

**HUDSON RIVER PCB REASSESSMENT
COMMUNITY INTERACTION PROGRAM**

**SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1991
1:00 P.M.
LATHAM, NEW YORK**

MINUTES

The Hudson River PCB Reassessment Science and Technical Committee held its initial meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 1991 in the Holiday Inn in Latham, New York. The meeting began at approximately 1:00 P.M. and was attended by the following:

Douglas Tomchuk - Project Manager, U.S. EPA, Region 2
Ann Rychlenski - Community Relations coordinator, U.S. EPA, Region 2
Albert DiBernardo - TAMS Consultants, Inc. (EPA's Contractor)
Dana E. Low - TAMS Consultants, Inc.
Lyle H. Hixenbaugh - TAMS Consultants, Inc.
Neil Shifrin - Gradient Corporation
Daniel Abramowicz - General Electric Company
Donald Aulenbach - Professor, RPI (formerly)
Richard Bopp - NYSDEC
Brian Bush - NYSDOH
Kenneth Darmer - Hydrologist
John Davis - NY Attorney General's Office
Anne Secord - U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Kenneth Finkelstein - NOAA
Nancy Kim - NYSDOH
Tyler Maddry - Legislative Assistant
George Putnam - SUNY - Albany
G-Yull Rhee - NYSDOH
Francis Reilly - Waterways Experiment Station

In addition, a number of observers attended the meeting, including William Ports, Fred Woodward, Ray Lupe, and Mary Werner, NYSDEC; and Robert Montione, NYSDOH.

The meeting was opened by Douglas Tomchuk, EPA Project Manager, who welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the site history and the reasons for conducting the Reassessment RI/FS. In addition, he stated the role of the Scientific and Technical Committee for the reassessment and its relationship to the Hudson River Oversight Committee.

The various Committee members introduced themselves, indicating their affiliations and specific interests in the project.

Albert DiBernardo, Project Manager for TAMS Consultants, Inc. (EPA's Contractor), provided an overview of the Scope of Work, Phase I Work Plan and the CERCLA RI/FS process. He stated that the work is to be performed in three phases, namely: Phase I - Preliminary Reassessment; Phase 2 - Further Sampling and Analysis; Phase 3 - Feasibility Study. Mr. DiBernardo provided a formal presentation of the work to be performed in each phase; copies of the overheads presented at the meeting are attached to these minutes.

A brief synopsis of the comments and questions raised by the members is presented in the following sections.

Date Gathering and Analysis

There was general agreement that sufficient efforts were being made during Phase I to collect and interpret the data collected on the project in previous years. Brian Bush and Richard Bopp offered additional data which had not previously been provided to EPA. In addition, Robert Montione will provide data for contamination north of Baker's Falls and Glens Falls and monitoring data at the remnants.

There was general agreement that there are gaps in the existing data, and that additional data would be necessary to further define PCB distribution and loading as well as the types of PCBs and biological activities occurring in the sediment. There was some concern raised that there may not be sufficient time in the EPA schedule to meet the sampling needs for the project, and that the quality of the data may be jeopardized by the time constraint (EPA schedule calls for completion in August, 1992).

Modeling

There was broad concern over the use of computer models to predict sediment transport and bioaccumulation in fish. It was mentioned that over one million dollars was spent to model the New Bedford Harbor PCB site with only limited success. The key factors in modeling are the relationships between fish, water, and sediments. It was mentioned that empirical statistical models will be developed with the existing data during Phase I. Francis Reilly indicated that the U. S. Army's Waterways Experiment Station has numerous sediment transport models available for use.

General Electric has contracted HydroQual to perform modelling of the Upper Hudson River which is planned to be more extensive than the work proposed in the Phase I Work Plan.

Risk Assessments

It was recommended that an Ecological Assessment of the lower river be performed during Phase I. EPA indicated that this would be performed in a later phase of the project, if warranted.

There was some concern over performing a human health risk assessment for the upper river during Phase I since it will be performed on old data and before the GE-sponsored

liver tissue reread project is complete. There was some feeling that premature reporting of the risks could diminish scientific credibility. EPA indicated that the risk assessment will be qualified to indicate the uncertainties at this time with the risk calculations.

It was recommended that direct contact routes such as dermal and inhalation exposures be considered in the human health assessment.

It was agreed that an overview of previous risk assessment studies would be included in the Phase I report.

Other Issues/Concerns

Other issues and concerns addressed at the meeting included:

- 1) It was mentioned that TAMS Consultants, Inc. plans to use Lamont-Doherty and Richard Bopp to assist in the sediment sampling testing, and interpretation of results. Dr. Bopp indicated that he would make available archived samples for General Electric's use.
- 2) The main focus of this project from a risk assessment and cleanup standpoint will be PCBs. Other chemicals will be considered as appropriate.
- 3) Ciba-Geigy is currently negotiating a Consent Decree to perform an RI/FS at their facility. It is uncertain as to whether their study will consider contaminants in the river sediments.
- 4) Some concern was expressed about not including the NYSDOT dredge spoil sites in this reassessment.
- 5) Daniel Abramowicz elaborated on the in-river aerobic treatment study planned at the H-7 site this summer, and a separate anaerobic in-river study proposed for 1992. He mentioned that there were problems and delays in getting the necessary TSCA permit for the 1991 study. He will provide EPA with a narrative of the proposed 1992 study.
- 6) Administrative - EPA issued a letter to the members providing instructions for submitting meeting expenses to TAMS. EPA, through TAMS, will pay for all reasonable expenses in accordance with the April 1991 travel regulations.

At the completion of the technical discussion, Ms. Ann Rychlenski, EPA's Community Relations Coordinator for the site, conducted elections for Chair and Co-Chair of the Science and Technical Committee. The members voted Dr. Daniel Abramowicz and Dr. Richard Bopp as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively.

Mr. Douglas Tomchuk adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:00 P.M.