



# New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

## **HEP Pathogen Work Group Meeting Minutes**

**June 21, 2005**

Hudson River Foundation

10am

### **Baseline Conditions**

PowerPoint slides and management zone worksheet were handed out to the PWG.

HydroQual presented the baseline conditions to the PWG.

- Review of Pathogen Recreational Standards- TMDL Oversight Group is working on standardizing the Interstate (NY & NJ) standards.
- Review of Pathogen Shellfish Standards- TMDL Oversight Group wants the PWG to look at whether or not Direct Harvest will be feasible in Raritan Bay.
- The QAPP for the Pathogen Model (PATH) is being reviewed by EPA Edison and Region 2.
- Pathogen TMDL Next Steps
  - Final Calibration/Validation of PATH Model
  - Development of Baseline Conditions
  - Definition of Targets
    - Aid from TMDL Oversight Group
  - Development of Component Analysis
- Baseline Conditions
  - Calculate improvements according to baseline conditions.
  - 1988 JFK rainfall is being used as the baseline since it is representative of the average rainfall year and it includes some extreme conditions. It is also being used by NYC and it is accepted by NJ who uses it in their CSO permits.
  - The 1988 rainfall is used for the entire Harbor so that all areas are evaluated on a common ground.
  - The rainfall takes into account meteorological conditions.
  - Loading options were discussed.
    - Existing Sewer System Conditions
      - Mick DeGrave would like to know what NJDEP is doing with mixing zones and pathogens in the pipe. DeGrave requested the presence of Dan Zeppenfeld at the next PWG meeting.

- The TMDL Oversight Group would like to know what the current conditions are. The TMDL Oversight Group should define the conditions and targets.
    - Discussion Item: 2045 Conditions or presently designed conditions.
  - Projects Under Construction
    - Example: PVSC expanding intercepting capacity.
  - Planned Projects
    - Example: Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority CSO Elimination
    - Some discussion items are:
      - Should this include projects that are enforceable (consent orders); where there is already a contract; or a financial commitment? Jim Olander will make a recommendation to get this type of information.
      - What if a planned project that is a legal obligatory enforcement project is not in the baseline- could the project be potentially viewed as not being important?
      - All planned projects may need to be included in the baseline and should be obtained from NYC (Keith Mahoney) and NJ (Dan Zeppenfeld) as well as Mick DeGrave. Jim Olander will obtain a Westchester contact.
- TMDL Targets- TMDL Oversight Group needs to determine the waterbody classifications and their uses.
- Management Zones
  - 2 Approaches to develop Management Zones:
    - By waterbody
    - By drainage areas
  - Management Zones need to be a combination of drainage areas and their jurisdiction and the waterbody that it empties into.
  - Some discussion items are:
    - Look at the major sources in these zones.
    - Why are the zones important?
      - Get a sense of the impact of loads in a particular area.
      - Spreadsheet tool with calculations – Managers could use on their PC's and do their own wasteload calculations.
      - Evaluation
      - Bacteria loads will be run on the model.
      - Facilitates the development of the component analysis.

### **Updating the Regional Bypass Model**

PowerPoint slides were handed out to the PWG.

The Regional Bypass Model is very useful for non-scientific people. It is designed for spills and unplanned bypasses. Right it has about 50 discharge points. One can put the amount of the discharge and the concentration into the model and a map will be generated that shows the

problem areas. It is a quick estimate of what happened after a discharge. Some problems with current model are that it can only handle one discharge at a time and there are a limited number of discharge locations. Another problem is that it is only designed for total coliform, but can do ratios for enterococci and fecal coliform. NYCDEP wants to update the model. NYCDEP would like to upgrade the discharge points (locations) and upgrade the model to handle multiple discharges. The model only calculates on 12-hour duration and NYCDEP would like to upgrade it so that it can calculate according to how long most spills usually take, which is approximately 3-hours. IEC has a Regional Bypass Workgroup (RBW) every year. The model is for pathogens only and is used by beach managers. The request to upgrade the model needs to be presented to the RBW. The regional bypass model is linked to the PATH model. RBW members should fund the upgrades. Boris Rukovets will ask Pete Sattler to get in touch with the RBW about this. Charlie Dujardin thinks that it should be up and running by next May 15<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the start of the 2006 beach season. It would take Charlie Dujardin 4-6 months to upgrade the model. RBW should decide by November 2005 on whether or not they are going to fund the upgrade of the regional bypass model.

### **Development of a Work Plan**

The development of a pathogens work plan is the request of the HEP Policy Committee (PC). The work plan will focus on the revised TMDL schedule, which will not be making the May 2006 deadline. It should include the tasks and the decision-making that is associated with it. The work plan should also look at what the PWG is trying to do and what the priorities are. Draft work plans will be submitted to the PC for their meeting on September 28, 2005. The final work plan should be completed by November 2005. Jim Olander, Jeff Myers, and Kerry Kirk-Pflugh are working on the work plan. Floatables is another area that needs a work plan. A draft for the PWG should be complete by August 2005.

### **Model QAPP Review**

Charlie Dujardin is making the revisions to the QAPP.

### **Model Evaluation Group (MEG)**

All four of the people asked are willing to serve on the MEG. Jim Olander is trying to schedule a date for the first meeting either at the end of July or August. The people that need to be involved in the 4 MEG Meetings are: expert modelers from the states- Marco from NJDEP and someone from NYSDEC. If anyone expresses an interest to be involved, please contact Jim Olander. LIS MEG Meetings took over 6 years and there were 8-10 meetings. The SWEM had two different MEG's. The MEG will look at the PATH that is sitting on top of the hydrodynamics from SWEM, which has already been evaluated. The landside portion needs to be looked at.

**Next Meeting:** August 16, 2005 (Tuesday)

## **Attendees**

Ali Chase, NRDC  
Anne Witt, NJDEP  
Antony Tseng, EPA - TMDL  
Beau Ranheim, NYCDEP  
Bob Alpern  
Bob Nyman, US EPA - HEP  
Boris Rukovets, IEC  
Brian J. Mitchell, IEC  
Carol Hoffman, NYSDEC  
Cathy Yuhás, NJSJG/HEP  
Charles Dujardin, HydroQual, Inc.  
Chris J. Villari, NYCDEP  
Jim Olander, US EPA  
John St. John, HydroQual, Inc.  
Kerry Kirk-Pflugh, NJDEP  
Kevin O'Brien, Hazen and Sawyer  
Luis Carrio, NYCDEP/BWT  
Mick DeGrave, GLEC/NJHDG  
Philip O'Brien, NYSDEC  
Steve Su, Exponent