

**MINUTES
227th Meeting of the Technical Committee
Virtual Meeting
October 6, 2021**

Chair Bruno Pigott, Presiding

Call to Order

The 227th meeting of the ORSANCO Technical Committee was called to order by Chair Pigott at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. Seven states, four federal agencies, and five Commission advisory committees were represented (for Roster of Attendance see on page 12). Chair Pigott welcomed all to ORSANCO's virtually-held meeting of the Technical Committee. This meeting was abbreviated to one four-hour day instead of the typical 2 four-hour days, in order to facilitate a virtual field trip of the Shell Polymers petrochemical facility on Tuesday.

Minutes of 226th Committee Meeting

ACTION: Motion passed to accept the minutes of the 226th Technical Committee meeting.

Chief Engineer's Report

Director Harrison welcomed Melanie Stein as a new proxy Commissioner and TEC member for New York. He reported that this field season has been very productive, particularly in light of COVID, including the PFAS survey, biological monitoring programs, bimonthly/clean metals sampling, bacteria monitoring and HABs surveillance. He reported that Emilee Harmeling was hired as a new staff member to assist with the HABs and other monitoring programs.

Regarding the Ohio River Basin Alliance initiative, he reported that a report is expected to be completed this spring which will be used to launch the initiative to focus federal funding in the Ohio River Basin. He also reported that he is working with KYDEP on the farm bill as relates to source water protection, by trying to capture nutrient reductions achieved through farm bill activities.

Ohio EPA's First Far-Field Nutrient TMDL (Western Lake Erie Basin)

Tiffani Kavalec with Ohio EPA gave a presentation on the agencies first far-field nutrient TMDL to address HAB impairments in Western Lake Erie from the Maumee River Basin. The TMDL stakeholder process involves development of a study plan, a biological and water quality report, a loading analysis plan that sets targets for needed pollutant reductions, preliminary modeling results, and a draft TMDL report. The near-field nutrients TMDLs completed or underway in the basin are not sufficient to eliminate HABs impairments in Western Lake Erie.

The Maumee River watershed is located in northwestern Ohio. It drains a total of 5,024 square miles in Ohio and flows through all or part of 18 counties. Major municipalities partially or fully in the watershed

include Toledo, Defiance, Findlay, Lima, Van Wert, Napoleon, and Perrysburg. The watershed is predominantly comprised of cultivated crops with some urban development, hay and pasture lands, and forest. The Maumee River is a major tributary to the western Lake Erie basin. A total of 194 HUC12 sub-watersheds compose Ohio's portion of the watershed.

Ninety percent of the Maumee's phosphorus load is estimated to be from unregulated nonpoint sources, so projects aimed at nutrient load reductions will focus on these sources. A number of load projects are currently funded in Ohio's portion of the basin. Additionally, the Maumee Basin extends into Indiana and Michigan. OEPA is currently working on the Loading Analysis Plan phase of the project. They have developed a public website for the project.

Ohio River Ambient PFAS Survey

The Technical Committee was briefed on the status of the Ohio River PFAS monitoring project to characterize ambient levels of PFAS compounds in the Ohio River. Twenty Ohio River sites were selected using a probabilistic design and located outside of any regulatory mixing zones. Two rounds of sampling under different seasonal conditions will be completed. One site each on the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers were also sampled on behalf of the WV Water Research Institute. All sites are sampled using the USGS cross-sectional composited collection methodology. Three sites also include discrete sampling for the purposes of investigating how PFASs may be distributed in the Ohio River water column.

