



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary
Program

**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Nutrient Work Group Conference Call of January 18, 2007
(Draft April 4, 2007)**

The Nutrient Work Group conference call was convened at 10:00 and chaired by Bob Nyman. The purpose of the call was to review the proposed approach from HydroQual dated January 2007. Participants on the call included: Bob Nyman, Robin Miller, James Wands, Helen Pang, Ann Witt, Marco Al-Ebus, Phil DeGaetano, Phil O'Brien, Bill McMillin (CH2M Hill), Fred Pocci (North Hudson Sewer Authority) Nick Protopsaltis, Jane Rebhuhn, Alison Chase, Morton Orentlicher.

Phil DeGaetano noted that NYS had recently release proposed amendments to water quality standard regulations for public review. The link is <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/bwam/propwqsreg.html>

Robin Miller then presented the Proposed Approach for Estimating Optimized Dissolved Oxygen Improvements Associated with Specific Sub-Regional Nitrogen and Carbon Loading Reductions. In general, the effort will produce cumulative "load removed" benefit curves for the harbor, starting with the peripheral areas and moving to the shared waters of the Hudson and Upper Bay. Ms. Miller pointed out that because the cost benefit curves have not been developed yet, that some of the scenarios may need to be re-run once that information is available.

The overall approach will need to be an iterative and sequential approach and is scheduled to take 6 months. After each set of runs, the NWG and/or the oversight group will be given the opportunity to review the outputs and provide information as necessary.

The group quickly got into a discussion of understanding the relative importance of NPS loads and how that may impact the analyses. A concern was raised that the benefit curves would be based on point sources only, targeting wastewater treatment reductions. HydroQual agreed to provide information on the relative importance of the various components within the various management zones. It was pointed out that, while the benefit curves would be developed based on PS reductions, NPS will

be taken into account for the final TMDLs. Ms Miller specifically identified Raritan River-Bay as possibly dominated by NPS. It was requested that HydroQual provide an inventory by source category for each zone.

A question came up as to how Jamaica Bay would be handled, since reductions resulting from the consent order between NYSDEC and NYC had not been finalized and according to NYS, would not be for some time. The group therefore recommended that two runs be undertaken for Jamaica Bay to provide a sensitivity analysis and that the group would need to select the outcomes of one of them for use in the cumulative analysis that would follow. The two runs would include loadings based on the interim consent order and loadings based on limit of technology.

Jane Rebhuhn requested that a summary of the water quality analysis to date be created, similar to the July 1996 LISS document. The group will look into the request.

New Jersey regulation of CSO discharges was identified as significant for the lower Passaic River and Newark Bay. NJDEP will look into whether data on nutrient reductions resulting from their request to dischargers related to CSOs is available.

Robin Miller will revise the proposal for the Feb 2 oversight group meeting, based on the discussion.