

## **ORSANCO Technical Programs for FY2013**

### **Technical Committee Recommendations for FY2013**

At its February 2012 meeting, the Technical Committee adopted two recommendations on technical programs that should receive increased effort in FY2013:

- 1) Additional fish tissue mercury contaminants data is needed to support future 305b assessments.  
*Note: 16 additional fish tissue samples have been collected this year and \$20K in enforcement settlement monies from Kentucky has been earmarked for additional fish tissue samples in FY13.*
- 2) Development of a protocol for utilization of data from outside entities in Ohio River assessments, particularly regarding fish tissue contaminants data.  
*Note: Task included in FY2013 Assessment Programs.*

## **Proposed Program for FY2013**

### **Source Water Protection Programs/ODS/Emergency Response**

- Report on sampling frequency of ODS sites.
- Report detections of ODS to USEPA, USCG, States and drinking water utilities.
- Report information concerning potentially harmful spill events to drinking water utilities.
- Convene meetings of state and federal emergency response agencies.
- Operate volatile organics detection system (ODS) to protect drinking water utilities along the Ohio River and tributaries.
- Continue ODS renovation.
- Review NRC Incident reports 24/7/365 and report potentially harmful spill events to drinking water utilities.
- Maintain communications with state and federal water quality and emergency response personnel and facilitate multi-state/multi-agency/multi-regional communications.
- Maintain Commission spill response equipment in operational condition.
- Work with state response/enforcement agency personnel to receive monies from fines and settlements following spills and unauthorized releases to the Ohio River.

### **Water Quality Monitoring Programs**

- Operate Bimonthly Monitoring Program at 15 mainstem and 14 tributary stations.
- Operate Clean Metals Monitoring Program at 15 mainstem stations.
- Operate Contact Recreation Season Monitoring Program in 6 Ohio River CSO communities.
- Weekly interrogation of Dissolved Oxygen monitors.
- Methylmercury Bioaccumulation Study.
- FGD Discharge Monitoring Survey – 4 discharges, 2 events (Hg, MeHg, Se, Br, TDS).
- TDS Study – weekly monitoring at 11 mainstem and 5 tributary stations for one year (River Users Program).
- Wabash River Nutrient/Algae Monitoring Project – continuous monitoring and biweekly monitoring of algae, nutrients and chlorophyll a on Wabash River and at 2 Ohio River stations bracketing the Wabash River.

## **Biological Studies**

- Fish population studies of 4 pools (Emsworth, Pike Island, Meldahl, Newburgh) and 18 fixed stations.
- Macroinvertebrate surveys of 3 pools – Emsworth, Pike Island, Newburgh.
- Fish Tissue – routine monitoring 30 samples; 40 additional samples along KY border for mercury (KY enforcement funds).
- Mobile Aquarium ~ 8 events.
- Develop written reports of pool surveys.
- Continued development of fish, macroinvertebrate, and periphyton numeric indices.
- Support states' development and issuance of fish consumption advisories.
- Publish results of EMAP-GRE Cooperative Agreement.
- Participate/assist in USEPA's National Rivers & Streams Assessment
  - Data analysis/condition assessments utilizing 2008-09 survey results.
  - Development of indicators for 2013-14 survey.
  - Participate in Spring 2013 sampling (to be determined).

## **Assessment Programs**

- 305b – Develop protocol for utilization of data from outside entities in assessments and minimum data requirements for fish consumption use assessments.
- TMDLs
  - Two rounds bacteria sampling on 37 tributaries.
  - Provide support for development of river-wide bacteria TMDL as necessary.
  - Maintain TMDL website. Convene TMDL Workgroup.
- Integrated Pool Surveys – continued effort to integrate water quality with biological data.

## **Standards Programs**

- Complete 2012 revisions of Pollution Control Standards.
- Continue development of Variance Application and Review Process.
- Initiate public review process for PPG variance application if directed by Commission.
- Review NPDES permits for adherence to the Commission's standards.
- Complete annual review of Ohio River discharger compliance, CSO and stormwater abatement reports.

## **Water Resources**

- Convene three meetings of the Water Resources Committee.
- Complete resource characterization study and report on agencies' management and regulation of water resources in the Ohio Basin. Complete grant status reports.

## **Algae/Nutrients**

- Algae/nutrients monitoring at seven locations twice per month.
- Continued development of numeric nutrient criteria; convene expert panel.
- Respond to algal blooms and occurrence of low dissolved oxygen as necessary.
- Monitoring at Myers and Smithland (listed under Wabash Study).

## **Trading**

- Continue to support EPRI study.
- Continued development of trading program and 4 pilot trades.
- Evaluate appropriate role for ORSANCO in Ohio Basin trading.

- Continued participation in Gulf of Mexico Task Force.

### **Support of Workgroups and Advisory Committees**

- Advisory Committees – Water Users, POTW, PIAC, PIACO, POTW.
- Commission Committees – Research, River Users, Standards, Technical, Water Quality Review.
- Committees/Workgroups – 305b, Biological, Fish Consumption, Monitoring Strategy, NPDES.

### **Additional FY2012 106-Funded Projects**

- Broad scan of unmonitored parameters for which the Commission has water quality criteria – one high flow and one low flow survey at an upper, middle and lower river monitoring station for ~120 parameters.
- Pilot mussel survey of one pool to evaluate potential for additional biological index.
- Placement of 6 unattended conductivity/temperature monitors – locations to be determined.
- Installation of telemetry unit for collection of real-time physical parameter data at Smithland Dam.
- Pilot study to evaluate periphyton for use in numeric nutrient criteria development – conducted at Ohio River locations with low and high nutrients concentrations.
- Report on status of Marcellus and Utica Shale gas water quality issues in the Ohio Basin.
- Installation of side scan sonar unit for collection of bathymetry data for habitat surveys at 15 sites in each of 4 pools.