All samples are analyzed for 28 PFASs by a USEPA contract laboratory (Battelle Labs) using a DoD compliant analytical method. Equipment blanks were collected with every sample to identify any contamination. The first round of sampling was completed in June and July. Some broad observations based on the first round of preliminary data are:

- 5 of 28 PFAS were above the laboratory level of quantification (LOQ~ 5 PPT).
 - PFOA (8 sites)
 - HFPO-DA (GenX) (9 sites)
 - PFBA (1 site)
 - PFBS (3 sites)
 - PFPeA (5 sites)
- 12 of 28 PFAS were above the detection level.
- PFOA & GenX had the largest number of samples above LOQ.
- GenX had the highest value (32ppt).
- There were detections of 1 or more PFAS at every site.
- 9 discrete samples collected at 3 sites – in terms of PFAS distribution in the water column, initial results will be better assessed when combined with round two samples.
- Equipment blanks were collected with every sample, and 1 PFAS was detected at <1ppt at each of 2 sites. These are very good blank results.
- 4 sets of replicates all had good agreement.
- Preliminary data is subject to an external review prior to being considered final.
- 2 samples arrived at the lab out of temperature range. We did not repeat those samples based on EPA recommendation.

The second round of sampling began on September 28. Two additional discrete sampling sites were selected with the hopes of obtaining additional information on the distribution of PFASs in the Ohio River water column. Staff hopes to be able to report final QA'd data from both rounds of sampling at the February TEC meeting.

Report of the 305b Work Group

Staff provided an update on the 305b workgroup's review of current assessment methodologies for use in the upcoming 2022 Biennial Report. The workgroup met virtually in August to discuss comments provided by members and approve changes to the methodologies. Most comments and relative changes focused on incorporating USEPA guidance on assessment thresholds for toxic pollutants. This update affects the assessments of the Aquatic Life, Public Water Supply, and Fish Consumption uses, which now include separate thresholds for toxic and conventional pollutants. The Contact Recreation assessment methodology remains under review as workgroup members confirm staff's application of state *E. coli* criteria. West Virginia does not have an *E. coli* standard and has requested that ORSANCO resume collection of fecal coliform data from the stations in their waters; staff are currently assessing the feasibility of this request. Lastly, the workgroup concluded that staff should postpone work towards a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) assessment methodology. Instead staff should continue to detail ORSANCO's HAB Management plan and document HAB occurrence in future 305b reports.

Member Updates and Interstate Water Quality Issues

Illinois

Scott Twait reported previously that Illinois developed a monitoring plan for sampling PFAS of the finished water at the public water supplies. The Agency began the PFAS sampling in the middle of September 2020.

- 986 out of 1,018 systems (97%) have been sampled.
- 14% of the sampled systems had detections.
- 6% of the sampled systems had detections greater than the Guidance Level.
- The analysis consists of 18 PFAS chemicals.

The Agency has a webpage for PFAS, which can be found on our website:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/Pages/default.aspx>

An interactive map showing the community Water Supply Sampling can be found at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/Pages/pfas-statewide-investigation-network.aspx>

PFAS Statewide Health Advisory

- PFNA – 21 ng/L
- PFOS – 14 ng/L
- PFBS – 2,100 ng/L
- PFOA – 2 ng/L
- PFHxS – 140 ng/L
- PFHxA – 560,000 ng/L

Illinois has two water supplies from the Ohio River: Cairo and Rosiclare (ground water under direct influence of surface water). Cairo has a detection of PFOA and PFOS. The PFOS value was 4.0 ng/L, the PFOA value was 3.1 ng/L which was over the Health Advisory number of 2.0 ng/L. Rosiclare has been sampled, but the results are not available yet. Rosiclare is groundwater under the influence of surface water. For those facilities above the Health Advisory, ILEPA is asking them to monitor the

finished water for PFAS and determine what can be done to decrease the concentration of PFAS. ILEPA is looking to develop an MCL for PFAS. As part of this effort, USGS is developing an occurrence and prevalence document based on the data collected.

Indiana

Eileen Hack reported on the following items:

COVID Update

IDEM returned to the office full time on July, 2021.

IDEM Water Quality Standards

Metals Rulemaking

The Environmental Rules Board voted for final adoption of IDEM's metal rulemaking on August 11, 2021. This rule will update Indiana's aquatic life and human health surface water quality criteria for metals and was initiated in 2014. Since the first notice, EPA updated several aquatic life criteria for metals. We are adopting the updated selenium and cadmium (both 2016) aquatic life criteria but not the aluminum criteria (2018). The aluminum criteria will be adopted in a future rulemaking. The final rule must be reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's office, signed by Governor Holcomb, and approved by EPA.

