

TOXIC SUBSTANCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TSCC)

**March 21, 2017
10:00 am – 11:30 am**

**Room T-607
Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756**

Attendance:

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Heidi Bojes	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Versa Burnett	DSHS
Robin Cypher	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Deba Dutta	DSHS
Glory Green	DSHS
Joseph Haney (c)	TCEQ
Amanda Kindt	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Laura Morse	DSHS
Andrew Myers	DSHS
Leticia Nogueira	DSHS
Alex Nuñez (c)	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
Yahitza Nuñez	DSHS
Erik Orsak	United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Ketki Patel	DSHS
Michael Tennant	DSHS
Nikki Turnbough	DSHS
Melissa Valadez (c)	Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
Tina Walker	DSHS

(c) denotes attendee participated by conference line

Call to order and welcome visitors:

Laura Morse, DSHS, called meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Approval of minutes dated December 20, 2016:

Committee members approved the minutes as is.

Presentation:

Dr. Peter Langlois, DSHS
“*Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance*”

Vote on mission statement for TSCC:

The majority voted for the following mission statement for TSCC (this is the statement that previously has been included on TSCC meeting agendas):

Our mission is to protect and promote the health of the people of Texas through the prevention and control of adverse health effects related to toxic substances and harmful physical agents.

This is accomplished through interagency coordination of regulation development, health risk assessments, cooperative studies, information dissemination, and public education efforts.

Subcommittee reports:

- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) workgroup meeting update (Alex Nuñez, TPWD; Robin Cypher, TCEQ)
 - The Texas HAB Subcommittee has not met again since the meeting on April 21, 2016.
 - A fish kill occurred in the Colorado River Basin in March 2017 as a result of a golden alga (*Prymnesium parvum*) bloom. Monitoring by TPWD is ongoing.
 - TCEQ is currently involved in a cyanobacteria project.
 - TCEQ has contracted with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to collect cyanobacteria, cyanotoxins, taste-and-odor compounds, and field data to provide information for the assessment of multiple field and laboratory methods.
 - ◇ A one-time sampling event was conducted from August to October 2016 on 18 reservoirs representing a variety of physico-chemical conditions statewide.
 - ◇ A rapid-assessment method for cyanotoxin in conjunction with field measurements (chlorophyll-a, phycocyanin, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, and turbidity) was used to determine if a sample would be collected at a particular reservoir.
 - ◇ Laboratory analyses include phytoplankton biomass and taxonomy, cyanotoxins, taste-and-odor compounds, nutrients, major ions, total organic carbon (TOC), dissolved organic carbon (DOC), total dissolved solids (TDS), ultraviolet (UV)-absorbing organics, chlorophyll-a, and pheophytin-a.
 - A second phase of the project is currently under development. It will include a comparison of the phase 1 results to identify possible correlations between analytical/field methods and additional monitoring.
- Fish Sampling subcommittee meeting update (Michael Tennant, DSHS)
 - *Subcommittee Meetings*
 - The subcommittee has not met in 2017.
 - *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Fish Project (Ongoing)*
 - Mountain Creek Lake
 - ◇ Fish samples collected November 2015.
 - ◇ Mountain Creek Lake chemical contaminant analyses completed August 31, 2016.
 - ◇ DSHS issued ADV-59 (rescinding ADV-44) on January 13, 2017 to revise the existing fish consumption advisory:
http://www.dshs.texas.gov/seafood/MapsPDF/AdvisoryMaps/MountainCreekLakeMap_ADV59/.
 - Lake Worth
 - ◇ Fish samples collected November 2016.
 - *Unscheduled Sampling*
 - ◇ Leon Creek (six sample sites; $n = 60$)
 - ◇ Trinity River DFW (12 sample sites; $n = 192$)

- Environmental Health and Toxicology workgroup update (Laura Morse, DSHS)
 - In follow up to the Health Assessment Comparison Value Review workgroup meeting that was held in September last year, Mike Tennant has been drafting a technical support document. I have been assisting with editing it. The technical support document will address the use of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chronic oral Reference Dose (RfD) for assessment of dioxin health risks in the Texas Fish Consumption Advisory Program (TFCAP). We hope to schedule a meeting with workgroup participants sometime around May to review the document.

