



New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

HEP Pathogen Work Group Conference Call Minutes
May 12, 2005
10am

TMDL Oversight Committee

The TMDL Oversight Committee consists of representatives from the EPA and the States. Regulatory and policy decisions have to be made and this committee will advise the workgroups (Pathogens, Nutrients, and Toxics). The committee has recognized that the workgroups have done a good job. They met on March 31, 2005 and will meet periodically, possibly at the end of May or early June. The committee is asking the Pathogen Workgroups (PWG) two questions, which are:

- 1) What are the current conditions as they relate to:
 - a. the geometric mean enterococcus standard of 35 (and statistics for alternative single sample maxima ranging from 14 to 500);
 - b. total coliform standard of 70 MPN in NYS shellfishing areas and ____ in NJ shellfishing areas. Will also be able to assess fecal at levels of 200 and 400.
- 2) What would it take to meet these standards harbor-wide, within a useful management framework (e.g., by appropriate management zones).

The PWG will form a contract between the Hudson River Foundation (HRF) and Hydroqual to answer the above questions. Jim Lodge will be the contact at HRF. Hydroqual could put a draft scope together in a week or two for the two questions.

IEC would like to be a part of the TMDL Oversight Committee, and this will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Management Zones

Please refer to the worksheet that was sent via e-mail. Hydroqual will propose different management zones that will be more cost-effective. PWG needs to consider the draft zones because the zones may be used to make calculations for the model. Some questions that came up while discussing management zones:

- 1) How many management zones are needed?
- 2) Can the management zones of the Passaic River, Hackensack River, and Newark Bay be combined?
- 3) Does the East River zone have to coincide with the Long Island Sound zones?

- 4) Does the Raritan Bay zone have to be extended to the Rockaways?
- 5) Should the impacts of the beaches in the Bronx be included and the lines of the zones be moved over to include them?

Hydroqual stated that the management zones delineate locations where loadings occur and that pathogen impacts will be calculated in all cells of the grid even if they are not in the management zones. Management zones are intended to show a waterbody and all of the area that drains into the waterbody. Hydroqual also said that the Raritan Bay zone does not need to be moved in order for it to include Far Rockaway since the impacts will be assessed there. According to Hydroqual, fewer management zones are more efficient, but NJDEP thinks there should be more zones in order to avoid larger zones, which will lead to more computer runs. Hydroqual thinks that the PWG should look at the CSO locations to refine the zones that will be used. Final waste load allocations do not have to be conducted in the management zones. By the time that the two questions are answered, a management zone approach can be used instead of a screening analysis therefore management zones should be decided upon relatively soon.

Final calibration of the model will be conducted in August 2005.

Formation of the Model Evaluation Group (MEG)

The four candidates that have been identified for the MEG are:

- 1) Chris Uchrin- Environmental Science Department, Rutgers University
- 2) Jay Taft- Environment and Biology Department, Harvard University
- 3) Stephen Nicks- Engineering Department, North Florida University
- 4) Leigh Curry- Watershed Modeling Division, Maryland Department of the Environment

It will take 12-18 months to evaluate the model. The process should start prior to the final calibration of the model. Jim Olander is going to contact the MEG candidates for their participation in evaluating the model.

Baseline Conditions

The concept of what the baseline conditions are needs to be discussed at the next PWG meeting. PWG members should start thinking about these baseline conditions prior to the meeting. Projects under construction should be included in the baseline conditions, such as the construction of the Paedergat Basin; in-line storage projects; and upgrading STP's. Rainfall condition is also important in the baseline conditions. A short paper should be put together that discusses: (1) what we are trying to do with baseline conditions; and (2) what are we trying to represent.

Next Meeting: June 21, 2005 (Tuesday)

Attendees

Ali Chase, NRDC
Anne Witt, NJDEP
Antony Tseng, EPA - TMDL
Beau Ranheim, NYCDEP
Bob Nyman, US EPA - HEP
Boris Rukovets, IEC
Brian J. Mitchell, IEC
Carol Hoffman, NYSDEC
Cathy Yuhás, NJSG/HEP
Charles Dujardin, HydroQual, Inc.
Dan Zeppenfeld, NJDEP
Jim Olander, US EPA
John St. John, HydroQual, Inc.
Marco Al-Ebus, NJDEP
Mark Klein, NYCDEP
Peter L. Sattler, IEC
Philip O'Brien, NYSDEC
Virginia Loftin, NJDEP