



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program  
TOXICS WORK GROUP  
Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 1999 @ Hudson River Foundation**

*(DRAFT Sept 20, 1999)*

The Toxics Work Group (TWG) was convened at 10:00 am by Bob Nyman.

The minutes from the previous meeting were adopted as written.

John Zambrano presented information of cadmium and lead and was summarized in a series of handouts. Mr. Zambrano said that there are no biota criteria for Cd and Pb and that the levels in bivalves are near the edge of being of concern.

He recommended that monitoring should continue for Cd in bivalves. Art Newell said he wanted to get into the issues in greater depth and look at the assumptions. He said that he was willing to do so prior to the next meeting. Mick DeGraeve said that he could get info to Mr. Newell within a couple of weeks. Tom Belton agreed to work with Mr. Newell. It was noted that there still is a health advisory for bluecrab for Cd. Bruce Brownawell said that Cd is generally more of a problem in freshwater for bioaccumulation. Larry Skinner said all the data from his study was from below the George Washington Bridge. Joel Pechioli said that NJDEP was not planning on doing Cd as part of the CARP program, but now maybe it should be included. The TWG agreed to keep Cd on the list pending discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Zambrano said that there was a lead criteria for drinking water, but that there was no criteria that could be used to develop a TMDL. He said that using all the assumptions listed on his handouts, that lead in bivalves are below the criteria values. He continued that he didn't know of sufficient data to keep it on the list. Mark Reiss said that results from a recent dredging project were slightly above the values by which they are judged. The TWG agreed that, pending discussion at the next meeting, lead would be removed from the list as it relates to TMDLs, but would be kept on a separate "B" list of toxics that may be of concern in the future. There was also a recommendation that CARP look at both Pb and Cd.

Larry Skinner said that he said arsenic should be removed from the list based on discussion at the last meeting. He agreed to provide a written justification for the record.

Bruce Brownawell then gave a presentation on nonyl-phenol in the Harbor that appears to be coming from wastewater treatment plants and that by looking at cores, it is possible to get a history of waste water treatment in the Harbor. He added that the probable source is surfactants. He noted that human hormones were also detected in the effluent and that the nonyl-phenol was 10,000x more concentrated than the hormones. Highest values were in Jamaica Bay, the mouth of the Passaic, and the mouth of the East River in Brooklyn. It may be able to track sewage plumes by tracking this substance. The next step in the project may be to target depositional areas.

Richard Podolsky of the New York Academy of Science introduced his project on industrial ecology. However, due to the lack of time for him to give a full presentation, he agreed to come back to the next meeting.

Mark Reiss of EPA's Dredging Team gave a presentation of sediment endpoints. Handouts of the overheads were distributed. Mr. Reiss' analysis represented a way of evaluating acute toxicity in amphipods from exposure to dredged sediments.

Mick DeGraeve of the Great Lakes Environmental Center said the Science Advisory Board gave a presentation last month on equilibrium partitioning guidelines. He added that documents are due out from GLEC on PAHs in August and metals in December. (It was noted that the proposed sediment quality criteria are much higher than the LOEC or ERL??) Art Newell indicated that he thought it was a good second level screening tool.

The discussion then turned to comparing the HEP list of toxics of concern to the CARP analyte list. Joel Pechioli of NJDEP said that he would email the NJ list to Mr. Nyman who would then forward it to Simon Litton and the rest of the TWG for comparison.

After setting the next meeting date as July 13, the meeting was adjourned.