2021 Water Quality Standards Review (aka, Triennial Review)

IDEM completed a triennial review this year. The public comment period ended May 23, and a public hearing was conducted on May 12 during an Environmental Rules Board hearing. IDEM completed an internal review of priorities to revise and update our rules, and a written record of the review was submitted to USEPA on July 22, 2016.

CSO Wet Weather Limited Use Designation

Indiana approved a second application for a CSO wet weather limited use designation (Fort Wayne). The CSO wet weather limited use designation suspends the recreational criteria after a qualifying rainfall event in specific stream segments downstream of CSOs for not more than four days after the date the overflow discharge ends.

IDEM is drafting a wet weather limited use subcategory rule that will be presented to IDEM's Environmental Rule Board (ERB) at their November 10, 2021 hearing. Once the ERB approves the rule, IDEM will submit it to EPA for review and approval.

NPDES Updates

NPDES WWTF Permits - Industrial Ohio River dischargers 2021:

Permit renewals received/expected in the remainder of 2021:

- Countrymark Refining and Logistics (October 2021)
- Lawrenceburg Power (submitted September 2021)
- AB Brown Generating Station -Vectren (October 2021)
- FB Culley Generating Station - Newburgh – Vectren (October 2021)
- Indiana Kentucky Electric Corporation-Clifty Creek (November 2021)

General Permits

- USEPA approved IDEM's Draft MS4 General Permit. IDEM is addressing public comments and the draft may have to go back to EPA for final approval.
- Coal General Permit is in the draft stage.

PFAS

Sampling PFAS at Community Water Systems

IDEM initiated a project to collect and analyze source and finished water at all non-transient public water systems in May 2021. The first round of sampling is the 133 Indiana community water systems that serve 3300-9999 customers, and is almost complete. So far, no finished water sample has reported a detection of PFAS. Participation in the project is voluntary, and for the first round ~90% of systems participated. IDEM is preparing to move to the second round of sampling and has contacted the 570 community water systems that serve less than 3300 about participating in the project. Our third and final round will include the 86 community water systems that serve greater than 10,000 customers; these systems were sampled as part of the 2012 UCMR 3, between 2013 and 2015. IDEM and Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), who will analyze the water samples, are partnering on this effort. IDOH has received equipment, finalized quality control criteria, and has started analyzing samples.

Sampling PFAS in Fish Tissue

Fish tissue has been collected for PFAS for four years, as part of IDEM's fish tissue monitoring program. Generally, fish tissue samples selected for PFAS analysis are collected during probabilistic monitoring, at sites near potential source areas (e.g., fire training areas). Analyzing the fish tissue samples for PFAS is limited by funding.

- IDEM and IDOH apply the Great Lakes Consortium Best Practice for assessing whether fish consumption advisories are warranted for a waterbody. This Best Practice applies the USEPA RfD of 2×10^{-5} for calculating a lifetime health advisory.

Table 1. Levels of PFOS in Fish and Corresponding Meal Advice Categories for all Populations

PFOS in Fish ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$)	Meal Frequency
≤ 10	Unrestricted
$> 10-20$	2 meals/week
$> 20-50$	1 meal/week
$> 50-200$	1 meal/month
> 200	DO NOT EAT

- After results from the 2018 sampling season were reported, IDOH posted two fish consumption advisories based on PFOS fish tissue results: a “do not eat advisory (fish tissue sample $>200 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ in fillet and $>700 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ in whole fish from sampling conducted near a former DoD fire training area; and “one meal per month advisory ($56 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$)” based on a fish tissue result collected near paper manufacturing facilities).
- IDEM collected fish tissue samples for PFAS analysis from tributaries of the Ohio River in 2020, including Tanners Creek, Laughery Creek, Silver Creek, Indian Creek, and Anderson River. Results are preliminary and will be shared at the next ORSANCO TEC meeting.
- Fish tissue sampling will take place in the West Fork and Lower White River Basin as well as the Patoka River basin in 2021.

