

# Report of the Stream Criteria Subcommittee

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# Considerations for TEC

1. Set of issues Stream Criteria Subcommittee recommending to move forward for 2015 PCS review.
2. Use of \$40,000 SEP funds for nutrient criteria development.

# Initial Set of 2015 PCS Issues

- Total Mercury water quality (WQ) criterion (0.012  $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
  - Look at magnitude & frequency of exceedance.
  - Rationale:
    - USEPA dropped WQ criterion.
    - Ohio River states have different or no criterion.
    - Criterion is to protect against long-term bioaccumulation in fish while written as “never to exceed.”
- \*\*\*Subcommittee did not consider this but may want to review frequency of exceedance for all criteria in the standards.

# 2015 PCS Issues (cont.)

- *E. coli* bacteria (130/100 mL 90-day geo mean, 25% not to exceed 240/100 mL).
  - Current criterion based on USEPA original “BEACHES” proposal that they did not adopt.
  - Less stringent than states & USEPA; not useful.
- Human Health Temperature Criterion (110 deg F)
  - Need to determine where it is applicable.
    - Criterion is located in section that indicates “applicable outside the mixing zone.”
    - Criterion indicates it “applies where public access is possible.”
    - These two conditions can conflict with each other.

# 2015 PCS Issues (cont.)

- Ammonia Criteria
  - USEPA has promulgated new criteria based on mollusk toxicity.
  - Consider its applicability to Ohio River.
- Evaluate appropriateness of mixing zone prohibition to Ohio River.
  - Developed for Great Lakes due to concern for “hot spots” in waterbodies with very long retention times.
- Nutrients Criteria (continued next slide)

# Numeric Nutrient Criteria

- Received \$40,000 WV SEP funding.
- Targeted for use in Ohio River nutrient criteria development.
- USEPA HQ providing increased support to states.
- Attended Region 5/HQ RTAG last week – they will be repeating this in all the regions in 2014.
- EPA HQ has offered ORSANCO data assessment support.
- Recent development of macroinvertebrate index and assessment of macroinvertebrate data with nutrients may have some promise.

# Numeric Nutrients Criteria (cont.)

- Asked for input at Region 5/HQ RTAG meeting.
- Suggestions included:
  - First develop conceptual model.
  - Remote sensing for chl-a (and possibly temp).
    - Would do this on past algae blooms.
  - Modeling.
  - Development criteria based on downstream uses.
    - Recommended reductions for Gulf of Mexico hypoxia.

# Numeric Nutrients Criteria (cont.)

- Staff Recommendation to TEC:
  - Staff conduct more intensive assessment of macroinvertebrate data.
  - Work with EPA HQ on additional data assessments and development of conceptual model.
  - Participate in Region 3/HQ nutrients RTAG.
- Provide recommendation to TEC on use of SEP funds in Oct. 2014.



# USEPA's Proposed Standards Regulation Revisions

- Committee reviewed and discussed EPA's proposed revisions.
- Also reviewed ACWA's proposed comment letter to EPA.
- Committee felt that ACWA's comments covered everything that the committee would want to comment on.
- Since states and ORSANCO are members of ACWA, felt that additional comment letter was unnecessary.



QUESTIONS?