

TOXICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 17, 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 Dr. Laurel Standley
Industry Bart Ruitter	Academia Dr. Michael Piasecki	Public Health Interest Not represented
New Jersey Nancy Immesberger	Municipal Dennis Blair	Agriculture Not represented
New York Not represented	Resources Not represented	U.S. EPA Carol Ann Davis, EPA III Dr. Rollie Hemmett, EPA II

Delaware River Basin Commission
Dr. Thomas Fikslin
Dr. Daniel Liao
John Yagecic

Other Attendees
Bruce Aptowicz, Philadelphia Water Dept.
Jeff Fischer, USGS
Tom Healy, Philadelphia Water Dept.
David A. Katz, Philadelphia Water Dept.
Chuck Yingling, PADEP
Ed Keating, PSE&G
Dr. Steve Brown, Rohm & Haas
Larry Sandeen, Rohm & Haas
Dr. Joe Rogan, Exelon Power
David J. Piller, Exelon Power
Dr. Jeff Ashley, Academy of Natural Sciences
Tom Belton, NJDEP

I. Recommendations & Agreements

The following recommendations and agreements were reached:

- EPA will research and present to the TAC information on PCB loadings from Superfund sites.
- EPA was asked to serve as vice-chair to the TAC.

II. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruitter at 9:30 AM.

III. Review of August 9, 2001 meeting minutes

Changes to the August 9, 2001 minutes were recommended. The appropriate changes will be made on these draft minutes and sent out to the TAC members. Further consideration of the August 9, 2001 minutes was deferred until the next TAC meeting and incorporation of the comments.

IV. Update on DELEP and EPA Activities

Chairman Ruitter read an electronic mail message from Mr. App regarding recent DELEP activities.

- The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary is holding its 3rd annual estuary celebration on September 25, 2001.

V. Surficial Sediment Sampling QAPP

At the last TAC meeting, Chairman Ruitter requested that comments on the surficial sediment sampling QAPP be submitted to DRBC by August 30, 2001. Mr. Yagecic reported comments were submitted to DRBC and that DRBC had prepared responses to the comments. Mr. Yagecic distributed DRBC's responses to the comments received before or shortly after the deadline. Mr. Yagecic indicated that quick action on the QAPP was needed in order to take advantage of the availability of the Academy of Natural Sciences' sampling vessel.

Mr. Yagecic noted the following regarding comments/responses:

- Many comments pertained to the model framework, which is still under development.
- The most current version of the QAPP, which had been submitted to the TAC, included the most recent list of analytical parameters.
- The sampling equipment selected would be capable of obtaining samples in the Delaware River, and was a good fit with the size of the sampling vessel.
- The sampling areas would be selected after consultation with Dr. Sommerfield, but that specific sample locations would be determined randomly. Dr. Fikslin gave a short explanation of Dr. Sommerfield's work

Some members of the TAC expressed concern that the QAPP did not appear to provide for characterization of the metal bank Superfund site. Dr. Fikslin explained that DRBC is not targeting samples to any specific source. Mr. Yagecic suggested that the final model framework

will determine the level of detail for sediment characterization. In addition, model sensitivity will determine the impact of initial sediment concentration on water column PCB concentrations. The TAC agreed that more information was needed from EPA to determine the potential impact of superfund sites to sediment and water quality. The TAC asked EPA to assemble information on superfund sites to assist the TAC in determining the importance of these sites.

Dr. Fikslin stated that DRBC would like to acquire samples for metals and organochlorine pesticides.

The TAC discussed whether the number of samples was appropriate. TAC members recommended performing a statistical evaluation to determine the appropriate number of samples. Other alternatives were discussed, such as collecting extra samples and archiving them, in case the number of samples proposed was determined to be insufficient. Mr. Yagecic recommended that all comments on this issue be submitted to DRBC.

VI. TAC Representation Issues

Dr. Standley reported that she is leaving the Stroud Water Research Center. Dr. Fikslin asked for the TAC's input regarding Dr. Standley representing the watershed interest. Chairman Ruitter made a motion to accept that Dr. Standley remain as a member. There were no objections given. In addition, the TAC requested that EPA serve as vice-chair. Ms. Davis indicated that she would forward the TAC's request along to Mr. App.

VII. Literature Review of Food Web Structures, Academy of Natural Sciences PCB transport, Fate, and Bio-accumulation Proposal, Academy of Natural Sciences (Ashley, et. al.)

Dr. Ashley recalled his presentation of proposals from a previous TAC meeting, including a Literature Review and Bioaccumulation Field Study. Dr. Ashley noted some differences since the first proposal.

- Instead of seasonal differences, the bioaccumulation field study will focus on high and low flows. The first sampling campaign will occur this fall, (possibly the first week of November) and will focus on white perch and channel catfish variability during low flows. A sampling campaign will be scheduled in spring (March or April) to coincide with high flow conditions.
- Dr. Fikslin noted that surficial sediment sampling was added to the study, to allow for representation of every compartment of the food chain at a specific point, without relying on sediment data collected from other locations.
- Dr. Ashley discussed the possibility of performing gut analysis in conjunction with sampling being conducted for the Bioaccumulation Field Study.

VIII. Scheduling of Topics and Dates for Upcoming TAC Meetings

Chairman Ruitter suggested that EPA do a presentation to the TAC, answering the following questions:

- What are the Superfund sites?
- Do they have stormwater data?
- Did they have sediment data?
- What are the overall loadings from those sites?

Chairman Ruitter suggested that this should probably be placed on a list of discussions for the TAC in the next several months. Chairman Ruitter asked Ms. Davis for a date (month) when that could be presented. The information that DRBC receives from EPA will be used to populate the other segments of the model, where it is appropriate to do so.

- Given the field activities of the DRBC Staff, the next meeting of the Toxics Advisory Committee was scheduled for November 21, 2001 and December 13, 2001 at DRBC.
- Another meeting of the Expert Panel will be tentatively scheduled at the very beginning of next year (January 3rd or 4th, or the week of Jan 19th)
- Topics for the November meeting will include:
 - EPA Superfund/waste/RCRA
 - Waste Allocation Procedure/Sub-committee
 - Trib QAPP (technical and implementation)
 - Feedback on data model collection
 - Point Source Data (report back)
 - PCBs Strategic collection comments
 - Data Management Proposal

Topics for the December meeting will include:

- Possible follow-up for EPA super funds/waste/RCRA

IX. Public Comment

No public comments were presented.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.