Agency updates on department policy and/or legislative issues:

- Texas Department of State Health Services (Laura Morse, DSHS)
 - The Environmental & Injury Epidemiology and Toxicology (EIET) Unit provided technical assistance to the City of Amarillo Public Health Department in response to an acute pesticide exposure event that occurred on January 2, 2017.
 - The incident occurred following misuse of aluminum phosphide, a restricted-use pesticide requiring a license to purchase and apply.
 - Unit staff designed a surveillance tool to gather information on possible exposures and acute health effects, and collaborated with City of Amarillo Public Health Department epidemiologists who interviewed all first responders involved in the incident.
 - Unit staff also provided references for education materials to the City of Amarillo Public Health Department.
 - Currently the EIET Unit is waiting to receive the interview results from the city.
 - The EIET Unit is coordinating with the Tarrant County Public Health Department and National Institute of Occupational Health and Science to help identify a possible cause of adverse health effects that are being experienced by students and teachers at a junior high school in the Arlington Independent School District.
 - Since September 2016, several dozen students and teachers at a junior high school in the Arlington Independent School District have reported experiencing symptoms of nausea and dizziness.
 - An environmental consulting firm was called in to perform air sampling, but has not detected a source for the illness.
 - The Texas Fluoridation Program will be conducting an eight-hour operator training class for water plant personnel on March 23, 2017, at the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant in Corpus Christi.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Joseph Haney, TCEQ)
 - TCEQ Toxicology Division (TD) presented three scientific posters at the Society of Toxicology conference last week:
 - Dose Response Curves Derived from Controlled Human Ozone Exposure Experiments and Ambient Exposure Estimates Can Inform Public Policy, S. Lange, et al.
 - Development of an Inhalation Unit Risk Factor for Ethylene Dichloride, J. Myers, et al.
 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Guidelines for Systematic Review: Ethylene Glycol Case Study, H. Schaefer, et al.

- The Development Support Document for hexane is out for public comments until March 31st.
- The TD will likely put out a systemic review guideline document within a month for public comment.
- TCEQ is formulating comments on SO₂ National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) documents.
- Continuing to provide support to Amarillo regarding the residential pesticide/phosphine incident in January.
- The TD is requesting toxicological data for the following chemicals and any additional isocyanate isomer for which you have toxicity information:

Chemical Name	CAS Number
1,5-Naphthalene diisocyanate	3173-72-6
4,4'-Diphenylmethane diisocyanate	101-68-8
Hexamethylene diisocyanate	822-06-0
Isophorone diisocyanate	4098-71-9
Methyl isocyanate	624-83-9
Toluene diisocyanate	26471-62-5
Toluene-2,4-diisocyanate	584-84-9
Toluene-2,6-diisocyanate	91-08-7

- Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
 - Staff was unable to attend and provide an update.
- Railroad Commission of Texas (Amanda Kindt, RRC)
 - The RRC is not affected by the state hiring freeze.
 - Wayne Christian is a new RRC Commissioner who replaced David Porter. Commissioner Christian was sworn in at the beginning of the year.
 - The Site Remediation Section Voluntary Cleanup Program/Brownfield position that was posted in January has been filled. The new person will begin the position at the beginning of April.
- Texas Department of Public Safety (Melissa Valadez, DPS)
 - DPS is currently affected by the state hiring freeze. However, the Crime Laboratory has a waiver to hire forensic scientists and evidence technicians because of their direct connection to law enforcement. Management positions are not included in the waiver.
 - DPS is watching legislation that includes \$4.2 million for the outsourcing of sexual assault kits for DNA analysis.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Alex Nuñez, TPWD)
 - TPWD is currently in a hiring freeze and is requesting waivers to hire positions that the Department has determined need to be filled.

Public comment:

- No members of the public were in attendance.

Review of upcoming 2017 meetings:

- June 20, 2017 – DSHS, 10:00 am
- September 19, 2017 – DSHS, 10:00 am
- December 19, 2017 – DSHS, 10:00 am

Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.