

The Catawba-Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission (CWRBAC)
Meeting Notes – November 14, 2014

Commission Members Present: Senator Creighton Coleman, Representative Ralph Norman, P. Jimmy Bagley, Gary Faulkenberry, Barry Gullet, Susie Hamrick Jones, Rick Lee, Jeff Lineberger, Tim Mead

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mead.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the July meeting were approved pending a few text revisions.

3. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) - Ken Feely, Region 4 EPA, Permitting and State Programs (*Presentation will be added to Commission's website*)

- PCBs in South Carolina often found from former use in transformers
- PCBs have documented health effects, including carcinogenic effects in animals
- PCBs are extremely persistent in the environment
- The Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA) bans most uses of PCBs after 1978
- The first recognized instance of illegal dumping in South Carolina was approximately one year ago in the Upstate, and there was a sludge application issue related to the event
- There are limited options for disposal
- TSCA includes no provision for delegating the regulations to a state program
- For cost information on disposal of all electric transformers, check with TCI of Alabama
- It is noted that some PCB material is still in use and information on such activities may be listed in industrial permits

It is noted that South Carolina and North Carolina test sludge for PCBs

4. Utility Perspective - Barry Gullett, Director, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Rebecca West, Chief Operating Officer, Spartanburg Water

Barry Gullett

- The wastewater treatment plant can remove PCBs from the water, but PCBs connect to solids and the sludge can contain significant amounts of PCBs
- Efforts have focused on the bio-solids
- \$3.4 million already spent
- The situation affects the environment and employees
- Employee related items include concern for workers health, workers' comp claims, physicals, etc.
- 6,000 tons already sent to Alabama TCI
- Extra cost of running lab around the clock and contracting with private labs
- PCBs are ubiquitous in the environment and could be coming from anywhere
- Short-term exposure can cause skin issues and long-term exposure can be carcinogenic
- PCBs ranked in top 10% of toxic chemicals
- Suggest more options for disposal of PCBs
- A trichlorobenzene odor aided in knowledge of contamination as well as tracking illegal dump sites

- Trichlor is used as solvent in pcbs in transformers

Ken Feeley notes that changes in disposal methodology use would require congressional intervention through Federal regulation. PCBs are often found and mismanaged. Some companies may be unaware of the hazard or how to handle it.

Ken Feeley notes proper disposal requires dechlorination or incineration. Regulations for incineration are strict. Currently there is an ongoing investigation into the illegal PCB dumping activities in South Carolina and North Carolina. It is also noted that used oil recyclers may receive contaminated liquids that are ultimately carried away by grease haulers.

David Baize notes that PCB contamination noted in fish is not related to the dumping issues but from the ubiquitous nature of the PCBs in the environment. The PCBs are unlikely to break down in our lifetime. Treatment can include coverage with sediment.

It is noted that superfund does not cover the PCB issues and TSCA is unfunded.

Rebecca West

- At Spartanburg Water, as with Charlotte Mecklenburg, there was also a concern for safety of staff and the potential for any cross connection with the drinking water system.
- There were three treatment plants affected. The storm sewer was disconnected at the store where dumping had occurred, and there was great cost to that business.
- All grease traps have been locked in the system.
- Cost so far includes \$2 million plus half a million dollars added to the budget for sampling the system. There are currently still some PCBs washing into the system.
- Grease trap hauler education has occurred.

5. Fish License Reciprocity Agreement

Issue tabled at this time. Can be visited in the future if needed.

6. New Committee Chair

Representative Ralph Norman was elected as the new Committee Chair.

7. Future Meeting Topics Proposed

Update on Surface Water Withdrawal Act

Update on Water Quantification Efforts for SC State Water Plan

Riparian Buffers Information/Discussion

Land Conservation Efforts

Adjourn