

Memo

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission

5735 Kellogg Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230
Phone: (513) 231-7719
Fax: (513) 231-7761
www.orsanco.org

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

DATE: September 22, 2022

TO: Technical Committee

Scott Mandirola, Chair
Scott Twait, IL
Brad Gavin, IN
Katie McKone, KY
Melanie Wright, NY
Melinda Harris, OH
Kevin Halloran, PA
Jeffrey Hurst, VA
Erich Emery, USACE

Josh Miller, USCG
David Pfeifer, USEPA Region 5
Jeff Frey, USGS
Ex Officio
Cheri Budzynski, PIAC
Betsy Mallison, Chair, PIACO
Alex Novak, Chair, POTW
Angie Rosser, Chair, WOAC
Chris Bobay, Chair, WUAC
Richard Harrison, Chief Engineer

SUBJECT: Announcement of 230th Technical Committee Meeting, October 12, 2022, Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Virtual GoToMeeting

FROM: Jason Heath, P.E., BCEE

Scott Mandirola, Technical Committee Chair, wishes to welcome everyone to the 230th meeting of the Technical Committee, which will take place at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square, or virtually, on Wednesday, October 12, from 8:30 to 12:00 P.M. (eastern). On Tuesday, TEC members and Commissioners will be making a field trip to the Shell Petrochemicals Complex. Participants must utilize transports leaving the hotel at 12:00 P.M. (box lunch provided and available in Reflections meeting room at 11:30 A.M.; you can either eat in meeting room prior to boarding bus or take on the bus).

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, October 10. To register, please visit www.orsanco.org/registration and submit the registration form. A link to register is also available on www.orsanco.org under the “News” section.

The Technical Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the 234th Commission meeting being held on Thursday, October 13, also in-person as well as virtual. Notes on agenda items are as follows:

Item 1: Minutes of the 229th Technical Committee Meeting

Draft minutes of the 229th 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 and Chief Engineer Harrison will be providing an update on ORSANCO’s work with the Ohio River Basin Alliance to complete the Ohio River Basin Restoration Plan. He will also be providing an update on ORSANCO’s Environmental Justice Committee’s efforts to develop a grant proposal for funding consideration by USEPA related to Environmental Justice.

Item 3: 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 4: Ohio River Headwaters – Source Water Protection in Western PA

Thomas McCaffrey with PADEP will discuss source water protection efforts as they relate to surface water systems on the Allegheny, Monongahela, Youghiogheny, Beaver and Shenango rivers.

Item 5: Source Water Protection Programs Update

Staff will provide an update on ORSANCO’s source water protection efforts, including status of the Organics Detection System, and benzene/toluene contamination in the Mahoning/Beaver River Basin.

Item 6: Biological Programs Update

Staff will provide an update on ongoing 2022 field season activities including electrofishing surveys in Belleville, John T. Myers, and Olmsted pools along with targeted sampling in the open water portion of the Ohio River. Current status of collaborative projects with state partners, PCB trends analyses, webpage updates, digital form generation, and continued assistance with the Ohio River restoration plan will also be discussed.

Item 7: Broad Scan Survey of Unmonitored Parameters Contained in the Commission’s Pollution Control Standards

A broad scan survey of unmonitored pollutants contained in the Commission’s Pollution Control Standards was completed in 2013. At that time, there were no detections of 104 parameters not routinely monitored for at three Ohio River sites. A work group designated by TEC will have met twice prior to the October meeting to discuss design of a repeat survey in 2023. Staff will present results of those meetings.



230th Technical Committee Meeting
Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
October 12, 2022
8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (ET)
Chair Scott Mandirola, Presiding

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ROLL CALL (October 12, 8:30 A.M.)

ACTION ITEMS AND REPORTS

1. Action on Minutes of 229th Technical Committee Meeting * – Chair Mandirola
 2. Chief Engineer's Report – Director Harrison
 3. TEC Member Roundtable Reports
 4. Ohio River Headwaters - Source Water Protection in Western PA - Thomas McCaffrey, PADEP
 5. Source Water Protection Programs Update – Sam Dinkins
 6. Biological Programs Update – Ryan Argo
 7. Broad Scan Survey of Unmonitored Parameters Contained in the Pollution Control Standards – Jason Heath
-

OTHER BUSINESS

- Comments by Guests
 - Announcement of Upcoming Meetings
-

ADJOURNMENT (NOON)

*Attachment

**MINUTES
229th Meeting of the Technical Committee
Oglebay Resort/Virtual
Wheeling, WV
June 14-15, 2022**

Chair Scott Mandirola, Presiding

Call to Order

The 229th meeting of the ORSANCO Technical Committee was called to order by Chairman Mandirola at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. Seven states, three federal agencies, and four advisory committees were represented (for Roster of Attendance see on page 14). Chairman Mandirola welcomed all to ORSANCO's virtually-held meeting of the Technical Committee.

Minutes of 228th Committee Meeting

ACTION: Motion passed to accept the minutes of the 228th Technical Committee meeting.

Chief Engineer's Report

Director Harrison reported that since the last TEC meeting, staff has spent a lot of time recently in developing the FY23 program plan and budget, work on drafting the strategic plan, finalizing the PFAS project, and continued efforts on the ORBA restoration plan. He reported that a balanced budget has been endorsed by the Program and Finance Committee, but that the 5-year projections show that budget concerns exist in years 4-5. A plan has been developed to utilize \$2 million of unrestricted funds including upgrading the data management system among other projects. PFAS has been added to the fish contaminants program. The PFAS project is nearly completed with a target to have the final report on the Commission's website by the end of the month. Staff is also leading multiple ORBA work groups in developing a restoration plan for the Ohio Basin which is planned to be finalized early next year. The five year strategic plan will be considered by the Commission during these meetings.