IDEM Assessment and Monitoring

- Supplemental Clean Water 106 Grant: IDEM has been awarded \$83,000 in Supplemental Clean Water Act 106 funding to work with ORSANCO for additional fish tissue monitoring in five of the six navigation pools adjacent to Indiana's boarder. This monitoring will augment ORSANCO's existing fish tissue data set with additional sampling that includes two trophic feeding guild levels (TL3 and TL4) analyzed for Methylmercury and PCBs. The purpose is to provide IDEM a more robust dataset for making CWA 305(b) assessments, particularly with

regard to PCBs. Previous assessments for PCBs have relied on water samples. By providing fish tissue data, this project will allow a more direct measure of fish consumption use support. This project will also include additional analyses for PFAS, which will provide the initial results needed to begin evaluating the current concentrations of PFAS in mainstem Ohio River fish. ORSANCO will conduct all the monitoring for this project over a five-year period (2021-2024) coinciding with its regular monitoring schedule for fish tissue.

- Program development:
 - a. IDEM worked with U.S. EPA Region 5 and Tetra Tech to develop a Diatom Index of Biotic Integrity for rivers and streams, which is in final draft for review.
 - b. IDEM initiated the Coolwater Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) project with U.S. EPA Region 5 and Tetra Tech to revise the biological indices for coolwater streams. In April 2021, IDEM began deploying temperature loggers at 90 sites statewide for a two-year duration. Over that two-year period, IDEM will collect macroinvertebrates and fish at least once, and water chemistry sampling three times. IDEM will have 45 additional sites for water chemistry and biological sampling in 2021 and 2022.

Kentucky

Katie McKone reported the following:

- Had a final meeting on the Generic Groundwater Protection Plan for the Oil & Gas industry. The GPP is now ready for Public Notice.

Water Quality Branch

- 60-day comment period closed on August 3 for the combined 2018/2020 303(d) impaired waters list.
- Working on steps for final submittal of the 2018/2020 Integrated Report to congress
- Received EPA's Floyds Fork LSPC/WASP nutrient model
- Continue to work on assessments for the 2022 Integrated Report, where we will be updating assessments to the Ohio River, where appropriate

Surface Water Permits Branch

- Our Surface Water Permits Branch continues to develop a KPDES permitting strategy for nutrient optimization for POTWs
- They are also exploring the possibility of addressing nutrients via the MS4 program.

Water Resources Branch

- Bullock Pen: Dam work is complete and spillway is operational. Serves as primary drinking water source for Bullock Pen Water District
- DOW is participating in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) briefings related to the two federally declared disasters from earlier this year – one for the ice storm and the other for the March flooding.
 - Permit decisions issued for 177 of 177 flood damage applications received to date from the March Flooding events.

Watershed Management Branch

- Updated 319(h)/NPS Grant Guidance for FY22 cycle and submitted EPA-required reporting
- Ag Water Quality Planning Tool in development

Water Infrastructure Branch

- The 2021 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey Assessment (DWINSA) is under way, which will end in October.

- The Draft 2022 Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund IUP's are available for public review and comment from September 22, 2021 through October 22, 2021.
- The Cleaner Water Grant Program Call for Projects began June 1, 2021. Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act and administered by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), \$250 million has been appropriated for clean drinking water and wastewater grants to fund projects across Kentucky.
 - Information about both can be found at <https://kia.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

New York

Melanie Stein reported that New York just released for public comment, water quality guidance values for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane, which are more stringent than currently adopted MCLs. The agency will be limiting phosphorus at a large cheese manufacturing facility which will reduce loadings to the Allegheny Basin. She reported that New York is also working on new phosphorus guidance that would apply to a greater number of facilities.

Ohio

Audrey Rush reported on the following items:

Staff

The Division of Surface Water has been reorganized as follows:

Brian Hall, Assistant Division Chief retired effective Aug 31, 2021.

Archie Lunsey, Assistant Chief - Standards, Monitoring and Assessment, and Stormwater

David Emerman is Assistant Chief - PTI, Biosolids, Compliance, 401, and Enforcement

NPDES, nonpoint source, IT, and fiscal report to Tiffani Kavalec, Chief

Chris Skalski retired.

