



New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

HEP Pathogens Work Group Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2006

Hudson River Foundation

10am

Rainfall Distribution – Monthly vs. Yearly

Phil O'Brien (NYSDEC) wants the PWG to look at rainfall distribution. The rainfall data that is being used is from JFK from 1971 – 2000. The average monthly distribution was looked at between this time period. The year that was chosen was 1988 because it was an average year for rainfall where the wettest month was July. The months proceeding July 1988 were dry. The percentage of rainfall during that time period was April – 51%, May – 45%, June – 34%, July – 176%, August – 52%, and September – 55%. The EPA CSO Policy specifies that an average year of rainfall be used. 1988 is also being used for the LIS TMDL. There was a question of what the daily rainfall intensity was in July 1988. 2003 ranks as one of the highest loading years. 1988 was average in regards to loadings. The intensity and volume of the rainfall needs to be considered for the model. Regional (Newark, Central Park, etc.) rainfall not just rainfall at JFK should be considered to better characterize the area.

Hydroqual's Excel spreadsheet looks at rainfall gauges in the region at Newark, LaGuardia, and JFK. There is no perfect year in regards to rainfall. When Hydroqual calibrates the model, they use multiple rain gauges. When Hydroqual develops a baseline condition, they use one rain gauge. Everything has to be compared to one rainfall. TMDL will also be done with one rainfall. In Hydroqual's Excel spreadsheet, "1988BS" represents the rainfall at the JFK gauge. There are two 1988's in the spreadsheet. The other 1988 listing ranks higher than 1988BS and it includes all of the gauges. Some PWG members want a written explanation of the rainfall data that was chosen. The JFK 1988 rainfall data will be placed on Hydroqual's website. Jim Olander (EPA) will send out the EPA guidance.

Next Steps: Component analysis which will need a consensus of the rainfall analysis.

Preliminary Results to the Oversight Group Questions

Hydroqual handed out Power Point slides. Current waterbody classifications and water quality conditions in NY-NJ Harbor were assessed. Designated beaches should be included in the list of types of water quality data that needs to be compared to the water quality standards. It was also noted that 2003 IEC data for the geometric mean of enterococci for recreation is from wet weather events.

Preliminary model results were then assessed. The model results focused on:

- Calculated Enterococci Levels
- Calculated Maximum 30D Geometric Mean
- Calculated Percent Reduction Requirements
- Calculated Fecal Coliform Levels
- Calculated Percent CSO Contributions

On a seasonal basis the model shows that the Harbor is in compliance of the 35 entero. On the Calculated Percent Reduction Requirements maps, the yellow to red areas need some sort of reduction of loadings. All maps reflect CSOs and Stormwater runoff conditions. The only item that changed was the rainfall and the hydrodynamics because the year of the data changed from 1988 to 2003.

It was noted that the City of Paterson is doing their own TMDL for CSOs above the Dundee Dam.

The PWG would like to see the maps that HydroQual generated without the CSOs.

Key decisions need to be made in regards to loadings and the baseline.

Things that need to be done:

- Explanation and expectation of rainfall analysis (Charlie Dujardin, HydroQual)
- JFK Data for 1988 & 2003 (Charlie Dujardin, HydroQual)
- CSO Guidance sent out to PWG (Jim Olander, EPA)
- Stormwater Model Analysis Only- no CSOs (Charlie Dujardin, HydroQual)
- 30-day Maximum Compared to 2003 Charlie Dujardin, HydroQual)

Attendees

Ali Chase, NRDC, 212-727-4557
Anne Witt, NJDEP, 609-633-1166
Bob Nyman, US EPA - HEP, 212-637-3809
Boris Rukovets, IEC, 212-582-0380
Brian J. Mitchell, IEC, 212-582-0380
Cathy Yuhás, NJSG/HEP, 212-637-3792
Charles Dujardin, HydroQual, Inc., 201-529-5151 ext. 7129
Chris J. Villari, NYCDEP, 718-595-5565
Dan Zeppenfeld, NJDEP, 609-292-5563
Jim Olander, US EPA, 212-637-3833
Keith Mahoney, NYCDEP, 718-595-5972
Marco Al-Ebus, NJDEP, 609-292-1860
Mick DeGrave, GLEC/NJHDG, 231-941-2230
Peter L. Sattler, IEC, 212-582-0380
Philip O'Brien, NYSDEC, 518-402-8237
Steve Su, Exponent, 973-879-9866