



## New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

### **HEP Pathogens Work Group Meeting Minutes**

**August 16, 2005**

EPA

10am

### **Preliminary Model Results**

PowerPoint slides were handed out to the PWG and this discussion was led by Charlie Dujardin (Hydroqual, Inc.).

The PATH model is 89.5% calibrated. Baseline conditions were reviewed. Chris Villari (NYCDEP) had recommended that the baseline conditions should be the existing conditions without planned and under construction projects since it could take years for those projects to be completed. An example of this is Paedergat Basin, which has a completion date of June 2007.

There are detailed landside simulators, such as the RANMAN, which is used to develop loads for baseline conditions and it will be calibrated against other models so that there will be consistent data. The other one is the ECOM, which is a hydrodynamic model and it characterizes transport and its properties. The map in the packet of PowerPoint slides that shows the location of the Harbor beaches is missing the NJ beaches. These should be added to the map.

Management Zones were also discussed. It was noted that the PWG needs to start thinking about the management zones. Currently, the management zones are split by water body and state. Beau Ranheim (NYCDEP) recommended that Zones 3, 4, & 5 should be combined. Marco Al-Ebus (NJDEP) recommended that Zones 7 & 9 be combined. The breakout of management zones that was provided to the PWG by Hydroqual is the first cut and it is up for discussion by the PWG. Work on the Oversight Questions can proceed without finalizing the management zones. The management zones should be finalized in the next 2-3 months.

The wasteload allocations for treatment plants are up to the states. NJ does not want to put enterococci into the permits unless it is for monitoring. Meeting the enterococci standard at the treatment plants cannot be implemented. NY does not look for enterococci at their treatment plants. Their study showed that the enterococci levels were random. EPA just put out a new method for enterococci sampling.

## **Baseline Conditions- Recommendations to the Oversight Group**

Hydroqual has an internal draft of the recommendations to the Oversight Group and the draft will be a completed draft by the end of this week. A conference call needs to be scheduled to discuss this. Hydroqual's draft will not include implications of management zones. It will be a big picture overview. The draft can be refined with the management zones down the road.

## **TMDL Work Plan**

A draft of the work plan is due to the HEP Management Committee by August 18, 2005. Jim Olander (EPA) wants the PWG to look at the draft and give him comments via e-mail. Jim will have additional information for the PWG in 2 weeks.

## **Hudson River Transect Sampling**

IEC submitted a QAPP to the EPA for Hudson River Transect Sampling. This work is part of the IEC's 106 Grant. They are proposing to conduct 5 transects across the Hudson River from the Bronx to the Battery/Jersey City. They will have 5 stations per transect and there will be 4 events. Beau wanted to know if there is some commonality between the NYC and NJHDG stations. IEC will take 2 daily samples at each station. One of the questions of this sampling is if there are plumes coming out of the CSO's that are hugging the channels. Beau said that there are plumes coming out of the CSO's. Beau moved some of the NYCDEP stations close to the shore and found plumes that were coming from illegal connections. Taking samples on the NJ side of the Hudson River will present some problems since there are mudflats on the shoreline while in NY there is a deep channel. If the QAPP takes too long to be approved, Beau said that he can do the sampling. The PWG wanted to know what the question is that IEC is trying to answer by doing this study.

## **Model QAPP Review**

EPA-Edison is still reviewing the QAPP.

## **Model Evaluation Group (MEG)**

The first meeting of the MEG will be during the last 2 weeks of September 2005.

## **Conference Call for Recommendations by Hydroqual to Oversight Group:**

September 7, 2005 at 10 am

**Next Meeting:** November 9, 2005

## **Attendees**

Ali Chase, NRDC

Angela Ward, NYCDOH

Beau Ranheim, NYCDEP

Bob Nyman, US EPA - HEP

Carol Hoffman, NYSDEC

Cathy Yuhas, NJSG/HEP

Charles Dujardin, Hydroqual, Inc.

Chris J. Villari, NYCDEP

Jim Olander, US EPA

John St. John, HydroQual, Inc.

Lily Huang, NYCDOH

Marco Al-Ebus, NJDEP

Philip O'Brien, NYSDEC

Steve Su, Exponent