Toxic Contaminants Workgroup Overview of Strategy Components and Work Plan Public Comments

Water Quality Goal Team Meeting

March 14, 2016

Toxic Contaminants Workgroup
Overview of Research Strategy

- Information related to fish and shellfish consumption
  - Multiple contaminants effects
  - Mercury
  - Consider PCB mass balance
- Understand the influence of contaminants in degrading the health, and contributing to mortality, of fish and wildlife
  - Assess the effects of contaminants on fish and shell fish in tidal waters
  - Document fish health conditions in the Bay watershed
- Document the occurrence, concentrations, and sources of contaminants causing fish and wildlife degradation
  - Sources and occurrence of EDCs and other contaminant groups
- Assess the relative risk of contaminants, and options for mitigation, to inform policy and prevention
  - Develop approaches to assess the relative risk of contaminants
- Gather information on issues of emerging concern
  - Workshops to address contaminant toxicity to pollinators, and microplastics
  - Better delineate potential impacts of UOG activities.

Toxic Contaminants Workgroup
Overview of Policy and Prevention (PCBs) Strategy

- Regulatory Approaches
  - Monitoring
  - TMDL Implementation
  - Guidance
  - Targeting Tools
  - TMDL/permit coordination
  - New EPA Rule TSCA for PCB use phase-out
- Education and Awareness
  - Raise awareness on TMDL best practices (e.g., PMPs, track-down studies)
- Voluntary Programs
  - Voluntary phase-out of PCB equipment
- Science
  - Remove barriers to high-sensitivity monitoring
  - Multiple benefits of BMPs
  - Atmospheric inputs

Public Comments Received on Draft TCW Workplans

- Expand low level monitoring of PCBs. reducing PCBs in the environment is possible if monitoring includes low level detection of PCBs and pollution minimization plans are developed and implemented. Without monitoring information from industrial and regulated stormwater NPDES permit holders, it is not possible for TMDL programs to estimate loads. It does not appear, however, that the other states are committed to using low level detection methods.
- Strengthen the commitment to monitoring in NPDES permits, as this will allow the jurisdictions to develop strong PCB TMDLs, as well as enabling jurisdictions to take the necessary, and long overdue, actions to actually implement existing TMDLs.
- Federal government lead by example hazardous waste sites that have a history of PCB contamination, specific performance targets and good opportunity for the federal government to "lead by example" and commit to eliminating PCB transformers and other PCB sources on their properties.
- Propose STAC workshop to address contaminant toxicity to pollinators. The work plan contains a key action to propose a workshop to address contaminant toxicity to pollinators, but there is no associated performance target.