vargo, Oxy Chem.  
Carol Ann Davis, EPA Region III  
Dr. Rollie Hemmett, EPA Region II

**I. Recommendations & Agreements**

- The TAC recommended that DRBC summarize 3 to 5 years of available metals data from boat run sampling, including hardness, salinity, conductivity, temperature, and TSS.

**II. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruitter at 9:00 a.m.

**III. Review of February 26, 2001 Meeting Minutes.**

Minor changes to the February minutes were recommended. Mr. Greene made a motion to approve the February minutes conditioned on the incorporation of the recommended changes, the motion was seconded. Motion carried.

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

Mr. App updated the group regarding DELEP activities:

1. The work plan and grant applications for funding available from EPA for the fiscal year for the Delaware Estuary Program were addressed.
2. DRBC did submit a proposal for Great Waters Program funding to support Dr. Eisenreich's atmospheric deposition work for PCB's at 3 sites in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Dr. Eisenreich submitted another proposal to study mercury deposition in the upper bay. For the minutes, it was noted that money for this fund has not been approved as of yet. Dr. Fikslin reported on the specifics and locations for these studies.
3. Ms. Kineon reported on the State of the Estuary Report including contents and raising money to produce the report. This report will be targeted toward the public (what they can do for the Estuary). Parameters would include water quality, fishability, swimmability etc. This report is scheduled to be produced in late summer or fall of 2002, and possibly be put out as newspaper inserts. Prior to the report publication, the Estuary Program is going to produce measurable goals, beyond the existing 5 general goals, which they will take to an indicator workshop for feedback.

#### **V. Update of the Expert Panel Meeting (Fikslin)**

Dr. Fikslin recounted the meeting of the Expert Panel held at DRBC on May 18, 2001. Information presented to the Expert Panel included the budgets on flows, solids, organic carbon, PCBs and fish tissue. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the Expert Panel to review the model budgets and recommend a model framework. The Expert Panel made several recommendations, including the following:

1. Implement the budgets into a simple model using WASP.
2. Estimate loadings based on daily flows. Check the regression equations used by USGS. Investigate a longer period of record for dredging volumes. Also use a longer period of record to examine flow / TSS relationships and consider USGS Water-Supply Paper 1532-H.
3. The flow budget is generally acceptable, but DRBC should gather additional solids and carbon information.
4. Focus especially on the Schuylkill and Delaware for PCB tributary loadings. For the high flow events, assume that PCB's are in the particulate phase, but check this assumption.
5. Analyze for dissolved and particulate PCBs.
6. Finalize the number of congeners on the list.
7. Refine the sediment inventory for Zone 6 and compare channel versus non-channel sediment.

The next meeting of the Expert Panel will be scheduled for early September.

## **VI. Fish tissue data (Greene)**

1. Mr. Greene reported on the status of the Delaware Estuary Fish Contamination Database. The objective of the project was given, with the focus on the main stem Delaware.
2. The data included 16 unique data sets of varying quality and format starting in the 1970's. Data/studies used were explained. There will be a CD or web site to go to download this information. Mr. Greene is also putting together a bibliography.
3. The preliminary findings may suggest reduction in PCB's and DDT in the 1970's and 1980's, with a slower decline in recent years.

Status and next steps:

- All data has undergone preliminary review.
- 50% of the data has been entered into spreadsheets.
- The balance of the data will be entered and made available to the TAC.
- Bibliography will be released with spreadsheets. Interpretive report will not be prepared until later this fall (much bigger task).

## **VII. SAP/QAPP/DQO Overview (Yagecic)**

1. DRBC after meeting with the Expert Panel reviewed some of their previous assumptions about the tributary monitoring. Important parts of the QAPP need to be revisited. A more final version will be given to the TAC as soon as possible.
2. Key items being revised or developed:
  - Focus more efforts on the Schuylkill and Delaware in terms of PCB loadings. DRBC will look at the overall work plan (initially) and potentially re-arrange some of the wet/dry sampling events envisioned for the Schuylkill and Delaware.
  - Produce a more finalized congener list. By adding 5 congeners it appears that DRBC will be able to capture a larger percentage of the PCB mass. Other efforts at cross-checking lists are ongoing.
  - Prioritize which tributaries require additional samplings outside the Schuylkill and Delaware. Developing a methodology for selecting which tributaries to sample and looking at criteria.
  - Which sample methodologies to employ?

## **VIII. Briefing on TMDL database and data tools (Yagecic)**

- DRBC conducted a conference call with Simeon Hahn and George Graettinger of NOAA to discuss the project database.
- Mr. Yagecic explained the relationship between the database, data entry templates, and query and GIS tools.

- Discussed products and services NOAA could potentially provide.
- Discussions also held with Battelle, identifying what their capabilities are (database management/structures). Both of these organizations have significant experience in especially the database development portion. Communications are continuing with both organizations.
- Discussions with NOAA and Battelle are ongoing to define project needs and levels of support.

#### **IX. Discussion of existing data: Chlorinated Pesticides & Metals (Fikslin)**

- Commission staff collected samples at 12 locations in 1999 and 2001. Corps of Engineers also collected water quality data to document background concentrations to support other studies. Locations and studies were described. Data was presented for three specific metals, copper, lead, and zinc.
- Dr. Fikslin suggested that criteria updates for metals be discussed at a future TAC meeting. Dr. Fikslin presented information on chlorinated pesticides and mercury in fish tissue. Specific locations and dates for collections were provided.

#### **X. Overview of PCB Strategy Tasks – Status of Action Items**

- Mr. Greene reported on the status of the Chirp Sonar work and core samples. Survey will be done in the late summer and fall. Mr. Greene explained the coordination of studies. The core samples will give us chronology of loading and the Chirp Sonar will give us the depth of the sediment deposits. Linkage of proposals (air water flux study/food chain study) as explained by Tom Fikslin (Joel Baker and Dr. Eisenreich).
- Mr. App reported on a PCB trackdown study at three municipal facilities. The purpose of this is to determine where the PCB's originate from. A final draft monitoring plan for Philadelphia is under review. The plan is to have the data analyzed and compiled with an initial assessment in the fall. Monitoring approaches to be used for Philadelphia, Camden, and Wilmington were explained.

#### **XI. Conference Briefings**

- Mr. Greene and Dr. Fikslin reported on a national conference on communication of fish advisories held in Chicago during the first week of May. The conference was co-sponsored by EPA, Minnesota Department of Health, and the Society of Risk Analysis.
- Ms. Collier reported on a TMDL conference sponsored by the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) and EPA held in Savannah, GA in late May. Ms. Collier reported that this conference was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 conferences that are being held across the country to promote exchange of ideas and information between developers of TMDLs and EPA.

## **XII. Upcoming TAC Meetings**

June 28, 2001 at DRBC

Topics to include:

- Tributary QAPP
- Dr. Eisenreich's/Academy/Baker Proposal
- Possibility of having Tom O'Donnell speak to the TAC at the July meeting.
- Conference call narrowing down the criteria/issues to BAF
- Ambient Monitoring

Subsequent meetings:

June 28, 2001 at DRBC

July 18, 2001 at DRBC

August 23, 2001 at DRBC

## **XIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

## **IXV. Action Items**

No action items.