

# Memo

## Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission

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**Since 1948**  
*Improving Water Quality in the  
Ohio River for over 70 Years*

**DATE:** May 26, 2022

**TO:** Technical Committee

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Scott Mandirola, Chair | Josh Miller, USCG                |
| Scott Twait, IL        | David Pfeifer, USEPA Region 5    |
| Brad Gavin, IN         | Jeff Frey, USGS                  |
| Katie McKone, KY       | <b><u>Ex Officio</u></b>         |
| Melanie Stein, NY      | Cheri Budzynski, PIAC            |
| Audrey Rush, OH        | Betsy Mallison, Chair, PIACO     |
| Kevin Halloran, PA     | Alex Novak, Chair, POTW          |
| Melanie Davenport, VA  | Angie Rosser, Chair, WOAC        |
| Erich Emery, USACE     | Chris Bobay, Chair, WUAC         |
|                        | Richard Harrison, Chief Engineer |

**SUBJECT:** Announcement of 229<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting, June 14-15, 2022, Wilson Lodge & Conference Center at Oglebay, Wheeling, West Virginia, and Virtual GoToMeeting

**FROM:** Jason Heath, P.E., BCEE

Scott Mandirola, Technical Committee Chair, wishes to welcome everyone to the 229<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee, which will take place at the Wilson Lodge & Conference Center at Oglebay in Wheeling, West Virginia, or virtually, on Tuesday, June 14, from 1:00-5:00 P.M. (eastern), and on Wednesday, June 15, from 8:30 AM to Noon.

Approximately one week prior to the meetings, Technical Committee members, Commissioners, ORSANCO staff, and registrants will receive an email that includes detailed information and instructions on how to participate virtually. Those planning to attend in person can still expect to receive this email. For virtual participation with the TEC meeting, TEC members do not need to register; however, members of the public and other interested parties will be required to register to attend virtually by Monday, June 13. To register, please visit [www.orsanco.org/registration](http://www.orsanco.org/registration) and submit the registration form. A link to register is also available on [www.orsanco.org](http://www.orsanco.org) under the “News” section.

The Technical Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the 233<sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting being held on Thursday, June 16, also in-person as well as virtual. Notes on agenda items are as follows:

**Item 1: Minutes of the 228<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting**

Draft minutes of the 228<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting are attached. Chair Mandirola will ask TEC members for revisions or approval of the minutes.

**Item 2: Chief Engineer’s Report**

Executive Director Harrison will report on selected items including the ORBA strategic plan abundant clean water objective.

**Item 3: Highlights of FY23 Technical Program Plan**

Staff will provide an overview of technical programs proposed for FY23 which were approved at the April Program and Finance Committee meeting.

**Item 4: 2022 Biennial Assessment of Ohio River Water Quality Conditions (305b)**

Ryan Argo will be presenting the draft 305b report (attached) and asking TEC for its recommendation for approval by the Commission. There were no significant changes to the assessments from the previous reporting cycle. TEC will be asked to endorse the Ohio River assessments as proposed by the Coordinators. Recommendations of the work group will also be presented.

**Item 5: Biological Programs Update**

Daniel Cleves, Aquatic Biologist, will provide an overview of statistical PCBs trends analyses performed on ORSANCO's extensive fish contaminants dataset. Staff will also review final pool assessments of Dashields, Hannibal, Markland, and McAlpine, made possible with the return of associated macroinvertebrate data. Staff will detail upcoming plans for 2022 field surveys and participation in the 2023/2024 USEPA National Rivers and Streams Assessment.

**Item 6: Technical Committee Member Roundtable Reports**

TEC members are invited to report on water quality issues of importance to their organization. Members are encouraged to provide staff with a written summary after the meeting in order to facilitate accurate meeting minutes.

**Item 7: Monitoring Programs to Update Bacteria, PCBs, and Dioxin Data for Use in 305b Assessments; Broad Scan Survey of Unmonitored Parameters Contained in the Pollution Control Standards**

Ohio River use assessments for contact recreation and fish consumption that have resulted in designating the Ohio River as impaired are based on data collected over ten years ago. These data need to be updated at some point for future assessments, and staff will discuss possible options. In addition, a broad scan survey of parameters contained in the Commission's Pollution Control Standards that are not routinely monitored was completed approximately ten years ago, and this effort should be updated with a new survey. Staff will discuss the previous effort and options for work in FY23.

**Item 8: Source Water Protection Program Update**

Staff will provide an overview of the ongoing activities associated with the Commission's Source Water Protection and Emergency Response programs. This update will include a status report on the Organics Detection System (ODS) Program and a review of recent detections of benzene at multiple ODS monitoring stations and the resulting response.

**Item 9: HABs Prediction Model**

The HAB prediction model (HAB App) is available online for use by water resource managers and drinking water utilities. Greg Youngstrom will provide an update on recent and planned upgrades to the HAB App. Current funding is through a USEPA MPG grant which expires September 30 2022. An additional year of funding is anticipated starting October 1.

**Item 10: Preliminary Results of Ohio River Ambient PFAS Survey**

Two rounds of sampling have been completed at twenty Ohio River sites, and one site each on the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, for twenty eight PFAS compounds. Presentation of the project results to the public will be discussed.