

N00210.AR.000464
NSTC GREAT LAKES
5090.3a

CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES 11 JANUARY 2012 NSTC GREAT LAKES IL
1/11/2012
TETRA TECH

CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES
NAVAL STATION GREAT LAKES
January 11, 2012
GREAT LAKES, IL

Attendees: Tetra Tech
Robert Davis
Aaron Bernhardt
Tom Johnston
Leanne Ganser

Navy
Ben Simes – NSGL RPM
Jon Tucker – LANT Chemist

Illinois EPA
Brian Conrath
Les Morrow

Purpose of Meeting/Agenda – Discuss draft UFP SAP for Site 17 and obtain additional information and consensus.

- Tetra Tech began by suggesting that the teleconference attendees review the problems as stated in the SAP to make sure there is agreement on the problems that are being solved before discussing potential investigative approaches. The attendees agree with Problems A and B. The Navy suggested that Problem C is really not a separate problem and the information gathered to address Problems A and B could be used for Problem C.
 - **Resolution:** The project team agreed to delete Problem C and only include data needs for Problem C as supplemental data. There is no decision associated with Problem C for this investigation.

- Illinois EPA brought up some concerns about using the South Branch as the reference stream because it may be impacted by runoff (containing pesticides, nutrients, etc.) from the golf course. Brian also noted that the lower portion of the South Branch may be influenced somewhat by the North Branch if water backs up into the creek. Tetra Tech noted that although the South Branch may be impacted by some different sources of chemicals, it was still the best choice for a reference stream. It would just be an uncertainty in the evaluation. Tetra Tech also indicated that they selected the sample locations in the main portion of the South Branch in order to have similar habitat/size as the North Branch, but all attendees agreed that the sample location closest to the North Branch could be moved upstream.
 - **Resolution:** South Branch will be used as the reference stream
 - **Resolution:** The station furthest downstream (closest to the North Branch) will be moved upstream outside the possible influence of the North Branch
 - **Resolution:** No samples will be collected from the western branch of the South Branch.

- Illinois EPA asked whether the Navy could conduct a habitat assessment of each stream reach that was sampled. They were really interested in the amount of the reach that was scoured and whether there was a lot of sediment present. Tetra Tech thought that some of this type of information would be collected, but he would speak with the benthic specialist to make sure it was collected.
 - **Resolution:** The Navy will record the amount of scouring observed in each of the sampled reaches, and will collect additional habitat assessment type of information, as appropriate. Photographs also will be taken during the sampling event to supplement the field notes.

CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES
NAVAL STATION GREAT LAKES
January 11, 2012
GREAT LAKES, IL

- Illinois EPA had some questions/concerns about the way the replicate samples were being collected (i.e., from adjacent reaches and not within the same reach). Tetra Tech indicated that they had spoken with the benthic specialist about this and he stated that collecting replicates from adjacent reaches for QA/QC purposes is a standard approach. The reason is that they are looking at the variability in the benthic community between the adjacent reaches. Tetra Tech added that with ten 300-ft reaches, almost all of them would be adjacent to each other.
 - **Resolution:** Tetra Tech will speak with the benthic specialist to get some more information and to see whether the QA/QC samples could/should be collected from the same reaches as the site samples or whether there is documentation that this is how Illinois EPA typically collects replicate samples.

- Illinois EPA asked what the determining factor would be for the location of the discrete samples. Tetra Tech noted that some of those samples were intended to be for the locations between the benthic reaches and some were intended to represent deeper sediment (between 2 inches and the top of the clay layer). There were several discussions regarding whether the deeper samples were needed and whether discrete samples/composite samples should be collected in these areas.
 - **Resolution:** Deeper samples (from 4 cm below sediment surface to the top of the native blue clay layer) are not needed and will not be collected
 - **Resolution:** Some discrete samples may be collected such as from upstream areas, but composite samples are probably a better way to characterize large reaches of the stream. Tetra Tech will sort this out as the draft SAP is finalized with the prime objective being to make sure that the data collected represent the intended populations that are useful for supporting decision making. Preference will be given to collecting composite samples because creek bottom sediments are dynamic and it isn't clear what discrete samples represent in the context of this investigation.

- Tetra Tech discussed whether upstream samples should be collected, North of where the North Branch of Pettibone Creek enters Navy property. Tetra Tech was not sure whether access would be a problem, but collecting the samples, along with the bag samplers for collecting suspended solids, could help determine whether there is a continuing source of contamination. Illinois EPA and the Navy said that they should be able to coordinate access.
 - **Resolution:** The need for upstream samples will be further discussed internally and proposed upstream samples will be identified in the SAP.

- Because of the tight schedule for this project, Illinois EPA asked whether the schedule for some of the other NS Great Lakes projects could be pushed back/re-prioritized.
 - **Resolution:** The Navy will speak with others at the Navy to see whether that would be a problem.

CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES
NAVAL STATION GREAT LAKES
January 11, 2012
GREAT LAKES, IL

- Illinois EPA asked that if a remedial action was not conducted in Pettibone Creek, would that free up money for an action to be taken in the Boat Basin. The Navy indicated that the answer is probably yes, but it all comes down to funding issues and they really cannot commit to anything.

- Tetra Tech asked about the need to collect surface water samples because it really only provides a very brief snapshot in time and would not directly relate to the benthic community. Tetra Tech indicated that standard water quality measurements such as dissolved oxygen, pH, etc., would be collected in the field using a field instrument. Everyone agreed that surface water samples would not provide useful information, because the concentrations could vary widely depending on when the samples were collected (i.e., after a rain event).
 - **Resolution:** Surface water samples will not be collected.

- Tetra Tech stated that one of the concerns is that the benthic sampling would occur outside the standard time frame of June 1 to October 15 listed in the Illinois EPA SOP. However, Tetra Tech spoke with Illinois EPA and they did not think it would be a big concern. Basically, it would affect the way the Macroinvertebrate-Index of Biotic Integrity, (m-IBI) results were interpreted relative to the Illinois EPA scoring system. However, the Navy could still compare the various metrics (i.e., species diversity, species density, m-IBI score, etc.) between the site samples and the reference samples, which probably would be the more applicable comparison. Also, we would be collecting some organisms that may not be present in June or later such as stoneflies, mayflies, that emerge in late spring/early summer.
 - **Resolution:** Benthic community samples would be collected as late as possible in March 2012.

- Tetra Tech discussed how the benthic community and associated sediment samples would be collected and under what conditions the toxicity testing would be conducted. Each benthic station will consist of a stream reach that will be approximately 300 feet in length. The benthic samples will be collected by “jabbing” a d-frame net into the sediment at twenty locations along the reach, in different types of habitat. This will be done in accordance with the Illinois EPA SOP. The overall collection would be composited into one sample from each stream reach that would then be preserved with alcohol. Because the benthic samples would be collected along a stream reach, the sediment samples for chemical analysis will also be a composite sample collected along the same stream reaches. This will allow a better comparison between the benthic results and the sediment chemistry. Additional volume of sediment will be collected for the toxicity testing, if needed. The samples for toxicity testing would be held at the laboratory and then they would be instructed as to which samples should be tested, if any. Sediment toxicity testing would be recommended for locations with a poor benthic community to provide another line of evidence regarding the benthic health. If the toxicity testing shows that the sample is not toxic, it could mean that the poor benthic community was the result of some physical factors. The ASTM method for

CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES
NAVAL STATION GREAT LAKES
January 11, 2012
GREAT LAKES, IL

sediment toxicity testing states that the recommended holding time is less than 2 weeks to 8 weeks, so the test would be initiated as soon as there is an indication that the benthic health at a station is low.

- **Resolution:** Sediment samples will be a composite across a stream reach.
- **Resolution:** Toxicity testing would be conducted on samples where benthic community health is low.

- Illinois EPA pointed out that human health screening values are presented in Section 9 of the SAP and that we are only evaluating ecological risk.
 - **Resolution:** The human health screening values will be removed and ecological sediment screening values will be added.

- Tetra Tech asked what this investigation should be called given that a decision to implement a remedy has already been made and the project team is now thinking that no further action might be an appropriate path forward. The Illinois EPA indicated that it would be appropriate to consider this investigation to be supplemental to the FS. By doing so, declaring NFA would be a natural evolution of collecting additional data in support of implementing a remedy then finding out that conditions had changed significantly enough to support an NFA declaration. All teleconference attendees agreed.

- The Navy asked whether NPDES discharge documentation could be found to help understand the nature of past or current discharges to the North Branch of Pettibone Creek
 - **Resolution:** Naval Station Great Lakes will try to acquire this information.

General consensus:

- The timeline for this project is not likely to be extended.
- Tetra Tech needs to include SOPs/methodology for the benthic sampling and data interpretation in the SAP.
- The project team will assume that any dredging that is done to remove contaminated sediment from the North Branch of Pettibone Creek will extend from the sediment surface to the top of the native blue-gray clay layer. This will obviate the need for sampling between the top 4-cm of sediment and the blue clay.
- To minimize the length of the SAP, figures and tables depicting the sediment COC concentrations will not be included. Instead, cross-references will be made to previous reports where an interested reader can find those data. The Navy offered the perspective that this investigation is essentially a “re-baselining” effort because available sediment characterization data are fairly old relative to the dynamic creek conditions. Consistent with this, comparison of old and new sediment characterization data does not have to be described in the SAP because the nature of these comparisons could be varied and cannot be predicted at this time.
- The SAP will be called something like: Sediment Characterization Investigation in Support of the Feasibility Study”