



PCB TMDL Development for James, Elizabeth, New, and Bluestone Rivers December 2016

DEQ continues its work to develop PCB TMDLs for the tidal James and Elizabeth Rivers. DEQ has had some delays, attributed to lost staff, but now expects a draft of the TMDLs in 2017, with finalization in 2018. As with all of DEQ's TMDL efforts, they anticipate further public notice and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) participation at critical points.

DEQ is also currently working on PCB TMDLs for the New and Bluestone Rivers. For the New River, DEQ has a contractor (Biological Systems Engineering, affiliated with Virginia Tech), and held a public meeting on the TMDL process in April, and the first TMDL Advisory Panel meeting in May. Two VAMWA Members have representatives on the Advisory Panel. In April, VAMWA's PCB Committee submitted initial comments on the New River TMDL process. DEQ anticipates draft TMDL wasteload allocation and other materials in December, an additional TAC meeting which it expects to schedule for January 12, and TMDL completion in May, 2017. DEQ earlier added portions of the New River above Claytor Lake to the study area, and reports that some of the ambient fish PCB numbers continue to be relatively high. DEQ also reports water column hot spots in Peak Creek (Pulaski) and Wolf and Walker Creeks (tributaries to downstream portions of the river). DEQ had earlier agreed to our request for enhanced TAC involvement and at an earlier point than they initially intended in the TMDL process.

The Bluestone effort is proceeding slowly because of resource issues, although DEQ expects a TMDL kickoff meeting later this year or early next year. No field sampling has yet been performed.

DEQ is also in the early stages of a TMDL effort for Mountain Run in Culpeper County, tributary to the Rappahannock. Data collection is ongoing. VAMWA will continue to advocate for a sensible approach to TMDLs and permits for legacy pollutants that are not properly attributable to domestic wastewater.

As to the completed PCB TMDLs in other parts of the Commonwealth, DEQ has continued its implementation efforts. In the Lower Potomac River watershed, DEQ has not yet requested PCB Pollutant Minimization Plans (PMPs) of any permittees. However, in the Roanoke River watershed we understand that five PMPs have been triggered for non-POTWs (all or most being industrial stormwater), and in the Bluestone a PMP was triggered for one POTW (implementing a prior TMDL). VAMWA's PCB Committee reviewed two of the Roanoke River PMPs (both for POTWs), although because of specific known sources they were not typical of what we would expect for most VAMWA Members.



VAMWA recently received from DEQ its final report, *The Relationship Between PCBs, VPDES Wastewater/Stormwater Facilities, Stormwater ISWGP Facilities, and the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) System*, which was reviewed by the VAMWA PCB Committee. Possibly triggered by findings of significant (non-POTW) permitted discharges of PCBs in the New River TMDL process (above), DEQ's report identifies 21 major SIC code groups with significant reported PCB discharges in Virginia, 11 of which are not included as likely sources in DEQ's current Guidance on PCB Monitoring. The report includes several interesting findings, outlined in our September Status Report.

DEQ continues to report that it is working on revisions to its (2009, modified in 2011) PCB Monitoring Guidance, although they were unable to provide any specifics of what elements of the guidance they planned to modify. They expect to publish a draft in summer, 2017. Based on the *Relationship Between PCBs* report, we suspect that at least one Guidance change would be an expanded emphasis on data collection from the identified 21 industrial SIC Major Groups and from ISWGP facilities. This would be in our view a positive and welcome change. We expect that VAMWA and the PCB Committee will have an opportunity to participate and comment on any Guidance changes.

DEQ had also earlier reported that it was underway in the development of guidance on PCB PMP preparation, and it reports that it has a contractor to assist with available PMP technologies, with deliverables due shortly, and guidance completion scheduled for this year.

Finally the Department has a newly posted link to a [PMP technical resource guide](#) that may be of value to Members. Members are reminded that VAMWA's PCB Committee developed an internal PMP outline for your use, which attempts to focus on practical steps that a POTW may take to identify potential collection system sources of PCBs, or to rule out the presence of independent sources.