Surveys

Continued Large River Survey in 2021. Finishing up fish and fish tissue sampling.

Planned large river survey sampling includes the Scioto, Hocking, Tuscarawas, Mahoning, Sandy Creek, Mohican, Walhonding, Killbuck, Wills Creek, Olentangy, Big Darby Creek, Salt Creek, Paint Creek, and Raccoon Creek.

Planning targeted basin surveys for 2022.

Rules

1. Beneficial Use Designations – Wave 2 [3745-1-09, -16, -17, -21]
 - a. Scioto, SE Ohio Tribs,
 - b. SW Ohio Tribs,
 - c. Great Miami River

Interested Party Review (IPR) began 06/07/21 – comment period ended 7/7/2021, extended to August 6. Comments from two parties received. Preparing proposed rule signoff package.
2. Beneficial Use Designations – 2020 [3745-1-08, -15, -18, -22].
Updates to four basin rules (Hocking, Little Beaver, Little Miami, Chagrin) IPR in sign off.
3. Biocriteria Narrative (new rule– 3745-2-03), and Use Designations and Biological Criteria 3745-1-07 – the implementation piece for NPDES that was formerly in -07 has been moved to a new NPDES rule. Clarifies when biocriteria can be used in permit decisions. IPR began 5/19/2021, comment period ended 6/18/2021. Comments received from 10 parties. Working on response to comments.
4. Definitions and Analytical Methods, References 3745-1-02, -03.
ESO began 5/24/21. Adding ORSANCO biosurvey methods to rule 03.
5. Triennial review – Internal comments ranked, preparing for public distribution.

Pennsylvania

Kevin Halloran reported on the following:

He invited everyone to reach out to him if there were any questions on the Shell virtual tour. All of their permits can be found on PADEP's website. He reported that USEPA had approved water quality criteria for ammonia, E. coli, and 73 toxic substances, while they are still considering public comments received on manganese. Regarding PFAS, sampling at all public water supplies has been completed, and the data can be found on PADEP's website. Two sites were found to be above health advisory levels. They have proposed draft MCLs for PFOS (18 ng/L) and PFOA (14 ng/L). He thanked Chuck Duritsa for his years of service representing Pennsylvania with ORSANCO.

West Virginia

Scott Mandirola reported the following:

Aquatic Life Assessment Rule

EPA determined that the Procedural rule on how to make assessment decisions would be considered a WQS change. DEP determined that it would withdraw the rule and keep the assessment methodology as a policy, so it has been withdrawn from rulemaking.

WV PFAS Study update

USGS has completed all sampling of the 279 PWS, schools and daycare sites and has received data. The QA/QC is being reviewed as it is being received, to date no changes to the initial results have occurred, all data is preliminary until QA/QC is reviewed. The USGS will publish on the USGS Data Release for dissemination of data. (Estimated: Oct. 2021). Complete Publication summarizing the findings of the project (Estimated: July 2022).

- Of the preliminary results received we have 5 sites with levels above the EPA health advisory for PFOA or PFOS.

WQS Update

July of this year the DEP filed the WQS rule changes for HH criteria as required by the legislature in 2021, with the SOS and legislative rulemaking review. We have proposed to update the remaining 35 criteria that we currently have in the rule, which EPA updated in 2015. The 24 proposed last session passed. The Environmental Protection Advisory Committee met monthly from June 2020 through May 2021. The group has made recommendations to the Secretary that include updating all 35 criteria, based on EPA recommendations and include a paragraph outlining a path to update any one with additional scientific data. The group did not agree on all approaches but recommended both to the Secretary. Laura Cooper, WQS program manager, has left the agency and Brian Bridgewater is acting program manager.

Spill investigation

The spill identified in the August monthly report from Natrium was investigated by EE and was determined to be Bentonite clay from outlet 007 which was being used while conducting a molluscicide treatment to control zebra mussels in their water intakes. This discharge was not authorized and an NOV has been issued to the company.

