



New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

HEP Pathogen Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2005

EPA

10am-1:30pm

Enterococcus Standard Update

Wayne Jackson from EPA Region 2 updated the group on the implementation of the enterococci standard. He said that the first target for criteria development for enterococcus is the Great Lakes and freshwater and the target date is October 2005. Wayne had not heard about criteria development for marine waters as of yet. Wayne discussed the final rule was put into effect on December 16, 2004. New Jersey was not included in the final rule since they have already adopted it. New York was included in the final rule.

NY-NJ Harbor Sampling Effort Update

This sampling effort is complete.

Split Sampling: 91% were in confidence levels.

POTW's: Some plants need to be resampled. IEC wants to resample a PVSC and a Yonkers plant in order to repeat the analysis. Bridget would like to see the Rahway plant resampled since IEC did not sample at the outfall. Each plant has different holding times and these are stated in their discharge permits. Sampling agency needs to follow the holding times in the permit.

NYCDEP data was not available for the meeting.

Exponent Presentation on the Passaic River Risk Analysis

Steve Stu from Exponent presented the human health risks from pathogens in the Lower Passaic River. Sampling was conducted at Saybrook Place CSO. It was a trial study. They only took one sample at 2 locations during one event. Exponent is doing the risk assessment for Tierra. Samples were taken right outside of the outfall and then 20ft away from it. Samples were collected at the end of a rainfall event. Analytical methods measured for bacteria, protozoa, and viruses. The Exponent sampling has flaws. Tierra had taken the report to the newspaper.

Status of Pathogen Model

The status of the pathogen model has not changed in the last 4-6 months. Data has to be analyzed and put into the model. A QAPP has to be developed for the modeling. It should take 4 months to complete the modeling calibration and then another 3 months to do the component analysis. Another 6 months will be needed to develop a TMDL. Within the 6 months, the PWG would have to meet monthly to complete the TMDL. The model could be completed by Feb-Mar 2006 and the goal is for the entire process to be completed by May 2006. This does not allow for enough time for comments from the states. Regulatory issues need to be worked out, such as standards and targets. The differences in standards for the two states pose a problem for the shared waters. *Decision item:* should the most stringent standard be applied or should it be brought to the Management Committee for guidance on what to use. EPA, NY, and NJ are planning on meeting to discuss the different standards. Jim Olander was going to check with Wayne Jackson about this meeting and then incorporate the details into the minutes.

HEP Budget

There are funds available to carry the PWG through the component analysis. The PWG may need additional funding.

Next PWG Meeting: March 16, 2005. During the next 4 months the component analysis needs to be discussed. The PWG will need 2-3 meetings.

Attendees

Ali Chase, NRDC
Angela Ward, NYCDOH
Ashley Pengitore, PVSC
Antony Tseng, EPA - TMDL
Bob Connell, NJDEP
Bob Nyman, US EPA - HEP
Boris Rukovets, IEC
Brian J. Mitchell, IEC
Bridget McKenna, PVSC/NJHDG
Carol Hoffman, NYSDEC
Cathy Yuhas, NJSJG/HEP
Charles Dujardin, HydroQual, Inc.
Chris Mallery, USACE
Chris J. Villari, NYCDEP
Dan Zeppenfeld, NJDEP
Helen Grebe, USEPA
Jim Olander, US EPA
John St. John, HydroQual, Inc.
Kevin O'Brien, Hazen and Sawyer
Lily Huang, NYCDOH
Ludger Balan, UDEC
Mark Harris, Chem Risk
Mick DeGraves, GLEC/NJHDG
Philip O'Brien, NYSDEC
Russell Arnone, US EPA
Steve Su, Exponent
Thomas Pietrykoski, PVSC
Trisha Murray, URS
Virginia Loftin, NJDEP
Wayne Jackson, USEPA