

TOXICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 21, 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 Dr. Sandra Brewer	U.S. EPA Charles App

Delaware River Basin Commission
Dr. Thomas Fikslin
Dr. Namsoo Suk
Ron MacGillivray
John Yagecic

Other Attendees
Bruce Aptowicz, Philadelphia Water Dept.
Dr. Rollie Hemmett, EPA Region II
Tom Belton, NJDEP
Roy Romano, Philadelphia Water Dept.
Denise Molzahn, NRG Energy
Russ Furnari, PSE&G
Catherine Libertz, EPA Region III
Ray Wittekind Jr., Mattioni, Ltd.
Tom Healy, Philadelphia Water Dept.
Chuck Yingling, PADEP
Dr. Steve Brown, Rohm & Haas
Larry Sandeen, Rohm & Haas
Dr. Joe Rogan, Exelon Power
David J. Piller, Exelon Power

I. Recommendations & Agreements

The following recommendations and agreements were reached:

- Philadelphia Water Department will update the TAC at the December 2001 meeting regarding a meeting with USGS to identify possible opportunities to provide additional tributary sampling.
- A representative of the Superfund program will attend the December 2001 TAC meeting and provide an update on PCB loadings from Superfund sites.

- DRBC will provide an update on the Expert Panel conference call and the development of the PCB model at the next TAC meeting.
- The Wasteload Allocation Subcommittee will provide recommendations and a presentation for discussion at the January 2002 TAC meeting.
- DRBC will provide a preliminary evaluation of the industrial and municipal discharger PCB sampling and analysis data at the January 2002 TAC meeting.

II. Call to Order

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

III. Review of August 9, 2001 and September 17, 2001 meeting minutes

Minor changes to the August 9, 2001 minutes were recommended. Mr. Greene motioned to approve the August minutes conditioned on the incorporation of the recommended changes, Mr. Newbold seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Changes to the September 17, 2001 minutes were recommended. Dr. Standley motioned to approve the September minutes conditioned on the incorporation of the recommended changes, Dr. Piasecki seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IV. Update on DELEP and EPA Activities

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

- The DELEP Implementation Committee met on November 20, 2001 to develop specific measurable ecological goals for the Delaware Estuary. Examples of measurable goals, such as elimination of fish advisories, were provided.
- Some measurable goals are expected to be presented for adoption to the DELEP Steering Committee, which will meet on December 17, 2001 in Trenton, NJ. The measurable goals to be presented at this meeting are expected to be a subset of a more comprehensive list, which will be refined in the coming months.
- DELEP is planning an Indicators Workshop for early next year.
- Congress passed EPA's budget, which included a \$5.5 million increase for the Estuary Program at the national level. This could potentially result in a 40% to 70% increase for DELEP.

V. Status and Estimated Completion Schedule

PCB Water Quality Standards

Chairman Ruitter reported that the PCB Water Quality Standards subcommittee met on October 30, 2001. The subcommittee is currently investigating several issues, including:

- An appropriate methodology for translating congener PCB criteria for all 209 congeners into a total PCB criteria for water and fish tissue.
- Exposure duration issues, such as using 30 year versus 70 year exposure duration. Different programs use different exposure durations in calculating risk. The subcommittee is investigating the bases for these different exposure durations. Wayne Jackson of EPA is investigating this issue.
- How the basin states incorporate the DRBC standards.
- A public notice with the new PCB water quality standards is anticipated for the same time frame as the PCB TMDL.

In general, there is agreement on some of the inputs to the risk equations, and more discussion is required on other inputs.

Characterization of Ambient PCB Concentrations

Dr. Fikslin announced that EPA II will likely make available \$200K for model calibration and validation. In addition, Dr. Fikslin provided the status of several characterization efforts:

- Earlier this fall, DRBC collected 20L of water at each of the 12 Delaware River ambient toxicity sampling locations for analysis of PCBs and chlorinated pesticides, to assess background concentrations.
- A final agreement on Tributary Monitoring between USGS and DRBC is anticipated.
- DRBC completed collection of 51 surficial sediment samples in early October 2001. Results are anticipated in early 2002.
- Sampling for model calibration is anticipated for spring 2002. A conference call with the Expert Panel will be held on November 27, 2001 and a subsequent meeting will be scheduled for January 2002 to determine calibration data needs.
- Dr. Rollie Hemmett and Dale Rushneck will be added to the Expert Panel.

Identify and Quantify Sources of PCBs

Mr. Yagecic indicated that in addition to the point source and tributary monitoring efforts, there were three deliverables from EPA that were anticipated. These included:

- GIS coverages showing cross-program indicators of potential or confirmed PCB sources and releases.
- Updated transformer data with a better description of the data gaps, transformer locations, and data collection methodologies.
- Estimates of PCB loadings from basin Superfund sites.

