



## New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

### **Pathogen Work Group Meeting Minutes**

**February 5, 2004**

Hudson River Foundation

10am-2pm

### **NY-NJ Harbor Sampling Efforts including enterococcus sampling of POTWs and Stormwater discharges**

The overview of the 2004 recommended sampling program in the Harbor was discussed. Treatment plant, stormwater, and split sampling will be conducted. The three types of sampling are summarized in the attached Excel worksheet. The type of parameter (fecal, total, enterococcus) the agencies will test for was discussed. It was noted that NYS has switched from testing for total coliform to fecal coliform. The biggest data gap is with enterococcus. HydroQual does not want to put a lot of emphasis on sampling for total coliform because there is a lot of historical data and NY does not sample for it. There was also a discussion about writing and approving a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). It was suggested that two QAPPs be written- one for the split sampling and another for the treatment plant and stormwater samplings. There was also concern that all labs conducting sampling analysis be certified to analyzed for enterococcus. NJHDG and IEC are in the process of getting certified. NYCDEP is not certified for enterococcus. NJDEP is going to certify NYCDEP.

### **Enterococcus Coordination and Implementation of Standard Update**

EPA will promulgate the new enterococcus standard if states do not do it themselves. The EPA promulgation process is a 3-step process, which includes (1) proposed rule making, (2) draft rule making process, and (3) final rule making process. The process can take a one and half years from the time of the advanced notice therefore the process should be complete by 2006.

NYSDOH will start using enterococcus at their beaches therefore EPA-HQ will accept this and will not promulgate them. Even though NYSDOH will start using enterococcus, they will not close beaches solely on enterococcus results. They will use fecal and total coliform data over enterococcus. EPA does not have a beach closure policy so the states do not have to close beaches due to enterococcus data. Other states also use a suite of parameters to monitor beaches. For example, California's Save the Bay uses a suite of parameters to monitor beaches, but will close the beach if any one of the parameters is high.

Wayne Jackson of EPA will attend the next PWG meeting to discuss the enterococcus standard with the work group.

### **Epidemiological Study by EPA**

The EPA epidemiological study will consist of sampling at beaches (freshwater and saltwater beaches) and talking to the users of the beaches about their health condition after swimming in those waters. This study will determine the effectiveness of enterococcus as a parameter for closing beaches. The timeframe of the study will be a 3-5 years and preliminary sampling will begin this summer. EPA conducted studies similar to this during 1976 and 1986.

### **Strategic Planning for 2004 and 2005**

This discussion focused on the status of the modeling activity. Please refer to the worksheet that was passed out at the meeting. NJ loads are being revised and component runs still have to be completed. Charlie Dujardin will talk about the component runs, hot spots, and jurisdictional areas at the next PWG meeting.

### **Pathogens TMDL Development**

Allocation of loads was discussed. Nitrogen was used as an example on how to allocate loads. In NY, the allocation of nitrogen loads was broken up into management zones (political boundaries) while in CT, watershed zones were used. The need for public participation was also discussed. The public should be informed and feedback should be accepted.

### **Attendees**

Antony Tseng, EPA – TMDL  
Beau Ranheim, NYCDEP  
Bob Nyman, US EPA – HEP  
Boris Rukovets, IEC  
Brian J. Mitchell, IEC  
Carol Hoffman, NYSDEC  
Cathy Yuhas, NJSJG/HEP  
Charles Dujardin, HydroQual, Inc.  
Chris J. Villari, NYCDEP  
Dave Rosenblatt, NJDEP  
Eric Feerst, NJDEP  
Jim Olander, US EPA  
Keith Mahoney, NYCDEP  
Mick DeGraves, GLEC/NJHDG  
Peter L. Sattler, IEC  
Philip O'Brien, NYSDEC  
Russell Arnone, US EPA  
Steve Su, Exponent  
Veronica Craw, PVSC  
Virginia Loftin, NJDEP