



**New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
TOXICS WORK GROUP
Meeting Minutes
Sept 22, 1999 @ Hudson River Foundation**

(DRAFT Oct 6, 1999)

The Toxics Work Group (TWG) was convened at 10:15 am by Bob Nyman. Tom Belton called to say he had trouble with his car on the way to the station and would not be able to attend.

The minutes from the previous meeting were handed out and comments were requested within one week.

Richard Podolsky of the New York Academy of Sciences then gave a presentation on his Industrial Ecology project that is currently being funded by EPA and the Port Authority. He said that in the development of the project, the NYAS was asked to look at Pollution Prevention (P2) and industrial ecology in the Harbor area. Dr. Podolsky said they were looking for buy-in from a broad range of interests and is seeking to form a consortium. The definition of Industrial Ecology is “the multi disciplinary field that focuses on the study of industrial and economic systems and their relationships with fundamental natural systems.” It is mostly being practiced within individual companies and can result in keeping contaminants within the walls of the company.

He said that we need to be in a preemptive mode to anticipate future new toxic sources. The first meeting of the consortium is planned for the end of October and will be focusing on mercury first. Future contaminants could include PCBs and other toxics. It was noted that the NJ petroleum industry needed to be represented on the consortium. Dr. Podolsky continued his presentation on potential sources of contamination. Jim Lodge noted that dredging activity is probably not a source and will send papers that support that. Scott Douglas added that he dredging is better characterized as a mechanism of transporting contaminants, rather than a source. He continued that we need to be cautious about how dredging is presented to the public and that there is a difference between maintenance, construction, and remediation dredging. It was noted that Mike Polermo of WES is a sediment transport expert that can be consulted. Dick Draper added that when balancing economics with the environment, we need to be as inclusive as possible to present a fair assessment. Mark Reiss said that the handout provided to the group and that was sent to local politicians is presuming dredging is a big problem. He added that we need to be cautious about misconceptions. Scott Douglas said that funds for remediation will

come from industry and that the economics of development are tied to environmental restoration. Art Newell asked what EPAs intent is for the project. Copies of the EPA agreement will be distributed to interested parties. EPA is contributing \$300k towards the project and the Port Authority is contributing \$50k.

3. Art Newell then reviewed the discussion at the last TWG meeting regarding cadmium and distributed a memo to Ed Horn at the NYS Department of Health. Mr. Newell said he has not heard back from Mr. Horn yet. DEC had developed some new data on consumption rates and clam sizes, but noted that there was no data available on depuration levels of toxics in hard clams. Dick Draper asked if the Skinner biota samples represent the whole harbor. Mr. Newell responded that not all species are represented in all zones for sampling.

4. Gary Buchanan of NJDEP distributed a handout and lead a discussion on lead. He said that the majority of sediments could be having impacts, with 54% of them exceeding the ERM values. He added that bioaccumulation may be of concern for lead in sediments. Lead is currently not on the NY or NJ CARP list of analytes. **The TWG recommends keeping both Pb and Cd on those lists. Joel Pechioli said he would look into having it added to the NJ list. Peter Jones said he would discuss Pb and Tetrachloroethylene being on the list with Italo C.**

Alan Stubin said he would provide a reference for tetrachloroethylene. Mr. Stubin added that if EPA requested that Tetrachloroethylene be sampled for in the NYC Harbor Survey, they would likely do it. Bridget McKenna said she may be able to provide information from the Harbor Dischargers for the same compound.

5. Regarding the NJ list of pesticide analytes, Mr. Pechioli said the HEP list is included on the CARP list. He added that he received no comments as to why others were included on the CARP list.

6. The TWG had considerable discussion about the draft Table of Parameters of Concern and how it should be modified based on discussions and materials from previous meetings. It was decided that the table would be simplified and that the “other” column would be removed. Footnote was removed. The footnote for the “sediment” column will simply state “The TWG is still working on the Sediments column”. All parameters will be represented by open circles, and lead, DDT and dieldrin will be added because of comparison of dredged material with EPA guidance values. Mercury and PAHs were removed from the sediment column???

The open circle footnote will now read, “These parameters represent exceedances of unenforceable criteria (i.e. published USEPA criteria or other criteria or screening values such as USEPA tissue concentrations) and are recommended for continued study, but not recommended for the TMDL process at this time.”

The closed circle footnote will now read, “These parameters represent exceedances of enforceable standards (i.e. state water quality standards, New York State water quality guidance

values, USEPA Toxics Rule criteria and USFDA action levels and state advisory levels for tissue) and are recommended for consideration in the TMDL process.”

Bob Nyman agreed to provide additional text to attach to the list in the form of brief summaries of the reports, etc that state the rationale for adding or removing compounds from the list.

7. Gary Buchanan said that preliminary sediment assessment is focusing on Newark Bay and that TIEs may be available in 6 months. Scott Douglas added that some pore water data may be available from the Port Authority. Mark Reiss said that he was willing to begin working on a TIE workshop with HRF for the Spring.

Mick DeGraeve said that sediment quality criteria will be available soon for selected toxics. He suggested that we invite Jennifer Mitchell of EPA HQ to the next TWG meeting to discuss the Biotic Ligand Model. Bob Nyman will follow-up with her. He also suggested that Mary Reilly or Heidi Bell of EPA HQ come to discuss sediment quality criteria.

It was suggested that the group needs to think about how to use the REMAP data. It was also suggested that a report out from the dredging criteria WG was needed.

The next meeting will be scheduled for during the first two weeks of November.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.