

Agenda Item 8: Water Quality Assessments

2010 305b Report

- 2010 assessments approved by TEC & Commission at February meeting.
 - Aquatic life use not assessed due to differences in states approach to conflicting data, ie. Independent App vs. Weight of Evidence and PA's wish to use independent biological methods when completed.
 - Did describe what individual data sets indicate.
 - 2/3 river impaired for contact recreation.
 - No public water supply impairments.
 - Entire river impaired for PCBs & dioxin.
 - 800 miles impaired for mercury.

Last Minute Change

- IDEM had originally indicated they would list the Ohio River for Iron using Tier 1 value (not a codified criterion).
- Significant public push-back with draft 303d list, legal decision made that non-codified iron criterion won't be applied to listing decisions.
- As a result, the discussion in the aquatic life chapter will need to be revised.

Consideration by TEC

- No negative responses from state 305b Coordinators.
- Approve report conditionally with revisions to discussion on aquatic life regarding Indiana.

Independent Application Vs. Weight of Evidence Approach

- Feb meeting TEC directed staff to poll states on their Integrated Listing assessment approach, ie. Independent Application vs. Weight of Evidence.
- Send letter to EPA with an ORSANCO position on the issue.
- Clarify that we are considering situations when two independent data sets indicate different assessments when viewed alone.

Summary of States' Responses

- IL – Supports Weight of Evidence.
- IN – Independent Application (with exceptions for Ohio River where the collective decision is IA).
- KY – Weight of Evidence for non-priority pollutants & IA for priority pollutants.
- OH – Weight of Evidence.
- PA – Weight of Evidence.
- WV – Independent Application for different indicators. Weight of evidence when same pollutant conflicts, ie. mercury in water vs. mercury in fish.