Highlights of FY23 Technical Program Plan

Staff delivered a presentation on the proposed FY23 technical program plan and budget that was approved by the Program and Finance Committee. Specifics of monitoring and assessment, biological and source water protection programs can be found in the presentation. In addition to regular programs, biological programs will begin monitoring for the National Rivers and Streams Assessment program, PFAS analyses are being added to the fish tissue sampling program, and trends work in fish tissue (PCBs and mercury) is being completed. Under monitoring and assessment programs, in addition to routine activities, staff will begin a review of contact recreation, dioxin, and PCBs monitoring programs to update data for future 305b assessments, complete a broad scan of unmonitored parameters contained in the Commission's standards, and complete a flows data base of HEC-RAS modeled flow data. Under source water protection programs, in addition to routine activities, staff will continue to look for new sites to replace the Kanawha River and Maysville ODS stations, and begin a project to implement an ODS data management and alert system. Under special projects, staff will be scoping a new data management system, maintain the HABs monitoring network, continue collecting fish tissue from the Ohio River for PFAS and other analyses, and conduct fecal coliform monitoring at WV bacteria monitoring stations as well as evaluate relationships between fecal coliform and E. coli.

2022 Biennial Assessment of Ohio River Water Quality Conditions (305b Report)

Staff provide a brief summary of the 2022 Biennial Assessments of Ohio River Water Quality Conditions. The assessments, which were discussed in greater detail during prior TEC meetings, indicate impairments for recreational use and fish consumption due in large part to historical bacteria, PCB, and Dioxin data. Assessments of the three other uses, aquatic life, public water supply, and fish consumption for mercury indicate full support river wide. A draft report of the assessments was provided to the 305(b) workgroup members in April for review. The final draft provided to TEC members incorporates their comments and suggested edits. The workgroup members support this final draft and recommend staff develop study plans to update the bacteria, PCB, and Dioxin data sets for use in future assessments.

ACTION: Motion passed to recommend to the Commission, approval of the 2022 Biennial Assessment of Ohio River Water Quality Conditions (305b Report).

Biological Programs Update

Aquatic Biologist Daniel Cleves detailed the final results of a temporal trend analysis of PCBs concentrations in fish tissue. Mr. Cleves explained how the approach uses multiple regressions to identify and account for inherent biases in the dataset like variations in analytical lab, fish length, lipid content, and river mile from where the composite was collected. This approach was approved by the Biological Water Quality Subcommittee and the findings indicate a decrease in Ohio River fish tissue PCB concentration between 1989 and present. With the return of 2021 macroinvertebrate data in late February staff were able to finalize the 2021 assessments for Dashields, Hannibal, Markland, and McAlpine pools. The macro and fish indices for each pool scored above their relative biocriteria, indicating no impairments. Staff also detailed survey plans for the upcoming 2022 field season which will include pool surveys in Belleville, John T. Myers, and Olmsted pools, targeted sampling in the open water section of the Ohio, fish tissue collections for IDEM, and the addition of PFAS analytes to all other regular fish tissue collections. In regards to PFAS in fish tissue, results from 2021 fish tissue samples collected on behalf of IDEM showed no exceedances of USEPA's draft fish muscle criteria for PFOA or PFOS, and only two composites that would result in meal restrictions according to PFOS criteria recommended by the Great Lakes Consortium. Neither of these observed exceedances would result in more restrictive fish consumption advisories than already exist on the Ohio River for mercury and PCBs.

USEPA Region 3 RARE Project on Microplastics in the Ohio River Watershed

USEPA Regions 7 and 3, and the Office of Research & Development (ORD), were awarded a Regionally Applied Research Effort (RARE) in 2021 to begin assessing microplastics as a pollutant in freshwater systems. Sampling will be this summer during low flow conditions. Region 7 is lead, with a focus on the Kansas City watershed. Region 3 is focused on the Ohio River watershed. Both regions are focused on novel methodologies to assess primary produced plastics, i.e., nurdles along with other sources within the Ohio River watershed. Region 3 is planning on collecting samples from the (1) Ohio River downstream of the new ethane cracker facility in Pennsylvania, (2) a positive control from a tributary to the Ohio River and (3) reference site taken out of the basin in the Cacapon watershed. Samples from both Regions will be sent to ORD Cincinnati's Souhail Al-Abed and will be analyzed using Laser Directed Infrared (LDIR) technology. Partners to date include Region 7, ORSANCO, PA DEP, and ICPBR. For more information, please reach out to Region 3 lead Amy Bergdale (bergdale.amy@epa.gov).

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

Staff reported that a broad scan survey of unmonitored pollutants contained in the Commission's Pollution Control Standards will be completed in FY23. This was originally completed in 2013, when none of the 104 parameters were detected during two rounds of sampling at three Ohio River sites, using the EDI cross-sectional sampling methods. Staff will be working with the Technical Committee to review specifics of the 2013 study, and determine how best to proceed at this time.

The 305b Work Group has recommended that bacteria, PCBs, and dioxin data be updated for use in future Ohio River 305b assessments. These parameters are responsible for all Ohio River designated use impairments, and these data are more than ten years old. Design of monitoring programs will begin after completing design of the broad scan survey, and implementation will begin in FY24.

