



New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

HEP Pathogens Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2006

Hudson River Foundation

10am

Revised Schedule for the Development of the TMDL

Technical feasibility and cost analysis that have to be conducted by NJDEP and NYCDEP has added 9 months – 1 year to the TMDL schedule. The due dates for these studies are February 2007 for NJDEP and June 2007 for NYCDEP. The final plan is suppose to be completed by the end of 2007 and the development of the final TMDL is set for the end of 2008. Hydroqual is putting together gant charts in order to better manage the TMDL schedule.

Budget Requests

Bob Nyman discussed the HEP budget process. Work group requests will be made in February 2006 and the budget will be approved in April 2006. There will be a HEP Management Committee conference call on January 26, 2006 to discuss the budget process.

Baseline Conditions- Recommendations from the Oversight Group

All deductions will be measured from the baseline conditions. The Oversight Group thinks that the completion of the Nine Minimum Controls could provide a baseline of conditions. The Nine Minimum Controls are technology-based requirements. NJDEP and NYCDEP wanted to know how the Nine Minimum Controls will affect the model/baseline conditions. There are two options for the baseline conditions and they are either (1) using the 2003 conditions or (2) the implementation of the Nine Minimum Controls. The two Nine Minimum Controls that would have an impact are the one that has to do with maximum loadings going to the treatment plants and the one that focuses on in-line storage.

Wet weather capture is better in NYC than NJ, but NYC still does not have a number. A number for wet weather capture will be needed as well as a status report from NYC and NJ on the Nine Minimum Controls and any work that has gone beyond them. Those that go beyond the Nine Minimum Controls should get credit for it. Some communities in NJ have separated CSOs and eliminated them.

There can be two different baselines- one for the modeling which is the WLA and one for the reduction of loadings, which is for water quality. The TMDL will calculate the allowable load to

obtain water quality and percent reductions will come later in the WLA. The Nine Minimum Controls should have been done in 1998 and definitely prior to 2000, but some items are an ongoing process. The baseline water quality work will not be held up because of the Nine Minimum Controls. The Nine Minimum Controls can be a benchmark. A format for these status reports needs to be determined and a due date needs to be determined.

Keith Mahoney gave a presentation on NYC's Combined Sewer Overflow Program. Please refer to handout.

Hudson River Transect Sampling

IEC has been conducting a Hudson River Transect Sampling. They proposed to conduct 5 transects across the Hudson River from the Bronx to the Battery/Jersey City and they will have 5 stations per transect. There will be 4 events. Two events (4 runs) have been completed. IEC is scheduled to do two more events. Jim Olander has offered to send the QAPP for this project to the PWG.

Blending Sampling

Jim Olander told the PWG sampling that will be conducted by IEC and EPA at 3 treatment plants in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary on blending. This sampling is being funded by EPA Headquarters.

Management Questions from the Oversight

The Oversight Group has some questions for the PWG and they are (1) are we meeting water quality standards in the Harbor; (2) are there areas in the Harbor that can meet water quality standards; and (3) are there areas in the Harbor that will never meet water quality standards. The data that is available to answer these questions are data from IEC, NY Harbor Survey, NYCDOH, and NJHDG. Data should also be compared with the shellfish standards, and recreational standards for fecal coliform and enterococci. Data analysis has been completed and analysis has been completed with the model, which allows for better spatial resolution. Hydroqual's next steps are to present information and concentration reductions. Answers to the questions from the Oversight Group are due mid-March 2006.

General Discussion and Questions

There was a discussion about Management Zone 16 and if it should include the Saddle Brook River since it comes in below the Dundee Dam. NJDEP said that a TMDL has already been completed for the Saddle Brook River from the Dundee Dam to NYS.

Next Meeting: March 29, 2006

Attendees

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