

FINAL SUMMARY
TECHNICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

May 25, 1999

South Florida Water Management District Headquarters
Richard Rogers Conference Room

TOC Members Present:

Garth Redfield (SFWMD) Chair
Laura Brandt (USFWS)
Mike Zimmerman (ENP)
Frans Nearhoof (DEP) (by telephone)

Bob Barron (COE) not present

Others Present:

Delia Ivanoff (SFWMD)
Tony Federico (MacVicar, Federico and Lamb, Inc.)
Shawn Komlos (NAS)
Christy Kulich (Lewis, Longman and Walker, PA)
Bill Walker (Consultant)
Larry Fink, Darren Rumbold and Pete Rawlik (SFWMD, RAD)

Garth Redfield called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., took notes and composed the meeting summary. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

1. March Meeting Summary

Comments received from Laura Brandt and resulting changes were noted. Changes in the minutes were reviewed. TOC meeting minutes for March were approved as final. Copies of comments on TOC issues from Barbara DeMeo were distributed to all present and were discussed briefly; issues will be covered under other agenda items and at future meetings.

2. QA/QC Reporting Update, Delia Ivanoff, Water Quality Monitoring Division, District

Delia provided an update and lead a discussion on the QA report to be submitted to the TOC in association with the Water Conditions Report. The new LIMS system at the District's laboratory is going to provide more useful information for the QA report and will allow project managers to see preliminary data sooner and screen for outliers. LIMS will also provide some new QA charts automatically. At this point, the system is being used primarily for internal data and it is not certain how external data from contract labs and other agencies will be processed through the LIMS framework.

George Shih, also with the Water Quality Monitoring Division, continues to work on a program to aid in the QA process by identifying data that are unusual for a particular station and parameter. The program will treat data on a seasonal, floating basis and it is expected to support the QA process to speeding the preliminary identification of suspect

data that then can be screened and flagged if needed. This program is still being developed and is not ready to be discussed in detail. It would be appropriate as a TOC agenda item once it has been thoroughly tested and documented.

Bill Walker repeated some of his concerns expressed in an e-mail to the District and indicated that he would forward a copy of the e-mail to Delia. Bill also noted that a list of flagged TP data for the Park and Refuge is very important. Delia indicated his ideas were being considered fully as the new report format is developed. Delia also noted that flagging has improved and been made more consistent through the last few years and now follows DEP protocols very closely. Comments from Barbara DeMeo have also been received and will be considered on the revised report. **The water quality monitoring quality assurance team will continue to develop a new report format and will present a revised QA report to the TOC at the next meeting.**

3. Discussion of Fourth Quarter 1998 Report to the Technical Oversight Committee

TOC members and interested parties had been given copies of this report by mail in the first week of May, 1999. Tim Bechtel was not able to be present at this TOC meeting to discuss the report.

Most discussion centered around mercury in STA 6. Larry Fink, Resource Assessment Division, WRE, led the discussion using figures and tables copied from the Non-ECP Permit Annual Report. Because runoff releases to STA 6 are outside of District control, and apparent discharges sometimes are being recirculated back to the U.S. Sugar cane fields, STA 6 has a highly variable retention time, and rain is more important as a mercury source than in the ENR Project. Methylmercury is more variable than total mercury, and the STA is sometimes an apparent source of both total mercury and methylmercury. Using a crude mass budget approach, STA 6 can be shown to be a net sink for total mercury, but since rain does not make a significant contribution to the methylmercury loading, STA 6 is still an apparent net source for methylmercury. STA 6 is quite different from ENR in soil characteristics, hydraulic retention time, water chemistry, and vegetation communities.

More data are needed to accommodate the lag times and variability of this STA, and long-term averaging is the most appropriate way to view conditions and trends. However, the DEP permit requires an event-by-event evaluation of compliance with permit conditions. Larry then explained several proposed approaches for defining statistically significant differences between inflow and outflow based on the results of a single grab sampling event at the inflow and outflow, including arbitrary multiples of the quality control criterion for field duplicate samples (i.e., +/-40%).

In response to a follow-up question regarding the potential for a mercury problem in periphyton-based phosphorus removal systems (e.g., SAV Limerock, PSTA), Larry updated the group on some of the latest findings in ENR Project follow-up studies, the Advanced Treatment Technology Screening Studies, and the South Florida Mercury Science Program.

Pete Rawlik provided copies of the Annual Monitoring Report for STA 6 to all TOC members and interested parties.

4. Discussion of Consent Decree Compliance Test for Shark River Slough, Mike Zimmerman, Everglades National Park

Mike Zimmerman lead a discussion of flow routing through structures 332D, S176, 332, and S174. He did not have an updated white paper on these issues, but did present a diagram outlining structures and canals for the TOC. Permits for Shark River structures (355A&B, S332D) are in various stages of DEP processing. Water quality information from the 355s will have to accommodate data from S334, and the monitoring regime for structures 174 and 176 involved with L31 North and L31 West will need to be examined in conjunction with a permit being processed for S332D. **The TOC will review the status of compliance monitoring for the Park in upcoming meetings.**

5. Announcements and General Discussion

Garth presented the items listed on the agenda and there was no new information presented during the TOC meeting on these announcements. **The next TOC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, 1999 from 1 to 4 p.m., Conference Room 2A West, B-1 headquarters building, South Florida Water management District.**

6. Upcoming Agenda Items for the August TOC Meeting are:

- Water quality conditions update, Tim Bechtel
- STA Performance Team functions and products, Tom Kosier
- QA/QC Reporting, Delia Ivanoff
- Update on compliance monitoring for the Park, Mike Zimmerman
- Analysis of data from the Refuge processed by FIU, if available, Bill Walker ???
- Other items as suggested by TOC members or others

The Chair adjourned the TOC meeting at 2:50 pm.