Source Water Protection Program Update

Staff provided an overview of the ongoing activities associated with the Commission's Source Water Protection and Emergency Response programs. This included an update on the Organics Detection System (ODS) detailing the operational status of the system, possible relocation of two monitoring stations and an effort to develop a data management and alert system for the ODS network. The Committee was also briefed on recent spill incidents including the detection of benzene and toluene at multiple ODS stations.

These volatile organic compound (VOC) detections began on February 1, 2022 at the Midland, Pennsylvania ODS station. The VOCs were subsequently detected at all ODS monitoring stations from Weirton, WV to Evansville, IN. Low-level concentrations persisted at the some stations along the upper Ohio River for approximately two months, with intermittent detections as recently as late May. Pennsylvania DEP, Ohio EPA and ORSANCO conducted source investigation sampling along the Ohio River and in the Beaver River Watershed. The source has not yet been identified, but has been isolated to a four-mile stretch of the Mahoning River near Lowellville, Ohio. The Ohio EPA is scheduled to conduct an additional round of sampling in late June.

Staff also provided an informational update on the HAB prediction model (HAB App). The HAB App is available online for use by water resource managers and drinking water utilities. Current funding is through a USEPA MPG grant which expires September 30 2022. Under this funding the project team (which includes ORSANCO, USEPA, NWS, and Neptune, Inc. personnel) has improved the usability of the app, provided additional tools for analysis of data and included two additional water quality sites into the platform. An additional year of funding is anticipated starting October 1 which will keep the app functioning and allow for a third model to extend the prediction time further into the season.

Preliminary Results of Ohio River Ambient PFAS Survey

An update was provided to the Technical Committee on the Ohio River ambient PFAS monitoring project to characterize ambient levels of PFAS compounds in the Ohio River. A secondary objective of the study is to investigate the distribution of PFAS in the Ohio River water column. Project oversight has been ongoing through the PFAS Work Group made up of states, multiple federal agencies, water utilities, and ORANCO advisory committees and Commissioners. An overview of the survey design, sample collection methodologies, and analytical methods were discussed. In addition, a draft report and data tables have been completed.

The first of two rounds of sampling at 22 sites has been completed and the second round is underway. Observations from Round 1 preliminary results were discussed as follows:

- 5 of 28 PFAS were above the laboratory level of quantification (~ 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 – not much stands out in terms of PFAS distribution in the water column.
- Equipment blanks were collected with every sample

- 1 PFAS detected <1ppt at each of 2 sites.
- PFHxA & PFPeA
- 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, and after consultation with USEPA, we did not resample at those two sites.

The Technical Committee directed staff to finalize the draft report and data tables, and post them on the Commission’s website by the end of the week.

Member Updates and Interstate Water Quality Issues

Illinois

Scott Twait reported the following:

PFAS

The Governor signed a PFAS incineration bill on June 8, 2022. The bill prohibits the incineration of PFAS substances at commercial waste incinerators. This legislation affords exemptions for incineration by a thermal oxidizer when operated as a pollution control device, as well as some exemptions for medical waste incinerators and landfills.

Triennial Review

The Agency is going to go through the triennial review process this year. We will be asking the public to prioritize what they would like the Agency to work on. We will then match the priorities of the public and the needs of the Agency to decide what water quality standards to work on for the next three years.

2020/2022 Integrated Report

Illinois officially submitted the 2020/2022 Integrated Report and Section 3030(d) List to USEPA on June 1, 2022.

Chloride Time-Limited WQS (TLWQS) (Federal variance)

The Illinois Pollution Control Board has granted a chloride TLWQS (Variance) for the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). This variance applies from December through April and applies to several classes in the watershed, such as: municipal discharges, industrial discharges, MS4 communities, CSO communities, Illinois Department of Transportation, Chicago Department of Transportation, and salt storage facilities. The goal of the TLWQS is for the affected chloride sources to apply BMPs to reduce the chloride loading to achieve the chloride water quality standard. The TLWQS is applicable for 15 years and must be reevaluated every 5 years. USEPA approved the TLWQS on May 11, 2022. The Agency is going to public notice for the General Permit to implement the provisions of the TLWQS.

Invasive Carp

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is unveiling of a new national name and brand for Asian Carp on June 22. This will be similar to a fish called “Slimehead” being rebranded as “Orange Roughy”. The rebranding will be done via Zoom at 11 a.m. with *Chopped* champion Brian Jupiter. Asian carp is mild-flavored, flaky, freshwater fish, caught in Midwestern waterways. Its place is among the most popular white fish: more savory than tilapia; cleaner tasting than catfish; and firmer than cod.

Indiana

Brad Gavin reported on the following items:

Water Quality Standards

- **Aquatic Life Methodologies Rulemaking:** As mentioned at the previous meeting, Indiana has initiated a rulemaking to update the aquatic life criteria development methodologies which are applicable outside of the Great Lakes basin. <http://iac.iga.in.gov/iac/20211229-IR-327210539FNA.xml.pdf>

Drinking Water PFAS Sampling

Total number of community water systems by category:

Small: 567

Medium: 123

Large: 87

- Phase 1; medium community systems that serve a population between 3,300 to <10,000. IDEM has results for 78 systems. Of these, 39 systems had detections and a total of 196 PFAS compounds were detected. Of these detections, 175 were less than 10 ppt with the compounds most frequently detected: PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS, PFHxA, PFBS. The highest detections were 26 ppt and 36 ppt for PFOA. Forty system will be resampled this summer.
- Phase 2; small community systems that serve a population <3,300. IDEM started Phase 2 in December 2021 with sampling anticipated to be completed by December 2022. 383 systems have agreed to participate, and bottles have been sent to 221 of these. 153 bottle sets have been received by the lab and we have 115 sample results back from the lab. Nineteen systems have detections. The highest detections were PFBS at 14.0 and 13.6 ppt which was found in 37 samples from ten systems.
- Phase 3; large community systems that serve a population of >10,000. This testing is scheduled to start in January 2023 with sampling anticipated to be completed by May 2023.
- All PFAS sample results will be posted on our IDEM website at <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/nonrule-policies/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas/>.