US Army Corps of Engineers

Erich Emery reported that the Corps is working on a project to investigate the effects of reservoir flow augmentation on Ohio River flows during low-flow conditions, and they will be attempting to evaluate the economic value of this. They are currently analyzing historical flow data which will then be passed to a team of economists. The report may be completed in approximately one year. Two other projects are part of the Corps' Sustainable Rivers Program which is a partnership between the Corps' and Nature Conservancy. One is evaluating the effectiveness of managing dams operations and reservoir releases to maximize the ecological benefits of Ohio River flows. The other project is to evaluate how mainstem dams manipulate upstream pool levels to meet ecological benefits.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Dave Pfeifer reported that the USEPA has issued draft guidance on selenium for public comment. A report on HABs was recently released by the Office of the Inspector General which may be of interest. The standards and monitoring group is working with ORD on sample analysis for cyanotoxins.

US Geological Survey

Jeff Frey reported that the USGS has a couple of new gauges, on the Hocking River in Lancaster, OH, and on Geist Reservoir in Indiana. They are operating a new super gauge on the Salt River at West Point as part of an effort to develop a larger network of continuous monitors. Funding is available to continue monitoring the Ohio River at Ironton and Olmsted, the Licking River at Alexandria, Kentucky River at Lockport, the Salt River, and the Green River at Spottsville. And the Wabash River at New Harmony. Several super gauges include HABs monitoring that will include development of a Nowcast for HABs on the Ohio River. He pointed out new USGS reports that are now available on Bighead Carp in the Ohio River, and nutrient transport in the Lake Erie Basin.

Power Industry Advisory Committee

Cheri Budzynski reported that October 13, 2021 is the deadline for the Notice of Planned Participation to comply with the new Effluent Limitation Guidelines. She also reported that the administration will be revisiting the ELGs rulemaking in the fall of 2022.

Public Information Advisory Committee

The Committee conducted a virtual meeting on September 23, 2021.

The Committee welcomed Lily Jones, Communications Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, as a new Committee member.

Staff provided an update on ORSANCO staffing, reporting that over the past several months the Foundation's Director, and ORSANCO's Communication's Coordinator departed for other opportunities. In addition, Nick Callahan has joined staff as Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Staff provided an update on activities since the last meeting and reported that a more robust communications strategy will be developed as an outcome of current strategic planning activities.

Staff provided a detailed status of the 2021 River Sweep program, being conducted in a mini-Sweep format, indicating that this format has shown to be very successful this year. Feedback from sponsors and coordinators has been very positive. The Committee discussed ways to build on this year's success to enhance and promote this valuable program.

In summary, the Committee supports staff moving forward with the following activities:

1. The Committee supports developing a broad-based plan for River Sweep using a mini-sweep approach throughout the watershed and focusing on efforts to increase media attention, and identifying a particular day, such as World Rivers Day, for special Sweep promotion.
2. Continue partnering with ORBA on mutually beneficial projects such as the Discussion Series and the Economic Valuation study.
3. Explore strategies to increase social media presence.

Watershed Organization Advisory Committee

Angie Rosser reported the following:

1. **Quarterly meeting.** The committee met on September 29 and discussed:
 - ORSANCO updates from Richard Harrison
 - WOAC leadership succession
 - WOAC strategic planning
 - Items for WOAC's October report
2. **ORSANCO Strategic Plan.** WOAC is interested in reviewing and providing further input into, as appropriate, ORSANCO's strategic plan. We are particularly interested in how the triennial reviews of the PCS will be handled, and how issues of climate and environmental justice will be included in the plan. We recommend that ORSANCO adopt community engagement processes that reach communities most impacted by environmental harms in a proactive manner. WOAC can provide examples and detail of how such efforts could be designed.
3. **Infrastructure Investments.** Some WOAC members are heavily involved in advocating for strong investments in the region currently being considered by Congress in the bipartisan infrastructure bill and budget reconciliation process. We see transformational opportunities for these investments to improve the health of the river and benefit surrounding communities. We recommend that ORSANCO actively support these investments and prepare to play an important role in prioritization and implementation in a way that has maximum impact on restoring and protecting the river.
4. **State Roll-backs of Clean Water Protections:** WOAC members are concerned about basin states rolling back clean water protections. Indiana passed legislation weakening protections for wetlands and Ohio is considering legislation to strip protections for ephemeral streams. We oppose such actions, and urge ORSANCO to take an active role in educating policymakers on the importance of strong protections for streams and wetlands to water quality and to the overall restoration of the Ohio River basin ecosystem.

