

Harbor TMDL Oversight Group Meeting
November 29, 2006

1. The meeting was convened at EPA offices at 10:30. Participants included Kevin Bricke, Jim Olander, Wayne Jackson, Bob Nyman, Rosella O'Connor, Shadab Ahmad, Kerry Kirk-Pflugh, Jeff Reading, Deb Hammond, Narinder Ahuja, Barbara Hirst (on phone), Phil O'Brien, Dick Draper, Phil DeGaetano (on phone), Charlie Dujardin, and John St. John. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved, with the addition of Phil O'Brien to the attendance list.
2. The purpose of the meeting was to revisit pathogens issues that were discussed at a previous meeting and to make decisions on specific actions.

Charlie Dujardin and John St. John presented review materials related to design conditions, application of geometric mean, application of 104 at the beaches and definition of open waters of the harbor.

After considerable discussion it was decided that a two step process would be undertaken regarding the design conditions. The first step would involve a brief analysis to assess the geometric mean two ways. The current analysis produced by HydroQual, whereby a geometric mean is produced based on hourly values, would be compared to the output if the value for 10:00 a.m. is used. The analysis would be done both for the full calendar year, as well as the summer bathing season.

The second step involves using the previously discussed 13 year analysis. Information from this analysis would be arrayed in various ways. Both steps one and two can proceed at the same time. The component responses are not yet being commissioned, pending the outcome of this analysis.

In addition, results will be compared with NYC Harbor Survey and New Jersey Harbor Discharger Group data. The group was cautioned that the model uses 2003 loading data and the results for a different year would likely not line up exactly. Phil DeGaetano suggested, and the group agreed, that the Pathogens Work Group at some point should look at real world monitoring and make recommendations for the program.

The group agreed that the monthly geometric mean was no longer being considered. The group also agreed that 104 would be used as a check at the beaches and 501 would be used as a check in the other applicable waters..

Regarding the definition of "open waters" of the harbor to which the swimmable goal is to be applied, the group agreed that it applied to the grey areas of the model domain depicted on the attachment. All the NYC tributaries/basins that are not included have their own models as a result of the CSO work and will be handled separately. Examples of these areas include the Bronx River, Newtown Creek, and Paerdegat Basin. Barbara Hirst said that TMDLs have already been developed for the Shrewsbury and Navesink

Rivers, and therefore HEP does not need to address them. All other tributaries that are not considered included within the grey area are treated as loading sources to the model domain. However, if an assessment is to be done within these tributaries, additional submodels would need to be generated.

3. The status of the shellfishing targets was discussed. In New Jersey, the Raritan Bay has potential for opening or upgrading of shellfish areas. NJDEP will produce GIS maps for discussion at a future meeting. New York said that they would be having discussions on this topic in January with their Marine Resources group.
4. Bob Nyman said that the Gantt chart work assignment had been made to HydroQual and that they would begin producing the charts to assist HEP in managing the TMDL effort.
5. Jim Olander discussed the information needs related to the CSO/MS4 communities. CSO and stormwater are differentiated in the model, but it is not clear with of the stormwater communities are regulated. Also, industrial sites are not differentiated. The status of MS4 implementation needs to be determined as well as what can be expected to from implementation and what regulatory mechanisms would be involved. A list of permittees and current loads needs to be established. The PWG will start to frame all these issues out. It was stated that the RAINMAN model was used for landside assessment and that the data utilized on the NJ side varied by the stage of completion. The loadings based on RAINMAN, used by HydroQual, will be compared with the loadings based on SWMM, used by the NJ CSO communities. HydroQual, NJDEP and EPA are discussing how this comparison should be conducted. The PWG was charged with drafting the available information and evaluating how to get the rest of it. This would be done by geographic region.
6. Within two weeks, HydroQual will provide recommendations regarding the analysis discussed in item 2 above. Oversight group members will review the recommendation and a designee from each state will get back to Bob Nyman with their reaction to the recommendation. If necessary, a conference call will be held on December 20th to discuss it.
7. The next oversight group meeting will be scheduled for January and will cover toxics. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.