

# Program Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2011

ORSANCO Technical  
Programs



# Wet Weather

## - Vision

- Continue to pursue development of wet weather standards by addressing the issues raised regarding exposure and risk.



# Wet Weather

## - Program Recommendations

- ***Complete Recreational Use Survey.***
- ***Develop approach and materials for public education.***
- ***Hold public workshops to present results of recreational use study and to educate the public on wet weather standards.***
- ***Continue to participate in national dialogue on pathogen criteria.***
- ***Compile comprehensive inventory of stormwater permittees/discharges.***



# Monitoring

- Adjust monitoring programs to include all parameters regulated in the Commission Standards.
- *Prepare a list of parameters, including any included in state water quality standards that are not in the Commission Standards.*
- *Convene Monitoring Strategy Subcommittee to address this list through adjustments to current Strategy.*



# Additional Monitoring Recommendations

- **Add *Enterococcus* including QPCR to routine pathogen monitoring.**
- **Extend routine pathogen monitoring into the winter months.**
- **Investigate the need for increased dissolved solids/ conductivity monitoring.**
- **Extend algae monitoring (and nutrients) to additional water utilities. Investigate cost-sharing with utilities.**
- **Investigate remote sensing capabilities for algae.**
- **Continue Smithland Dissolved Oxygen study this summer.**
- **Add temperature data summary to Quality Update.**
- **Monitor tributaries for Mercury.**



# Recommendations not accommodated in FY10 budget

- Add Enterococcus at all routine pathogen sites
- Pathogen monitoring in winter months
- Add sites to algae / nutrient monitoring program
- Mercury monitoring on tributaries



# Biological Criteria



## - Vision

- Finalize the development of a second indicator group, macroinvertebrates, including the development of an Index of Biological Integrity which would serve as the basis for setting numeric expectations. This effort should be completed in fy2011.
- Refine the assessment approach to allow for the use of multiple indicators and multiple lines of evidence when defining impaired condition.



# Biological Criteria

## - Program Recommendations

-  ***Complete assessments of four remaining pools.***
-  ***Additional recommendations from Biological Water Quality Subcommittee.***







# Emerging Contaminants Research - Vision

- Continue to network with regional and national planning committees and help shape research agendas in an attempt to cull the list of emerging contaminants and prioritize candidate constituents.
- Focus research efforts to include activities that would facilitate the incorporation of emerging contaminants into the standards development arena.




# Emerging Contaminants Research - Program Recommendations

-  ***Identify contact persons in each agency.***
-  ***Provide clearinghouse for information on agencies' efforts and related developments.***



# Basin Wide Assessment

## - Vision

-  Utilize existing and anticipated Ohio River Basin datasets to gain a better understanding of basin conditions, relate those conditions to Ohio River main stem issues, and coordinate with state agencies to address issues of mutual concern.



# Basin Wide Assessment

## - Program Recommendations

- ***Utilize data from National surveys to carry out an Ohio River Basin assessment.***
- ***Focus on Dissolved Solids, Chloride, Sulfate, particularly in watersheds of tributaries with identified problems.***
- ***Compile inventory of coal and fly ash impoundments ( as result of recent incident in Tennessee and also on Big Sandy).***
- ***Develop position on use of weight of evidence vs independent application in water quality assessments.***



# NPDES Permit Consistency

## - Vision

- Promote consistency in states' NPDES permit development through periodic review of states permitting schedules, use of water quality data for development of background concentrations, selection of pollutants for effluent limits, use of design flows and mixing zone calculations, and other factors affecting permits.
- Assess other areas of inconsistency among states utilizing the Commission protocol.



# NPDES Permit Consistency

## - Program Recommendations

- ***Compile states' schedules for issuance of Ohio River permits.***
- ***Discuss impacts of proposed revisions to ORSANCO Standards with NPDES Subcommittee.***
- ***Develop implementation guidance for new ammonia criterion.***



# CWA/SDWA Interaction

- Incorporate parameters that are regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act into ORSANCO monitoring programs to assure the Ohio River is available for safe and satisfactory use as public and industrial water supplies after reasonable treatment.
  - *Update list of contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act.*
  - *Provide input to review of ORSANCO Monitoring Strategy.*





# Minimum flow Relationships

■ Evaluate the impacts of climate change and increased consumptive water demand (from both surface and ground water withdraws) on Ohio River water resources as relates to established minimum flow requirements to satisfy the multiple uses of the Ohio River. In particular, consideration should be given to the impacts on the accuracy of established 7Q10 minimum flows and the minimum flow requirements necessary to maintain the required channel depth for commercial navigation. This evaluation should be addressed through joint modeling efforts by the Corps of Engineers, USGS, and the National Weather Service.

■ ***Improve understanding of the Corps' reservoir operations in order to better understand flows in the Ohio River.***





# Surface Water – Ground Water Interaction

- Study the interaction and connectivity between Ohio River surface and ground water quality and quantity to document the relationship and interdependence between these two resources. Once documented, an assessment will be undertaken to determine what impacts to these resources, if any, may be attributable to climate change and/or increased consumptive use.
- Assess the contributions of contaminated ground water to levels of legacy pollutants in the Ohio River.
  - ***Compile inventory of ground water monitoring wells.***



# Water Quality Improvement

- Develop a report and associated presentations to document water quality improvements in the Ohio River and its tributaries.

 ***Prepare a presentation based on available information.***

 ***Assess the costs and benefits of a more comprehensive analysis.***



# TMDLs

- Update inventory of states' 303(d) listings on the Ohio River and its interstate tributaries.
- Coordinate interstate source investigation of PCBs for the Beaver River watershed through Watershed Pollutant Reduction Program.
- Continue to work on issue of atmospheric deposition issue regarding PCBs and Mercury through Watershed Pollutant Reduction Program.
- Complete Watershed Pollutant Reduction Program report on occurrence, sources and needs to address Mercury.
- Complete Ohio River TMDLs for pathogens, PCBs, dioxins.
- Identify other TMDL needs and coordinate their development.





# Fish Tissue

- Develop protocols for consistent collection and interpretation of fish tissue data.
- Implement protocol in development of updated fish consumption advisories.
- Develop web site for Ohio River fish consumption information.





# Nutrient- Program Recommendations

-  ***Develop draft numerical criteria.***
-  ***Assess impacts of adoption of numerical criteria.***



# ***Nonpoint Sources***

-  ***Quantify loadings from nonpoint sources for pollutants of concern in the Ohio River.***
-  ***Revisit previous assessment of nonpoint sources; report on status of recommendations; identify priority activities.***



Others?