Mr. App indicated that Superfund funding may be available to supplement the available PCB loading information and provide additional loading characterizations. In addition, Mr. App expects a representative of the Superfund program to attend the December TAC meeting and provide an update. Mr. App indicated that EPA internal coordination with the Waste and Chemical Management Branch was ongoing. The group discussed the possibility of staff-level coordination between DRBC and EPA, to facilitate development of the EPA deliverables.

Model Development

Dr. Fikslin reported that a conference call with the Expert Panel is scheduled for November 27, 2001. DRBC will provide an update on the conference call and the development of the PCB model at the next TAC meeting. DRBC will distribute the current version of the modeling report before the next TAC meeting.

TMDL Waste Load Allocations and Load Allocations

Dr. Piasecki indicated that recommendations from the Wasteload Allocation subcommittee would be provided shortly (for the January 2002 TAC meeting). Chairman Ruitter suggested that EPA Regions II and III and the states need to provide participants for a TMDL subcommittee.

VI. Coalition Revisions to PCB Strategy

A revised version of the PCB Strategy was distributed. It was noted that changes from the previous version were not indicated. Chairman Ruitter suggested that changes included many minor changes and some issues which might require additional discussion. Changes likely to prompt additional discussion included:

- Language calling for a phased TMDL if the TMDL deadline is not met.
- Additional discussion of fish tissue as an endpoint.
- Incorporation of the DQO process into TMDL.

Chairman Ruitter said that key passages and changes will be highlighted and forwarded before the next TAC meeting, so that TAC members can focus their attention on those areas where significant changes have been suggested.

VII. Critical Issues for TAC Consideration

Chairman Ruitter reviewed a memorandum dated October 24, 2001 outlining critical issues to be discussed and resolved at future TAC meetings. The critical issues included:

- Use of flagged or qualified data
- Use of congener specific data
- Access to the PCB database
- PCB loads from storm water runoff and non-point sources below the head of tide
- Identification of non-point sources for load allocations
- Data from point sources

- Model development
- Spatial resolution and the extent of the model domain
- Solids balance and solids data from tributaries
- Uncertainty analysis for the model
- Tributary Loadings
- Wasteload Allocation and Load Allocation split
- Minimum performance standards for PCBs

DRBC suggested that most protocols for using qualified, flagged, or edited data require assessing the impact of the method selected to determine if the approach is appropriate. Therefore, specifying an approach to using qualified data beforehand may not be appropriate. Chairman Ruitter suggested that the list was to identify issues needing additional discussion in the future, and that discussion of specific issues should be deferred.

VIII. Water Quality Standards

Dr. Fikslin reported that the Uses and Criteria Subcommittee of the Water Quality Advisory Committee is seeking input from the TAC on issues and proposed updates to the DRBC water quality standards. Issues included:

- Extension of water quality criteria for toxic pollutants to Zones 6 and 1 of the Delaware.
- Adoption of ambient criteria for ammonia, to replace effluent standards.
- Adoption of ambient criteria for chlorine to replace effluent requirements for disinfection.
- Application of water quality standards by states.

Proposed updates and revisions included:

- Revised acute and chronic aquatic life criteria for the metals copper, zinc, cadmium, chromium (+3), nickel, and lead.
- Revised human health criteria resulting from new federal criteria for mercury, revised EPA cancer potency factors for 6 parameters, revised EPA reference doses for 6 parameters, and a withdrawn reference dose for 1 parameter.
- Revised acute exposure period for metals.
- Revised allocation to reserve for toxic pollutants.
- Revised policies and procedures for allocations to non-point sources and other point sources (i.e. stormwater and cooling water).

IX. Discharger Data

Dr. Fikslin updated the TAC on the status of the discharger sampling and analysis. Final data sets have been submitted by most facilities. Eight facilities have not yet submitted the required analytical data, and one facility has reportedly not completed the sampling. DRBC will provide a preliminary evaluation of the data at the January 2002 TAC meeting.

X. Vice-Chair

Mr. App indicated that, he will serve as vice chair to the TAC beginning in January 2002, in response to the TAC's request.

XI. Scheduling of Topics and Dates for Upcoming TAC Meetings

The next two meetings of the Toxics Advisory Committee will be held on December 13, 2001 and January 23, 2002 at DRBC.

Topics for the December 13, 2001 meeting will include:

- An update by Philadelphia Water Department on their meeting with USGS to identify possible opportunities to provide additional tributary sampling.
- PCB loadings from Superfund sites.
- Update on the Expert Panel conference call and development of the PCB model.

Topics for the January 23, 2002 TAC meeting will include:

- Wasteload Allocation Subcommittee recommendations.
- Preliminary evaluation of the industrial and municipal discharger PCB sampling and analysis data.

XII. Public Comment

No public comments were presented.

XIII. Adjourn

Mr. App motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Standley. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 PM.