



## TOXICS WORK GROUP

Draft April 4, 2002

**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program  
Toxics Work Group Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2002 @ Hudson River Foundation**

Bob Nyman chaired the meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed.

Judy Spadone introduced the Linden Roselle toxic track down effort and explained that it had begun in 1997. A part of the effort is to compare PISCES and whole water sampling within their system. It was noted that anchoring the PISCES devices within the collection system needed a lot of work. John Botts provided a handout of the overheads for his presentation. He said the primary purpose was to see if trackdown could be accomplished in a municipal collection system using these methods. Five locations on main trunk lines were selected and sampled under two wet and two dry events. The next phase would include more in depth trackdown in areas of elevated PCBs. Mr. Botts characterized each of the sewer sheds that were being sampled. Whole water was sampled over 24 hours and PISCES were put in place for 14 days. He noted that in the future, deployments would be reduced to 8 days. There was some hexane loss and summer temperatures sometimes reached 28° C in the system. The influent to the plant was originally going to be used as the baseline, but because sludge processing reintroduced some of the material upstream, a location further up the pipe was selected. This site was adjacent to a truck depot. He said that the PISCES were inexpensive and you could therefore put many of them out. However, turbulence could be a problem. The ISCO samples were much more expensive, easy to use, and perhaps more reliable.

Data was presented that showed the highest values for the whole water sampling came from the primary influent area, indicating that there was something between the truck depot and the plant. PISCES data were taken after the 24 hour composite and showed very high levels at the truck depot. This manhole is downstream from a large refinery. The smell was of "light end" petroleum. Rainfall data was not available at the meeting. It was not know what the variability of discharge from the refinery was. Simon Litton noted that in figure 4, there might be a contribution of PCB-11. Mr. Botts concluded that the sources were probably abandoned waste sites. Mr. Litten asked if Carteret was part of the collection system, as he thought there was a pigment manufacturer there that could be contributing the PCB-11. Mr. Botts said that Carteret was not in the system. Scott Douglas asked if there was any infiltration or flow analysis. Ms. Spadone said no, but that they will be doing TV inspection in some of the pipes. She will report back to the TWG with future results.

Chandler Rowell then gave a presentation on the status of the NYSDEC trackdown work that was funded by multiple sources, but was not a part of CARP. Their aim was to identify sources and further develop trackdown methods. The project will be completed on May 31<sup>st</sup> and a decision needs to be made as to whether the project will continue. This effort was looking in surface waters, not in sewers. The results are preliminary and are intended to support remediation program of states. The final report is still due. Mr. Rowell said the passive samplers had the advantage of requiring no cleanup of the hexane for surface waters. Mr. Botts said his work required hexane cleanups. He said PISCES tend to concentrate lighter PCBs, compared to fish, and that temperatures ranging from 5 - 27°C could double the uptake rate for PAHs. Turbulence effects could be as large as 10X according to lab experiments. 86% of the field samples for PCBs passed QA and 93% of lab samples passed.

The NY survey areas were selected based on past knowledge. 22 sites indicated ongoing inputs and were ranked as priority 1 or 2, based on authors opinion. 30 sites were examined in the East River - many indicated "something going on." Most East River sites were above standards for PCBs. The question was raised as to how to prioritize for remediation programs. Mr. Rowell said that for NYSDEC to continue, a workplan was needed. Perhaps it could be combined with CARP. Simon Litten needs to develop narratives for some areas.

Tom Belton then gave an overview of the NJ trackdown effort. He mentioned the HEP list of contaminants of concern, as well as the fish advisories. Lee Lippencott provided handouts of journal articles. The work he described involved using PISCES in the Raritan, Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, Newark Bay, and the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers. There was a suggestion that perhaps only 93 of the 209 PCB congeners be looked for. Mr. Lippencott described how Principle Components Analysis was used to evaluate the data and how he tried to relate PCB signatures to specific tributaries.

Gary Buchanan provided a handout and a brief overview of the NJ Mercury Task Force. He also noted that the New York Academy of Sciences report on mercury would be out soon.

The meeting was adjourned.