Watershed Assessment and Planning

- IDEM is still conducting monthly [fixed station water quality sampling at 165 sites](#) and continued targeted monitoring for watershed characterization studies (TMDL and NPS monitoring) in the [Black Creek](#) watershed which is a tributary to the Wabash River. In 2022, IDEM will again sample at various sites around the State to see improvements from dam removals and other BMP practices. Check out all of Indiana's Success Stories by visiting this U.S. EPA [website](#).
- [Harmful Algal Bloom](#) analyses and reporting are still underway with sampling 21 beaches at 18 IN DNR sites and one state dog park lake beginning 2 weeks prior to Memorial Day weekend and ending with Labor Day in September. IDEM is using the Cyanotoxin Automated Assay System (CAAS) which automates the ELISA method to analyze for total microcystin, cylindrospermopsin, saxitoxin, and anatoxin a. IDEM also analyzes drinking water samples for the Drinking Water Branch throughout the year.
- IDEM continued probabilistic monitoring at a minimum of 38 sites for water quality (3 events Spring, Summer, and Fall), *E. coli* (once a week for 5 consecutive weeks), diatoms, macroinvertebrate, and fish communities in the East Fork White River Basin in 2022 (5th cycle of probabilistic monitoring in the State of Indiana).
- Reference site sampling will take place at 25 sites in various watersheds around the State (same parameters as probabilistic monitoring without *E. coli*).
- IDEM continues a [Coolwater](#) IBI project with U.S. EPA Region 5 and Tetra Tech to revise the macroinvertebrate and fish indices for coolwater streams. IDEM deployed temperature loggers at 90 sites around the State beginning in April 2021 and will leave them out for two years. Over the two year period, IDEM will collect macroinvertebrates and fish at least one time with three sampling events for water chemistry. IDEM had 45 additional sites for water chemistry and biological sampling in 2021 and will sample the other 45 sites in 2022. Some of the 90 sites are also reference sites.
- IDEM will begin to participate in the [U.S. EPA Stream Regional Monitoring Network](#) (RMN) in 2022. The Stream RMN tracks changes in biological, thermal, hydrologic, habitat, and water chemistry data at high quality, wadeable sites over time. IDEM received funding and purchased equipment (weather station, continuous temperature loggers, and field cameras) to deploy at 3 fixed station sites that also have a USGS gaging station for monthly water chemistry and flow.
- IDEM finished working with U.S. EPA Region 5 and Tetra Tech to develop a [Diatom Index of Biotic Integrity](#) for rivers and streams. Two IBIs were developed based on estimated geologic nitrogen concentration of the stream from StreamCat. The high-nitrogen IBI comprises five metrics of which one metric is taxonomy-based and the others are based upon taxa traits such as the tolerance to pollution or nutrients. The low-nitrogen IBI comprises five metrics that are mostly different from those in the high-nitrogen IBI though from similar metric categories.

NPDES Permits

Industrial Permits: IDEM is still processing NPDES permit renewals for 4 Ohio River power plants. These facilities are:

- Lawrenceburg Power
- A.B. Brown Generating Station -SIGECO
- F.B. Culley Generating Station - SIGECO
- Clifty Creek Generating Station-Indiana Kentucky Electric Corporation

Most of these include both 316(a) thermal variances and cooling water intakes regulated under 316(b) that we will be addressing in the renewals. The Indiana field office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed its concern that the cooling water intakes on the Ohio River could be impacting endangered Sheepsnose mussels through the impingement and entrainment of the mussel larvae and the fish species which serve as hosts for the mussel larvae. IDEM is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to resolve these concerns.

Kentucky

Katie McKone reported the following:

EPA approved Kentucky's 2018/2020 303(d) list on February 24, 2022.

In addition to a traditional Integrated Report document, Kentucky developed an [ArcGIS Hub Site](#), which has interactive maps and story maps to discuss topics ranging from designated uses, assessment categories, and monitoring programs. Assessment results, impaired waters, and causes of impairment are displayed in dashboards.

The [Water Health Portal](#) has also been updated with the 18/20 cycle data and includes layers of those waterbodies with TMDLs and waters designated as Outstanding State Resource Waters.

The [401 Water Quality Certification Map Viewer Tool](#) has also been updated with 18/20 assessment results, and is mapping tool that can be used to determine if you need an individual permit or fall under a general permit.

Story map/dashboard for [Nutrient Reduction in Kentucky](#) has been expanded to include load reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. Kentucky's Nutrient Reduction Strategy is built on 3 general principles: 1) Promote implementation of Agriculture Water Quality Plans 2) Promote wastewater treatment optimization to reduce POTWs energy needs and nutrient discharges 3) Implement nutrient stormwater BMPs, including training and outreach to MS4 KPDES permits.

The Division is working on providing information on initial sampling for PFAS in fish tissue.