Water Users Advisory Committee

Chris Bobay reported the following:

The Water Users Advisory Committee (WUAC) last met on September 21 via video conference. We had hoped to resume meeting in person, but members preferred to continue meeting virtually.

With recent changes to committee leadership and an increase in virtual participation, we took some time to check in with individual committee members to learn about their roles and some of the key projects they are working on. Several members discussed ongoing WaterSuite utilization for source water

protection. Several members also shared about ongoing efforts to prepare for the new Lead and Copper Rule revisions. A new CMS-5000 portable analyzer is being installed at Huntington. None of the facilities reported any abnormal challenges or concerns with river conditions in their stretch of the river.

PA American is working closely with USEPA and Corona Environmental on the next phase of the WaterSuite mapping and inventory project. They are actively working with PA to obtain Tier II hazardous chemical inventory records to support this effort.

USEPA is looking for a small tributary or wadable stream to test DNA tracer recovery ahead of the spring 2022 tracer study. Jim Goodrich is the point of contact on that project.

Sam Dinkins reports that ORSANCO staff are preparing for round 2 of the PFAS sampling study which they hope to complete in 5 weeks starting in late September.

Sam Dinkins also provided a summary of spill notification procedures. Staff use “best professional judgment” when determining scope and timing of notifications. We discussed a few examples of how these procedures work in practice and how ORSANCO can support facilities during emergency response for “significant and imminent” threats. ORSANCO also maintains a Spill Response Directory that is updated yearly. Facilities can reach out to Sam to request a copy and update contact info.

ORSANCO continues to maintain 4 HAB monitoring stations. The good news is that no HABs have been reported this year. Ohio River conditions have been ideal for most of the summer growing season.

The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for January 25. We will continue to meet virtually until a majority of members prefer meeting in person.

Adjournment

The 227th meeting of the ORSANCO Technical Committee was adjourned by Chair Pigott at 12:09 P.M. on Wednesday, October 6, 2021.

Approved:



Scott Mandirola

Roster of Attendance

Technical Committee

Chair	Commissioner Bruno Pigott
Illinois	Scott Twait
Indiana	Eileen Hack
Kentucky	Katie McKone
New York	Melanie Stein
Ohio	Audrey Rush
Pennsylvania	Kevin Halloran
Virginia	Not present
West Virginia	Scott Mandirola

US Army Corps of Engineers	Erich Emery
US Coast Guard	Not present
US Environmental Protection Agency	David Pfeifer
US Geological Survey	Jeffrey Frey
Chemical Industry Advisory Committee	Not present
Power Industry Advisory Committee	Cheri Budzynski
Public Interest Advisory Committee	Betsy Mallison Bialosky
POTW Advisory Committee	Not present
Water Users Advisory Committee	Chris Bobay
Watershed Organizations Advisory Committee	Angie Rosser
NPDES Subcommittee	Brad Gavin
ORSANCO Chief Engineer	Richard Harrison
Staff Liaison	Jason Heath

Commissioners/Proxies

Douglas Conroe, Charles Duritsa, George Elmaraghy, David Flannery, Toby Frevert, John Hoopingarner, Carey Johnson, Tiffani Kavalec, John Kupke, John Lyons, Ron Potesta, Mike Wilson, Davitt Woodwell

Staff

Ryan Argo, Dave Bailey, Sam Dinkins, Tracey Edmonds, Nick Guthier, Richard Harrison, Jason Heath, Adam Scott, Bridget Taylor, Lila Ziolkowski

Guests

Peter Goodmann	Louisville Water Company
John Hirschfield	Westlake Chemical
Kristina Peacock-Jones	PADEP