TOXICS WORK GROUP

New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
Toxics Work Group Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2001 @ Hudson River Foundation

Bob Nyman convened the meeting.

Bob Nyman distributed for discussion, the charges to the Work Groups that was prepared for the Management Committee. Tom Belton commented that tracking of CCMP implementation is not a trivial task. Dennis Suszkowski commented that the Targets and Goals being developed should be the focus for tracking. Mr. Nyman said that a new staff person would be working with the work groups to refine and then update the tracking reports on an annual basis.

Mr. Belton brought up the subject of TMDLs and said that NJDEP favored having a single group oversee all HEP TMDL work. Mick DeGraeve asked about the schedule for the TMDLs and suggested that monthly updates would be useful. Mr. Nyman said that a separate Toxics TMDL group was formed and would be chaired by Rosella O'Connor. The first meeting would be to discuss Wayne Jackson's white paper on endpoints. Ms. O'Connor said that a contractor would be made available to help coordinate all the TMDL work groups. The Toxics Work Group agreed that the Charges were OK as written.

Bob Nyman then reviewed the status of the Targets and Goals document. It was suggested that a specific date be associated with the target years, such as January 1 or September 30. Joel Pechiolli said that we should ensure the dates are consistent with CARP dates. Gary Buchanan said that there was a bi-state fish advisory meeting scheduled for Oct 26th. NJ said they didn't want watersheds listed as targeted areas and that it would be difficult to define "worst". Mr. Fuchs said that he would like to reduce the overall size of the targets list. Dr. Suszkowski said that according to the data, there would be reductions in contaminant levels in fish over time without doing anything. He added that we need to keep the pressure on the politicians. There was a concern that there needs to be follow-through on trackdown efforts - much funding has gone into it and it is unclear what the outcomes are. It was suggested that the HARS remediation be added to the Navigation section.

Italo Carcich handed out materials summarizing the World Trade Center environmental data that had been collected. Samples were collected at the foot of Rector Street and TOPS samples were taken in the Hudson. DEC was planning to sample biota in three weeks. Most of the material that was being dredged for barge access was between ERL and ERM.

Wayne Jackson distributed his draft white paper on TMDL endpoints for discussion. It will be discussed in more detail at the Toxics TMDL meeting. He indicated that all the media goes back to fish tissue. If water quality standards are met, you will meet biota and sediment levels as well. In all cases in his analysis, he used the most stringent number.

Gary Buchanan gave an update on the TBT work. He said that the chronic criteria is being proposed to be reduced by EPA from 10 to 1ng/l. All 1992 measured levels would be above new criteria. Joe Olha said that the RMWG would include TBT in their work. A scope of work is currently under development for additional survey work that would include TBT.

The meeting was concluded at 3:00.