

March 26, 2003 Meeting of the Houston Ship Channel Dioxin TMDL Stakeholder Group

Stakeholders Present: Chris Barry, Winston Denton, Tracy Hester, Ed Matuszak, Ximena Simmons for Chris Sappington, Lial Tischler, Jack Wahlstrom, Bob Wood.

Stakeholders Absent: Henrietta Allen, Charles Beckman, Erwin Burden, Ronald Crabtree, Brad Ellis, Luke Giles, Guy Jackson, Pam Kroupa, Kristy Morten, Juan Parras, Linda Shead, Luis Sueiro, Chuck Wemple, John Westendorph, Kerry Whelan, Kirk Wiles.

Support Team Present: Michael Bloom, Linda Broach, Jennifer Davis, Kirk Dean, Larry Koenig, Carl Masterson, Mary Jane Naquin, Randy Palachek, Hanadi Rifai, Monica Suarez.

Others Present: Louis Brzuzy (Shell), Scott Jones (GBEP), Joe Phillips (Shell).

Aministrative Issues

The meeting for the Houston Ship Channel Dioxin TMDL Stakeholder Group was held from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL), 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, Texas 77058, Bayou Building, Forest Room. Carl Masterson opened the meeting, self-introductions were made and the meeting report for June 12, 2002 was accepted by the group.

TMDL Overview

Larry Koenig noted that this project is about half-way to its scheduled 5-year completion date. Sampling is half completed. The project will be switching to federal funds and that will involve EPA in the approval process for any Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

Project Status

Hanadi Rifai provided some background, noting that Parsons Engineering Science was conducting the sediment, water and tissue sampling and PBS&J was sampling storm water runoff. Dr. Rifai reviewed work that had been completed in Phase I and Phase II of the project. In **Phase I**, likely sources of dioxin were identified and historical data evaluated. The evaluation showed that little water quality data had been collected, limited sediment data was available and that the vast majority of tissue samples collected exceeded the EPA risk level. For **Phase II**, the tasks included identifying water quality targets, developing a Quality Assurance Project Plan, conduct dioxin monitoring and data collection in the Ship Channel, perform modeling of dioxin transport and estimating TMDL allocations. Conclusions drawn from the work completed under the first two phases include:

- More than 80% of the time total water concentrations exceed Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.

- 83% of sediment samples exceeded target values (currently no standard established).
- 96% of tissue samples exceeded health-based standard.
- Segment 1006 of the Houston Ship Channel showed the highest dioxin concentrations in water, sediment and fish. Segment 1005 had the highest levels in crab tissue.
- Samples collected in Summer 2002 showed concentrations (sediment and tissue) generally as high or higher than historical levels.

Future tasks include:

- In-stream water, sediment and tissue sampling in Spring 2003
- Continue ambient air quality sampling
- Wet/dry deposition sampling
- Modeling.

There is still ongoing analysis of industry sludge samples. Results of the analysis will determine which outfalls would be sampled for direct discharge of dioxin to the Ship Channel. Analysis should be complete in about two months. Air sampling stations were co-located at existing monitoring stations to sample ambient air and will be compared to data from other sites.

PCB TMDL

Larry Koenig had noted that PCB's were added to the QAPP sampling regime on the Ship Channel. TCEQ considers PCB's a legacy pollutant. There was much discussion about analysis of PCB's, primarily about the differences between measuring PCBs as Aroclors (former commercial products defined as suites of specific congeners in specific statistical distributions) versus measuring all 209 individual congeners. All water quality standards are based on analyses of Aroclors; comparison of those standards to measurements of all 209 congeners require some method of translation.

Wrap-up

The technical team will put the slides on CD and deliver it with the report to H-GAC to be placed on the TMDL web page at H-GAC. Stakeholders were asked to submit comments, corrections, etc. to Dr. Rifai.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6 PM.