Finishing up study plan for ORSNACO to collect additional metals samples at their probabilistically selected sites within the J.T. Myers and Olmsted pools during the 2022 sampling season. These additional samples will support Kentucky's 305(b) assessments of the Ohio River.

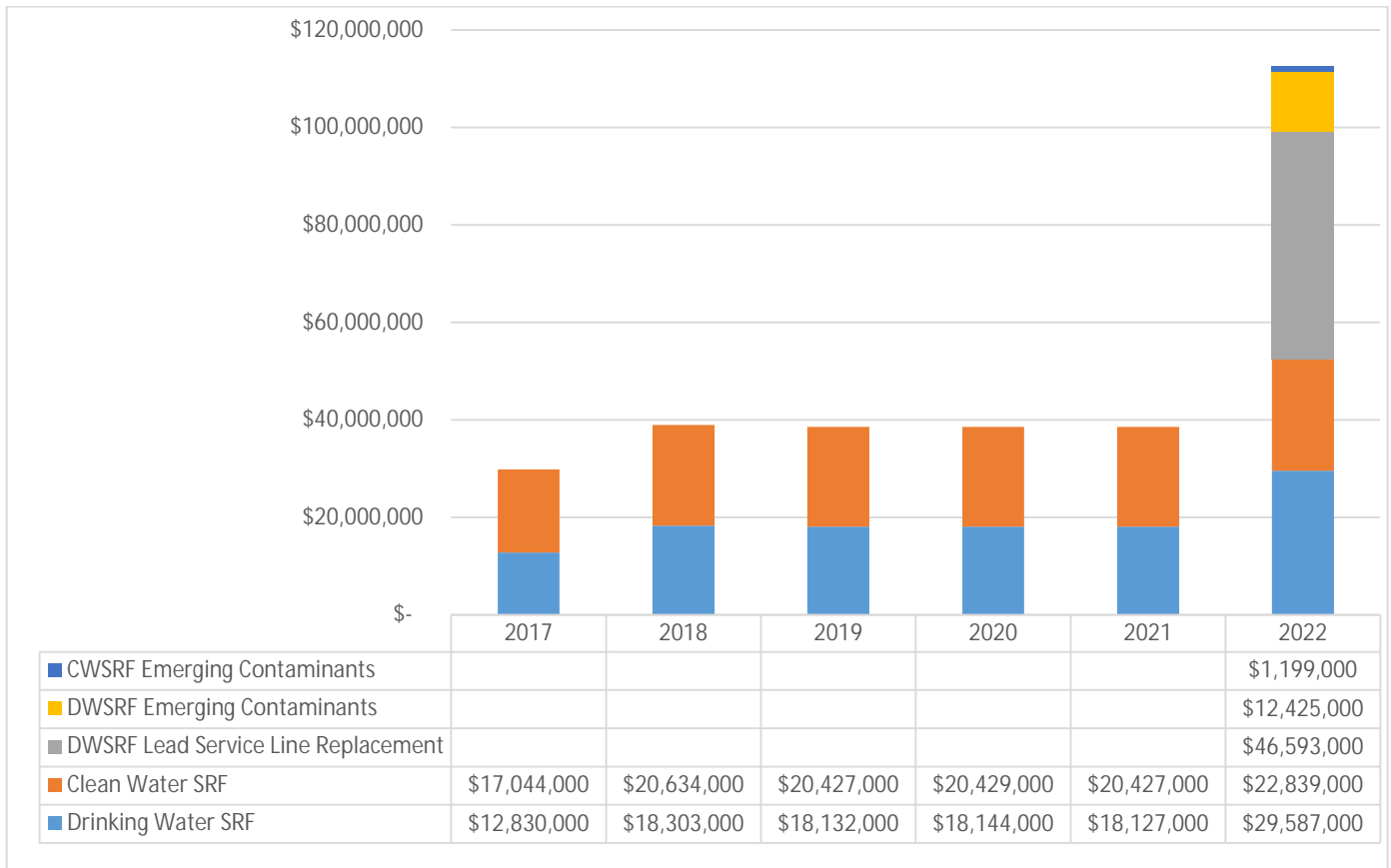
2022 305(b) assessments are ongoing – expect to PN sometime in 2022 – the Ohio River in its entirety will have updated assessment decisions based on ORSANCO data.

States received guidance on implementation of Gulf Hypoxia Taskforce funding from BIL. Workplans from 12 MS basin states are due July 26, 2022.

DOW continues collaborating with the KY Infrastructure Authority (KIA) and stakeholders to implement State Revolving Fund (SRF). BIL added 3 “pots” of funding to SRF including Drinking Water Lead Service Line, DW Emerging contaminants and Clean Water Emerging Contaminants. KY's SRF allocations over the past 5 years, including FY22, are provided in the state update for reference.

EPA Region 4 State Director's meeting was held June 7-8.

- We expect new PFAS Drinking Water Health Advisories to be issued this week.
- EPA anticipates commenting on permits that discharge to impaired waters, especially those impaired by nutrients.



New York

Melanie Stein reported the following:

NYHABS Reporting System:

- DEC’s online mapping tool is now active for the 2022 season.
- Map displays locations of HAB reports, including the date of the report, the HAB status, the extent of the bloom, who submitted the report, and any photos submitted with the report.
- Confirmed large localized HAB in Chautauqua Lake as of 6/11.

Consolidated Funding Application Open:

- New York’s CFA is open through 7/29. DEC’s grant programs offered in the CFA include the Water Quality Improvement Project Program, Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant.
- CWSRF application deadline is 6/17.

Issued SPDES Permit for Cheese Production Facility

- Permit issued effective June 1. Construction has begun, with cheese production expected to begin in 2025.
- Includes a phosphorus limit at 1.9 mg/L. The existing facility that is being replaced does not have a phosphorus limit, so this represents a reduction of up to 7500 lbs/year of phosphorus loading to the Allegheny River watershed.

Draft PFAS/PFOS/1,4-Dioxane Guidance

- Public Notice period ended on 11/5/2021. An implementation strategy and response to comments has been prepared and is under review.

Ohio

Melinda Harris reported on the following items:

- Audrey Rush is retiring at the end of July 2022. Melinda Harris will be the new Standards and Technical Support Section Manager.
- Field work is starting in three Ohio River basin survey areas: Upper Great Miami River/Wabash River; Hocking River and Sunday and Monday Creeks; Pymatuning, Yellow and Little Beaver Creeks
- Ohio EPA's 2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report has been submitted to and approved by U.S. EPA Region 5.
- Rules
 - Reviewing the following Water Quality Standards rules for Interested Party Review – definitions, methods and references and Lake Erie
 - Preparing Triennial Review documents for public comment
 - Continuing to review various Water Quality Standards beneficial use rules

Pennsylvania

Kevin Halloran reported on the following:

1. The Proposed Rulemaking for Water Quality Standard for Manganese was published in the Pa Bulletin on July 25, 2020 (50 Pa.B. 3724). The Public Comment Period closed in September 2020. The Department has developed the final-form rulemaking for manganese and anticipates presentation of the rulemaking to EQB in the 3rd quarter of 2022.

The proposed rulemaking that was approved by the EQB establishes 0.3 mg/L for human health, and discusses two possible approaches with respect to the point of compliance – either statewide as would be consistent with our other toxic substances criteria, or it will be only applied at the PWS withdrawal as per 25 Pa. Code § 96.3(d) to be consistent with Act 40 of 2017.

2. A draft scope for the next triennial review of water quality standards has been completed and was presented to the Department's Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) last month. The Department is currently developing the proposed rulemaking package. Presentation of the package to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is tentatively planned for the end of 2022.
3. 2022 Integrated report is posted on our website. [Draft 2022 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Report \(arcgis.com\)](#).
4. Draft MCLs proposed PFOS 18 ppt and PFOA 14 ppt approved by EQB. The proposed rule published February 26, public comment period closed April 27. Currently reviewing comments.

(PADEP PFAS statewide results released. 412 totals samples, detections at 112 locations, only 2 above HAL. two of the results were above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the combined concentrations of PFOS and PFOA: State of the Art, Inc. in Centre County, and Saegertown Borough in Crawford County. Results were non-detect for the other 10 PFAS that were tested.)

5. NS train derailment, ODS was very helpful to monitor BTEX in the river.
6. Shell Cracker:
 - Construction completed
 - Wastewater treatment plant discharging
 - Cogen plant up and running
 - Test runs of pellets
 - Ethane to site in June/July
 - Product in July
 - Thousands of tons of VOCs and HAPs and millions of tons of CO2

7. Permits on PADEP website

[https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/SouthwestRegion/Community%20Information/Pages/ Shell-Petrochemical-Complex-.aspx](https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/SouthwestRegion/Community%20Information/Pages/Shell-Petrochemical-Complex-.aspx)

West Virginia

Scott Mandirola reported the following:

WV PFAS Study update

USGS has final results for all 279 PWS, schools and daycare sites. The data has been reviewed and uploaded to the USGS NWIS database. The USGS has completed the report and final review is taking place now and it is scheduled to be released by the end of the June. I did a presentation to the WV legislative committee on Water Resource yesterday.

We have 5 sites with levels above the EPA current health advisory of 70ppt for PFOA or PFOS, and 37 systems have detected PFOA and PFOS above detection limit. Currently contracted with USGS to test the finished water at all 37 sites.

Summary of PFAS Health Advisory Exceedances These are the sites identified to have PFOA+PFOS in excess of the EPA health advisory limit of 70 ng/l.

WV PWSID	System Name	USGS Site ID	PFOA (ng/l)	PFOS(ng/l)
WV3302605	Glenn Dale	395643080453201	3.3	98
WV3305404	Lubeck	391407081411601	1500	ND
WV3305411	Vienna	392053081323101	150	9.2
WV3305407	Parkersburg	391717081333802	98	6.5
WV3300212	Martinsburg 3	92534077590401	11	60

All of these systems have carbon filter treatment except Glenn Dale, and this well was removed from use upon discovery of the level of PFOA/PFOS.

WQS Update

The WQS rule changes for HH criteria passed the 2022 legislative session and was recently approved by EPA region 3. The review for the next triennial review has begun for presentation to the 2024 legislative session. This may be aggressive since we are taking on the challenge of putting together a workgroup to review the trout stream definition in the WQS rule. This subject is very controversial and of great interest to many stakeholders.

Legislative rules updates

Reclamation of abandoned and dilapidated structures

DAQ rule updates to meet federal updates

DAQ rule to restructure the fees for tittle 5 permits (move away from emissions based fees)

Reclamation of Solar and Wind electricity generation facilities.

