

WQS Quarterly Public Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 2:11 PM

Location: DEP Charleston Headquarters, Dolly Sods conference room

Laura Cooper, DEP

- Gave a brief update as to the last years' developments on HHC
- DEP received 2 comments by the Oct 1st date
- Going to have presentations from each of those submittals today
- Offered paper copies of these two submittals, Kerry went to get copies for those folks

Chris Smith, DEP

Greenbrier River Algae Update

- Did Algae monitoring on Greenbrier River presentation
- Updated everyone on the ongoing algae monitoring on Greenbrier River with updates thru October 2019
- Will continue to monitor algae and nutrients in next few years, and hopefully eventually delist

Tygart Valley River update

- Updated on Tygart Valley River too
- Working with Elkins and WVU on possible alternative treatment solutions

New River - some blooms this Summer from VA into WV

Buchannon on River and Elk River -

South Branch Potomac - hasn't had blooms for awhile, can probably delist next year

Jennie Henthorn, representing WVMA

Presented from the WVMA their submittal to DEP

Cancer Slope Factor, WVMA recommends using EPA 2015

Relative Source Contribution, WVMA recommends using EPA 2015

Bioaccumulation Factors, WVMA found substantial work is necessary before reliable BAFs can be developed

Recommend assembling a large database

EPA's 2015 BAFs didn't adhere to its 2001 Methodology

WVMA proposed using 2002 criteria BAFs

WVMA recommends no cherry-picking, recommending same for all organic

Although they don't propose a criteria for bis-2-hexylphthalate

Recommend keeping phthalates together

Some criteria have a higher recommended criteria now than in original IRIS document, EPA and WVMA both agree on using the old IRIS numbers

Holly Cloonan question: why did WVMA not reconsider criteria based upon fish consumption and WV weight?

Jennie answered that was not their intention in this review

Comment/question from Chris ___ online asked about the protectiveness of criteria to people like her, who live right along the Greenbrier river and have higher exposure than the average

Laura answered that the criteria are designed to protect the highest exposed in the population
And designed to protect to the 1:1,000,000 chance of adverse effect over 70-yr lifespan

Angie Rosser WV Rivers Coalition

WV Rivers cares about clean water in WV

High cancer rates in WV

Chemical Valley in Charleston, 13 high-risk facilities

Impairments like PCBs, Dioxin, on Kanawha River and other rivers/lakes in the state

Approach: WVRC wants to strengthen WV human health criteria, reduce exposure, reduce risk

By using

1. Better fish consumption rate
2. Adopt EPA-recommended criteria
3. Do not weaken water standards

Eating Fish & fishing

- Should be encouraged in the state for health, sustenance, fitness activity
- Swedish fish example - these are 6 grams each, you could eat one of those per day
- If you eat more fish, you're at higher risk; that's just how it is

WVRC recommends using US Inland South fish rate: 22.8g/day (about 1-2 fish fillets weekly)

- Inland South FCR matches WV with similar counties/states
- Study design - used bigger sample size, continuous of an 8-yr period
 - Contrasted to WV Study of 12 months, less dependable result
- WV study didn't ask the question: would you eat more fish if you knew it was safe?
- Compared to 2008, Wvians were eating less fish back then and were recommended to eat less back then than now
- Several rivers have been removed from PCB/Dioxin fish advisory list since 2008

2. Adopt EPA-recommended criteria
 - Several facilities in WV do discharge these chemicals, so "it's time" to update them
 - Some chemicals currently not in WV criteria should be adopted, some facilities are discharging these
 - PFAS - should set WQS for these chemicals too
 - "Don't delay" can't wait on these, it's time to move on these
3. Do not weaken water quality standards
 - Gave examples of organic currently being discharged by DOW and Union Carbide that will be "weakened" with 2015 EPA updates
 - Companies able to comply with current standards, "why go backwards?"
 - Showed pie chart of chemicals proposed to be "weakened the most" by WVMA's recommendation

Provided quote from Dr. MaCauley Public Health Expert

WVRC wants the state to aspire to remove restraints from fish consumption and water consumption

Questions for Angie

Did WVRC take issue with recalculation of the BAFs?

Angie: they took issue with anything that weakened the standards, increased toxins

Is proposal for WV to go to zero exposure?

Their proposal was not to go to zero exposure

3 criteria recommended, what about EPA updates that resulted in higher criteria?

WVRC recommended not to update those criteria

Cancer rates in presentation