



Toxic Contaminants Workgroup

Full Workgroup Meeting

April 8, 2015

1pm - 4pm

Action Items:

- If you are interested in being an external review of the USGS EDC project plan or if you know of anyone else who the team could partner with, please email Kelly Smalling (ksmall@usgs.gov).
- If you know of other reports or activities related to issues on diversity and toxic contaminants (e.g., subsistence fishing and fish consumption advisories), please send information to Samantha Watterson (watterson.samantha@epa.gov).
- Anyone able to support the Policy and Prevention reorganization, please email Greg Allen (allen.greg@epa.gov). He will email you with information regarding an upcoming meeting (likely Thursday, April 16).
- **Next meeting:** May 13, 1pm-4pm.

Meeting Summary:

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Updates on Activity Since March Meeting

Greg Allen, EPA

- TCW submitted two proposals for STAC sponsored workshops. STAC expects to make a final decision later this week or next week.
- A group of mercury experts recently formed a group to collaborate. In the future, the TCW would like to maintain contact with this group and pursue opportunities to collaborate.

II. USGS EDC Project Overview and Input on Project Plan

Kelly Smalling, USGS

- USGS has developed a plan to address endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Kelly Smalling, USGS, provided an overview of the USGS EDC Chesapeake Plan.
- Outcomes of the project include: a synthesis of historical information in a searchable integrated database and a comprehensive review of EDC effects on wildlife.
- This information will be useful in the process of adaptive management and informing management actions which will improve water quality and health of fish and wildlife in the Chesapeake watershed.
- The plan is about to go out to external colleague review, and be will finalized within the next year. The team is interested in engaging others from the Chesapeake Bay community in their review of the plan.
- **Action:** If you are interested in being an external review of the USGS EDC project plan or if you know of anyone else who the team could partner with, please email Kelly Smalling (ksmall@usgs.gov).

Materials:

III. Discussion of Potential Projects for EPA FY15 Funding

Greg Allen

- Each year, EPA allocates funds to the Bay Program Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) to use for projects relevant to their current work. In FY14, the majority of funds were distributed through a grant-making organization. Other projects were funded through interagency agreements and a contract. The total amount of funds distributed was \$862,000. An RFP for a grant-making organization to administer the funds in FY15 is currently available at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region3/chesapeake/grants.htm>.
- Grants will be in place by the August/September timeframe. The TCW needs to know what projects they will be putting forward by July.

Materials:

III.a. – FY15 GIT Funding Summary

IV. Discussion Fish Consumption and Diversity

Jim Edward, Shanita Brown, and Reggie Parrish, EPA and Diversity Action Team

- In many of the urban areas of the watershed, there are high numbers of fish consumption advisories.
- Jim Edward, EPA, led a brainstorming session of potential collaboration opportunities between the TCW and the Diversity Action Team, including a joint project related to raising awareness of fish consumption advisories in diverse and underrepresented communities across the watershed.
- The Diversity Action Team plans to provide written comments on the toxics management strategies, emphasizing language on targeting urbanized areas and utilizing EPA's new tool, "EJ Screen."
- There are innovative programs in place that we can use as examples and improve on. Examples of innovation in our area include the Wide Net Project and social marketing research for changing anglers' thoughts on fish consumption advisories.
- The National Park Service National Capital Region is doing a fishing ethnography study this summer along the Anacostia and will look at the languages spoken by subsistence fishermen along the Anacostia, where they are fishing, when they are fishing, and what they are catching. This information will be used to target the messaging to these fishing populations. For more information about this project, contact Marian Norris, NPS (marrian_norris@nps.gov).
- **Action:** If you know of other reports or activities related to issues on diversity and toxic contaminants (e.g., subsistence fishing and fish consumption advisories), please send information to Samantha Watterson (watterson.samantha@epa.gov).

Materials:

IV.a. - Wide Net Project

IV.b. - Addressing the Risk

V. Overview of EPA Reassessment of PCB Use Authorizations

Tom Simons and Peter Gimlin, EPA Headquarters

- Tom Simons and Peter Gimlin, EPA Headquarters, provided updates on potential upcoming changes TSCA regulations related to use of PCBs in the environment. Issues being addressed include:
 - The grandfathered use of PCBs through old equipment. This equipment has not been phased out as quickly as was anticipated. The number one priority is to set a phase out date of that equipment.

- Fluorescent light ballasts in buildings. The Department of Energy has some rules that will force them out in the next 10 years, and EPA is considering banning them through TSCA.
- Changes to natural gas pipeline regulations in instances where PCBs are a contaminant.
- Currently, EPA is conducting the final economic analysis and will issue a proposed rule at the end of this year or early next year. There will be a 30-90 public comment period. A final rule could take place 2-3 years after the public comment period.
- Tom offered to be involved in future TCW efforts focused on voluntary phase-out of PCB-containing electrical equipment.
- Contact information: Tom Simons (simons.tom@epa.gov, 202-566-0517) and Peter Gimlin (gimlin.peter@epa.gov, 202-566-0515)

VI. Planning for PCB Reorganization

Greg Allen

- There were several comments that the way the strategy was organized by loading mechanism was not an effective way to organize the document. The proposed new construct for organizing the management approaches section includes four categories: regulatory, voluntary, education and awareness, and science.
- The new construct was supported by workgroup members. A meeting was suggested to have volunteers look further at revisions to the structure and content of the strategy. Workgroup member volunteers: Chris French, LJ Ingram, Tanya Spano, Mark Richards, Jamie Mitchell.
- **Action:** Anyone able to support the Policy and Prevention reorganization, please email Greg Allen (allen.greg@epa.gov). He will email you with information regarding an upcoming meeting (likely Thursday, April 16).

Materials:

VI.a. - Policy and Prevention management strategy (Public Input version)

VI.b. - Categories for Use in PCB Management Approaches

VI.c. - Summary of Activity Types

VII. Next Steps and Planning for May Meeting

Scott Phillips, USGS

- Next meeting: Mar 13, 1pm-4pm.
- At the next meeting we will plan to look at the public comments received and discuss how to address them. Our goal will be to bring comments that need workgroup discussion to this meeting.
- We will also plan to provide an update from the Mercury meeting held in March.

Next Meeting: May 13, 1pm-4pm.

Attendance:

Greg Allen, EPA

Scott Phillips, USGS

Samantha Watterson, CRC

Mark Richards, VA DEQ

Marel King, CBC

John Schneider, DE DNRC

Kelly Smalling, USGS

Kathy Lee, USGS

Lorie Baker, EPA

Treda Grayson, EPA
Fred Pinkney, FWS
Dennis McMenamin, DHS
Ian Hartwell, NOAA
Ruth Berlin, MD Pesticide Network
Molly Clark, CBF
Lindsay Dodd, DE-MD Agribusiness
LJ Ingram, Chart LLC
Chris French, Contech Engineered Solutions LLC
Emily Russell, VCN
Bruce Michael, MD DNR
Len Schugam, MDE
Dev Murali, DDOE
Rod Kime, PA DEP
Marian Norris, NPS
Nick Corso, AXYS Analytical
Ann Swanson, CBC
Jamie Mitchell, HRSD
Don Smith, VA DEQ
Dave Montali, WV DEP
Jim Edward, EPA
Shanita Brown, EPA
Reggie Parrish, EPA
Dianne McNally, EPA
Upal Ghosh, UMBC
Tom Barron, PA DEP
Michelle Knabb, EPA
Lana Sindler, Wash COG
Tanya Spano, Wash COG
Jennie Gundersen, EPA