

James River and Elizabeth River PCB Water Quality Study Update  
 DEQ Public Information Meeting

March 25, 2014

Please Sign In

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**DEQ Public Informational Meeting**  
**Elizabeth and James Rivers and Tributaries**  
**Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Water Quality Study Update**

March 25, 2014  
Meeting Notes

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**Location:** VADEQ-Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**Start:** 10:00 AM  
**End:** 12:00 PM

**Meeting Attendees:** Shelly Frie-CH2M Hill; Weston Young-Hampton; Ashley Hall-VDOT/EEE Consulting; Susan Herbert-Arcadis; Joe Rieger-ERP; Geoff Hinshelwood-Universal Lab; Donna Watkins-GD NASSCO-Norfolk; Mike Barbachem-URS Corp; Pam Daughety-GE Mobile; Tausha Fanslau-O'Brien & Gere; Frank Thorn-Newport News Shipbuilding; Bridget Ward-VDOT/EEE Consulting; Justin Shafer-Norfolk; David Kuzma-Newport News; Tara Fisher-Chesapeake; Dan Terry-Lyon Shipyard; Tom Beacham-Lyon Shipyard; LJ Hansen-Suffolk; Ed Heide-Suffolk; Michael Johnson-NNSY; Chris Burbage-HRSD; Danny Barker-HRSD; Bill Hancock-DD Jones; Kyle Madden-Newport News Shipbuilding; Michael Ewing-BAE Systems; Steve Bulleigh-BAE Systems; Graham Reid-Kerneos Inc; Frank Wheatley-Colonnas SY; Jenny Tribo-HRPDC; Charles Cahoon-NASSCO Earl Industries; Paul Contrado-Norfolk Southern; William Johnston-Virginia Beach; Jamie Brunkow-James River Assoc.; Barbara Brumbaugh-Chesapeake; Melinda Woodruff-DEQ-TRO; Deanna Austin-DEQ-TRO; Mark Sauer-DEQ-TRO; Carl Thomas-DEQ-TRO; Bob Smithson-DEQ-TRO; Loan Pham-DEQ-TRO; Debra Thompson-DEQ-TRO; Jian Shen-VIMS; Mac Sisson-VIMS; Mark Richards-VADEQ-CO; Roger Everton-VADEQ-TRO; Jennifer Howell-VADEQ-TRO

The purpose of the meeting was to update stakeholders within the tidal James River and Elizabeth River watersheds on the status of the PCB TMDL project. Since the last public meeting in 2011, DEQ has acquired more fish tissue, sediment, and water quality data. The VDH fish consumption advisory and DEQ's fish tissue monitoring were reviewed. The advisory is based on data from fish species collected, so not every type of fish is covered in the advisory. Fish tissue and sediment data collected in 2012 show a decrease in the mean total PCB concentration in most fish species when compared with 1997-2005 data. The reason for the decrease is not fully known, but can be suspected as sensitivity and lumping samples during analysis. Also, even though there is a downward trend, the change is not statistically significant and the concentration still remains quite high. 68 ambient water quality samples were collected from 193 sites in the James River and Elizabeth River from 2009 through 2013 before and after rain events. These data will be used in source identification, assist with the development of potential site-specific endpoints, and in the fate and transport model.

The next topics covered were the PCB background information and the development of the TMDL, which included all of the suspected sources of the pollutant in the watershed. Then, an update to the source investigation was given. Along with ambient and sediment samples taken in the Rivers, other data sources include sampling from MS4s, CSOs, municipal point sources and industrial point sources. A study with the HRPDC has been proposed to collect MS4 samples across the Hampton Roads region and will consider representative landuses within the watershed. It was noted that a fairly high PCB concentration was found in forested land, which would be considered not contaminated. Sediment reduction and filtration BMPs have shown some success in the Northeast.

A recently developed Guidance document ('Procedures for reviewing and deriving total PCB concentrations from samples analyzed using low-level PCB method 1668 to be used in the development and implementation of TMDLs'). The objective of this guidance is to provide an approach to 1) review PCB results to ensure the data meet analytical requirements of the method and specific decision rules included in TMDL GM No. 09-2001 and 2) to calculate an appropriate tPCB concentration from applicable data sets.

All available data for known/documented contaminated sites is being compiled. Such sites include military installations, landfills, RCRA corrective action and voluntary remediation areas. The areas are to be digitized so they can be easily seen the location within the watersheds. Loads will have to be estimated and a model used to determine the load from runoff on contaminated sites.

Finally, a project timeline was reviewed. All monitoring has been completed through 2013. Over the next year, all of the model components will be finalized. Steps will be calculating the baseline from point source loads, estimate load from contaminated sites, and an estimate load from atmospheric deposition. By early to mid-2015, a draft TMDL report should be submitted for review and a series of public meetings will be held. Other informational/TAC meetings may be scheduled as necessary.

A copy of the presentation from the meeting as well as previous meeting information is located at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DocumentationforSelectTMDLs.aspx>