



New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

HEP Pathogen Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2004

Hudson River Foundation

10am-2pm

TMDL Development Process and Products

Charlie Dujardin of Hydroqual presented the development of NY-NJ Harbor Pathogen TMDLs to the Pathogen Work Group (PWG). There was review of pathogen recreational standards as well as shellfish standards. It was noted that water quality standards drive TMDLs not beach standards. The development of baseline conditions were discussed and noted that New York and New Jersey need to decide on the baseline, the basecase, and standards for TMDLs. Another discussion item for the two states is how the model is going to be used. The development of TMDL targets was discussed and it was noted that waterbody classifications is also another issue that needs to be defined by the states. Another discussion item for the PWG was how do you do a WLA as a required reduction for a TMDL. A summary of key issues for discussion that was presented to the group were (1) define classifications and uses, (2) define targets, (3) define areas of non-compliance, (4) establish ground-rules, such as percent reductions by source, waterbody, and jurisdiction; target largest sources; and cost sharing; and (5) feasibility of implementation. The PWG will develop the draft TMDL and then hand it over to the states. The PWG also needs to work on the public participation part as well as coming up with recommendations that should be presented to the HEP Management Committee.

Status of Pathogen Model

Charlie Dujardin of Hydroqual gave the status of the Pathogens model. Currently they are working on completing the calibration of the model to determine the loads using IEC data from 2001-2003 and the NYC Harbor Survey data. There is a sufficient amount of data. In NJ to fill data gaps data will be transferred from known locations to other locations. Preliminary results will be available by June. The data collection that is currently underway by IEC, NYCDEP, and NJHDG will be completed by August. The model should be calibrated by the fall (September or October). Component runs should be conducted by the end of the year. After the component runs are completed PWG can decide how to do the WLA, which will probably be 6 months into the new year (2005).

Data Assessment

Discussion item: how to classify segments that show attainment and non-attainment. Antony Tseng from EPA has been corresponding with his counterpart at EPA-HQ about this. There has not been an answer to this issue as of yet.

Enterococcus Standard Update

Jim Olander from EPA has been talking to Wayne Jackson of EPA about the enterococcus standard. EPA has sent out a letter stating that they would promulgate states that have not implemented the new enterococcus standard. On June 30th, EPA will publish this proposal. NYSDOH's proposal to sample for enterococcus at NYC beaches does not give NYSDEC the right to regulate water quality standards on enterococcus. NJDEP received a letter from EPA about acceptability of NJ's enterococcus standard. Preliminary review indicates that the standard meets the requirement of the BEACH Act. The new BEACH Act standard will be reviewed between 2007-2009 by EPA through an epidemiological study.

NY-NJ Harbor Sampling Effort Update

Three QAPPs were submitted for the split sampling by IEC, NYCDEP, and NJHDG. NJHDG submitted a QAPP for the POTW sampling and NYCDEP submitted a QAPP for the stormwater sampling. The NYCDEP and NJHDG are missing information for the POTW and stormwater samplings that is needed before they can submit a QAPP. Russell Arnone from EPA-ORD has found a research project at University of Georgia in which they compared MPN and MF. This study has not been peer reviewed yet. They found that MPN had the lowest greatest false positives (12%) compared to MF (18%), and entero alert (37%). They were looking at false positives in relation to turbidity. This study was being conducted in brackish waters. Antony Tseng also found another study on the west coast that compared the two methods.

Next PWG Meeting: July 29, 2004, This meeting has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for sometime time in August or September.

Attendees

Anne Witt, NJDEP
Antony Tseng, EPA – TMDL
Bob Nyman, US EPA - HEP
Boris Rukovets, IEC
Brian J. Mitchell, IEC
Bridget McKenna, PVSC/NJHDG
Carol Hoffman, NYSDEC
Cathy Yuhas, NJS/HEP
Charles Dujardin, HydroQual, Inc.
Chris Mallery, USACE
Chris J. Villari, NYCDEP
Dan Zeppenfeld, NJDEP
Eric Feerst, NJDEP
Jim Olander, US EPA
John St. John, HydroQual, Inc.
Kevin O'Brien, Hazen and Sawyer
Kimberly Cenno, NJDEP
Mick DeGraves, GLEC/NJHDG
Peter L. Sattler, IEC
Philip O'Brien, NYSDEC
Russell Arnone, US EPA
Steve Su, Exponent
Veronica Craw, PVSC
Virginia Loftin, NJDEP