US Army Corps of Engineers

Erich Emery reported that even with wet weather in May, they have not experienced widespread flooding issues. On a national level, they continue to receive user feedback on their remote sensing tool used by the districts to track the occurrence of HABs. They continue to work on development of a national-level water quality data base which should dramatically improve data availability and sharing with partners. The division is preparing to launch a study to evaluate how flow augmentation provided by reservoirs affects low Ohio River flows. Two Sustainable Rivers programs are underway through partnerships with the Nature Conservancy. One is evaluating the effectiveness of managing dams operations and reservoir releases to maximize the ecological benefits of Ohio River flows. A basic scoping study has been completed and stakeholder input is being sought. The other project is to evaluate how mainstem dams can manipulate upstream pool levels for ecological benefits, and a kick-off meeting for this project occurred in May.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Dave Pfeifer reported that Region 5 is currently finishing reviews of the states' 303(d) integrated lists of waters. The proposed CWA 401 rulemaking has been public noticed and EPA is accepting comments. The EPA and Corps continue to work on the WOTUS rule and are reviewing public comments received. Stakeholder roundtables were or are being held in May and June. In January the Supreme Court agreed to hear the "Sackett case", EPA filed a response in June, the court will hear oral arguments in the fall, with a decision expected early in 2023.

US Geological Survey

Jeff Frey reported the following:

There are a couple new stream gages and some new PFAS studies to highlight.

KENTUCKY

The new gage mentioned at the last meeting, Ohio River at Owensboro, KY, which is stage only, will be installed in July. This is a collaboration with City of Owensboro, Daviess County, and Owensboro Riverport Authority.

OHIO

New stations include:

[394653084072100](#) Outfall 1 channel near Springfield St near Dayton OH (USGS River Gage with stage and discharge, water quality monitor and water quality sampling; PFAS site).

[395245082435800](#) Sycamore Creek below Pickerington OH (LoCas site, it is not the same as a USGS River Gage) current status: no data, equip issues

New PFAS studies

We have started a PFAS study with the Department of Defense sampling for PFAS/PFOS and other water quality parameters at three bases in Ohio and Indiana. Inflows and outflows will be monitored. Discrete samples will be collected during the growing season 3 times, approximately bi-monthly, but targeting a range in hydrologic conditions, including baseflow and higher flow. Targeted event sampling will be done as needed. At the Wright Patterson base in Ohio an autosampler will be used to collect samples during storm events and baseflow for PFAS/PFOS analysis. Samples will be analyzed for major ions, nutrients, selected trace elements, carbon species, nitrogen and oxygen isotopes of detected nitrate, hydrogen and oxygen isotopes of water, carbon isotopes of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), wastewater indicators, pesticides, PFAS compounds (EPA Method 1633 draft), Total Oxidizable Precursors (TOP) Assay, and Total Organofluorine (TOF).

Power Industry Advisory Committee

Cheri Budzynski reported that the power industry continues to work on implementation of the coal combustion rule effluent limitations guidelines. In addition, the industry is working to transition from PFOS-containing firefighting foams and are considering alternatives.

Watershed Organization Advisory Committee

Angie Rosser reported the following:

1. **Quarterly meeting.** The committee met on June 3 with the following agenda items:
 - ORSANCO updates from Richard Harrison
 - EJ Committee update/discussion
 - Items for WOAC's June report
 - Member updates

2. **Environmental Justice ad hoc committee.** We commend ORSANCO for initiating the EJ committee, inviting WOAC to participate, and working thoughtfully on its charge. Heather Hulton VanTassel is WOAC's representative on the committee. Given this is a new and important initiative, we recommend that ORSANCO consider hiring a consultant with specialized knowledge in DEIJ issues and familiarity with the region to help facilitate and support the committee's work. WOAC can offer recommendations for well-suited consultants, and explore strategies for collaborative fundraising to cover associated costs if needed.
3. **PFAS sampling.** We appreciate and congratulate ORSANCO for its completion of its initial PFAS sampling project and support publication of the report as soon as possible. It is a valuable contribution to a larger PFAS data set for the Ohio River watershed, and should inform additional study. We recommend ORSANCO take a basin wide look at surface and ground water data, where there may be gaps, and coordinated strategies for filling those data gaps. We also support ORSANCO moving ahead with fish tissue sampling and potentially other exposure pathways, as well as discuss its role in assisting states and water utilities with plans of actions in response to the updated EPA health advisories.
4. **Ongoing nutrient concerns.** WOAC members remain concerned about lack of progress on addressing nutrient pollution in the Ohio River watershed. We encourage ORSANCO and the states to engage with EPA on developing and implementing strategies to reduce nutrient pollution.
5. **Listening Sessions.** WOAC members are holding a series of community listening sessions this summer to gather input into the Ohio River basin restoration plan that is being developed under the leadership of the Ohio River Basin Alliance. The intent is for local priorities to be included in the plan, and for the process to provide opportunities for input from communities most impacted by pollution and environmental harm. We appreciate ORSANCO and PIACO's assistance in getting the word out.

Water Users Advisory Committee

Mary Carol Wagner reported the following:

The Water Users Advisory Committee (WUAC) last met on May 17th via video conference.

The Committee welcomed two new members, Mark Valenty from West View Water Authority and Brittney Classick from Evansville Water.

ORSANCO staff briefed the Committee on the status of the WaterSuite project and allocation of remaining EPA project funds. Committee members had initial discussions on the sustainability of this source water consortium, including ways that ORSANCO could play an expanded role - similar to the ODS Network - helping ensure ongoing collaboration and data sharing between water systems regarding contaminant sources. The Committee will have further discussion on this topic, including whether to bring a formal recommendation to the Commission later this year.

