

Report of the Technical Committee
199th Meeting
June 12-13, 2012

The Technical Committee met on Tuesday, June 12 and Wednesday, June 13. We had a full agenda however I am only reporting on items that resulted in recommendations to the Commission. Therefore, the Technical Committee offers the following recommendations to the Commission:

Fiscal Year 2013 ORSANCO Technical Programs

TEC endorses the fiscal year 2013 ORSANCO technical programs as agreed to at the Program and Finance Committee meeting and presented to the Technical Committee and documented in a Technical Committee agenda attachment.

The NPDES Subcommittee recommended, and TEC endorsed, adding a project to the FY13 program to analyze trends in Ohio River mercury levels in relation to discharges from flue gas desulfurization units (scrubbers) at coal fired power plants.

2012 Assessment of Ohio River Water Quality Conditions

The Technical Committee approved the report: 2012 Assessment of Ohio River Water Quality Conditions, otherwise known as the 305b Report as presented by staff and included with the agenda.

In the report, the entire river is assessed as fully attaining its aquatic life and public water supply uses. The entire river is designated as impaired for the fish consumption use due to levels of PCBs and dioxin, and additional work is needed to determine the minimum requirements for assessing the river based on fish tissue contaminants data (particularly regarding mercury at this time). Finally, approximately two-thirds of the river is impaired for the contact recreational use based on bacteria levels.

Pollution Control Standards

The Technical Committee received a report of the Pollution Control Standards Committee and endorses its recommendations regarding: 1) 2012 revisions to the Pollution Control Standards; 2) Development of a formal variance application and review process, and 3) Its preliminary decision regarding the PPG Industries, Natrium, WV variance request. The Committee received information that would lead us to anticipate receipt of additional requests for variance from the Commission's standards provision to prohibit mixing zones for bioaccumulative chemicals of concern.