

MINUTES
NJDEP SAB Public Health Standing Committee
November 8, 2011, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
Conference Call

Prepared by Gloria Post

Recommendations are highlighted in yellow.

Action items are highlighted in green.

SAB Public Health Standing Committee Participants: Mark Robson (chair), Gerald Kennedy, Howard Kipen, Judy Klotz, Mark Maddaloni, Clifford Weisel, Judith Zelikoff

DEP Participants: Alan Stern and Gloria Post (Office of Science Public Health Committee liaisons), Linda Cullen (Site Remediation Program)

Other Participants: Robert Lippencott (NJDEP SAB)

Agenda

The discussions followed the agenda that had been sent out by Alan Stern, as follows:

Review and comment on 9/27 partial draft Acute Soil Criteria Report

Alan Stern had sent the draft document out to Public Health Panel members for comment.

--Judy Klotz provided comments suggesting that contaminated soil that children do not contact on a regular basis, such as in parks, could be addressed with different exposure assumptions than those used at homes and schools. Subsequently, there was an email discussion among Public Health Panel members about her comments.

Judy Klotz stated that the impetus for her comments was the discussion that the recommended approach for acute soil criteria could result in acute criteria that are more stringent than chronic criteria. She intended to give the Department a possible option that is based on common sense, is scientifically defensible, and is public health protective. It is fine with her if the SAB Panel decides that this approach is not applicable to the recommendations it is developing for acute soil criteria.

Judy Klotz stated that she had not taken her suggestion to the point of developing a quantitative approach for this scenario. She said that it would need to be very simple, and would consider that children spend less time at sites other than home or school (e.g. an order of magnitude approach).

Linda Cullen stated that the DEP Site Remediation Program has never had a default recreational scenario. These scenarios are developed on a site specific basis when needed, such as for trespassers, “rails-to-trails” sites, or parks used for active or non-active recreation. She said that site-specific acute criteria could be developed when appropriate.

Judy Klotz clarified that she did not intend to develop exposure assumptions specifically for playing/recreational activities, but rather intended to account for the fact that less time is spent at locations other than home and school.

Alan Stern suggested that this issue be addressed by stating in the report that the charge questions on this issue did not envision non-residential scenarios where people (including children) other than workers could be exposed, but that DEP should consider such scenarios when appropriate. Judy Klotz said that it would be clearer if the non-residential criteria are called “occupational” criteria, but Linda stated that the term used by DEP has always been “non-residential”.

--Alan noted that the values on Table 3-Soil Concentrations Corresponding to a Blood Pb Concentration of 10 ug/dl on page 24 of the draft report are not correct. The Mean Concentration for 10 days should be 300 ug/g, rather than 422 ug/g, and the other values also need to be corrected. However, these numbers will change if the input for Pb absorption in the Legett model is changed from the current value of 0.5 used to this point by the Committee to the model default of 0.3 (see below).

--Linda Cullen requested that the report should provide the recommended values for acute lead criteria, since DEP Site Remediation does not have access to the model being used for the recommended lead criteria. For other chemicals, the report will provide a recommended approach, and the criteria themselves will be developed by DEP Site Remediation with assistance from DEP Office of Science.

--A question was asked about the information on toxaphene in soil on page 1 of the draft report. Linda Cullen will check to verify the accuracy of the statement that toxaphene was detected at 750,000 ppm at a contaminated site.

Review and discussion of the 11/1 recommendations of the Acute Soil Criteria Workgroup regarding unresolved issues in the 9/27 draft report

The Public Health Panel discussed these recommendations, which had been sent out by Alan prior to the meeting. The recommendations are attached as an Appendix to these minutes. There was unanimous agreement by the Public Health Panel about the first five recommendations.

There was discussion about the sixth recommendation: “What is the appropriate metric (mean or peak) over which to integrate the accumulation of Pb in blood in IEUBK (fetus receptor) modeling?” It was clarified that the All Ages-Legett model, not the IEUBK model, is being used. It was discussed that the mean value represents a value that is integrated over time, while the peak is a transient value which is less stable than the mean. It was agreed that it is overly conservative to use the peak instead of the mean value.

The column headings on Table 3-Soil Concentrations Corresponding to a Blood PB Concentration of 10 ug/dl on page 24 of the draft report will be clarified to read “Soil concentration required to achieve 10 ug/dl **peak blood lead** at 400 mg soil/day” and “Soil concentration required to achieve 10 ug/dl **mean blood lead** at 400 mg soil/day.”

The choice of absorption factor used in the modeling for the recommended acute lead criteria was discussed. Mark Maddaloni stated that the absorption factor normally used for lead in soil is 0.3 and asked why 0.5 was used in the modeling for the acute soil criteria. It was unclear why a value that differed from the default was used, and Mark Maddaloni suggested that the default value of 0.3 be used.

Alan Stern was asked to look at notes of previous meetings to see if there had been any earlier discussion of this choice. He will also find out the basis of the absorption factor of 0.3 from EPA technical guidance and provide this information to the Public Health Panel with assistance from Mark Maddaloni. Once the Public Health Panel members have this information, a recommendation for the most appropriate absorption factor will be made.

Process for finalizing the report

At this point, the Public Health Panel has accepted all recommendations from the Acute Soil Criteria Workgroup. These recommendations can now be added to the partial draft reported which was distributed prior to this meeting. The only remaining decision is the choice of absorption factor for lead, discussed above.

Alan Stern and Gloria Post will update the current draft and circulate it, along with the information on the basis of the choice of lead absorption factor. The Public Health SAB members will be polled by email about their recommendation for the lead absorption factor

The final draft will then be circulated to the Public Health Panel Members for final review and approval. After it is approved by the Public Health Panel, it will be forwarded to the full SAB.

Discussion of process for beginning consideration of the Perimeter Air Monitoring (PAM) Charge Questions

Members of the Public Health Panel who have volunteered to participate in a PAM Workgroup are Cliff Weisel, Howard Kipen, Mark Maddaloni, Gerald Kennedy, and Judy Zelikoff. Mark Robson will contact the chair of the Atmospheric and Climate Change Panel to ask for additional participants. Joanne Held and Phil Hopke were mentioned as possible participants with appropriate expertise.

It was agreed that although the current primary focus of the Public Health SAB should be to finish the acute soil standards topic, it is useful for the PAM Workgroup to be formed and to begin preliminary review of this topic.