ORSANCO staff also briefed the Committee on the status of the PFAS monitoring study and PFAS Work Group activities. Of course, many of the WUAC member utilities also participate on the PFAS Work Group and have been tracking this study very closely. Committee members would like to commend those who commissioned, designed and executed this important water quality study.

ORSANCO staff reported on proposed changes to the predictive models used with the HAB app. The Committee was pleased to know that staff would soon be installing in-situ water quality sensors to help with early HAB detection. Successful integration of these data with the HAB app will be very beneficial to water users.

ORSANCO staff also provided a summary of the benzene incident reported in February and March and the subsequent monitoring effort. We spent the remainder of our time talking about the value of the ODS Network to track spills and investigate possible sources. We also discussed the challenges in working with response agencies to get actionable monitoring data out quickly during a spill event. This was a good opportunity to highlight the function and capabilities of the ODS Network and underscore the importance of real-time monitoring data (from both screening methods and confirmation methods) to inform real-time treatment decisions to mitigate drinking water risks from regulated organic contaminants.

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for September 20th.

PIACO

Betsy Bialosky reported the following:

Guests

Jordan Lubetkin of the national Wildlife Federation presented a brief update on ORBA's listening sessions and asked for PIACO's support and attendance at these sessions.

Staff provided an update on activities since the last meeting and reported that a new communications strategy will be developed as an outcome of current strategic planning activities. PIACO's input and support will be welcomed during this development process.

Ohio River Sweep

Staff provided a status update on the 2022 Ohio River Sweep season. Events are moving forward as planned.

- 80 confirmed event locations thus far
- Planning a season closing event for October 2022 (invite media, thank sponsors, and announce totals)
- We have updated our event site map, to view all locations visit: www.orsanco.org/river-sweep and scroll to bottom of page.

The Committee discussed ways to enhance and promote this valuable program. Some ideas for consideration include:

- Development of a press packet to better utilize media and attract media attention. To provide consistent messaging and ensure ORSANCO/FORE is represented. Right now most participants are not even recognizing our organization or the supplies provided.
- Prepare press releases monthly using new topics to promote scheduling additional Sweep events.
- Improve direct communication with state, county and local coordinators to better evaluate needs and provide support.
- Identify strategies to provide "hands-on" support to sponsors at their events as appropriate.

PIACO membership

Staff reported that there are several membership openings on the Committee. Staff will reach out to Commissioners in those states where openings exist for possible recommendations.

Closing

As always, if you have any leads on sponsorship funding for the Sweep program please contact staff. Sponsorship funding covers the cost of shirts, bags, gloves and staff support. Also, consider coordinating or participating in a Sweep event this year. We encourage each member to engage with us on social media and share our content to help spread awareness of our program.

Adjournment

The 229th meeting of the ORSANCO Technical Committee was adjourned by Chairman Mandirola at 11:50 A.M. on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

Approved:

Scott Mandirola

DRAFT

Roster of Attendance

Technical Committee

Chairman	Commissioner Scott Mandirola
Illinois	Scott Twait
Indiana	Brad Gavin
Kentucky	Katie McKone
New York	Melanie Stein (virtual)
Ohio	Melinda Harris
Pennsylvania	Kevin Halloran
Virginia	Not present
West Virginia	Scott Mandirola
US Army Corps of Engineers	Erich Emery (virtual)
US Coast Guard	Not present
US Environmental Protection Agency	David Pfeifer (virtual)
US Geological Survey	Jeffrey Frey
Chemical Industry Advisory Committee	Not present
Power Industry Advisory Committee	Cheri Budzynski (virtual)
Public Interest Advisory Committee	Betsy Mallison Bialosky (virtual)
POTW Advisory Committee	Not present
Water Users Advisory Committee	Mary Carol Wagner (virtual)
Watershed Organizations Advisory Committee	Angie Rosser
ORSANCO Chief Engineer	Richard Harrison
Staff Liaison	Jason Heath

Commissioners/Proxies

Martha Clark Mettler (virtual), Douglas Conroe, George Elmaraghy, David Flannery, Toby Frevert, John Hoopingarner, Carey Johnson (virtual), Tiffani Kavalec (virtual), John Kupke (virtual), John Lyons (virtual), David Miracle, Ron Potesta, Mike Wilson, Davitt Woodwell

Staff

Ryan Argo, Dave Bailey, Daniel Cleves (virtual), Stacey Cochran (virtual), Sam Dinkins, Tracey Edmonds (virtual), Nick Guthier, Emilee Harmeling (virtual), Richard Harrison, Jason Heath, Melissa Mann (virtual), Adam Scott, Bridget Taylor (virtual), Rob Tewes (virtual), Jamie Tsiominas (virtual), Greg Youngstrom, Lila Ziolkowski (virtual)

Guests

Chris Anderson	USEPA Region 3
Amy Bergdale	USEPA
Carolyn Bido	Ohio River Restoration (virtual)
Bill Boria	PIACO
Gabrielle Ghreichi	IDEM (virtual)
John Hirschfield	Westlake Chemical (virtual)
Jim Lazorchak	(virtual)
Jordan Lubetkin	National Wildlife Federation
Paul McMurray	IDEM
Nicholas Reif	
Curt D. Marshall	Kelley Drey & Warren LLP
Meredith Seibold	Ohio River Restoration (virtual)
Nicole Trimblay	Louisville Water
John Wathen	USEPA Headquarters
Janean Weber	Environmental Law & Policy Center (virtual)
Ward Wilson	Kentucky Waterways Alliance (virtual)