

**FINAL MINUTES
TOXIC SUBSTANCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TSCC)**

**March 22, 2016
10:00 am – 11:30 am**

**Room M-653
Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756**

Attendance:

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Heidi Bojes	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Josh Duty	DSHS
Emily Hall	DSHS
Jocelyn Hover-Jeansonne	DSHS
Laura Morse	DSHS
Diana Rangel	DSHS
Michael Tennant	DSHS
Beth Patterson	DSHS
Tina Walker	DSHS
Tina Williams	DSHS
Tracie Phillips	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Alex Nuñez (c)	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

(c) denotes that attendees participated by conference line.

Call to order and welcome visitors:

Laura Morse, DSHS

Approval of minutes dated December 15, 2015:

Minutes were approved as is.

Presenter:

Jocelyn Hover-Jeansonne (DSHS)

“Preparing for a Chemical Terrorist Event: Capabilities of the Texas Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats (LRN-C).”

Subcommittee reports:

- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) work group meeting update
 - The next TexHAB meeting will be held April 21, 2016.
 - Agenda items
 - ◇ HAB event updates
 - ◇ Research
 - ◇ Other activities
 - Specific response updates
 - ◇ Red Tide 2015 Summary
 - ◇ Golden Algae 2015 Update

- ◇ Blue-Green Algae monitoring in reservoirs by TCEQ and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- Fish Sampling subcommittee meeting update
 - Subcommittee has not met in 2016.
 - Various fish advisories have been issued since the last subcommittee meeting.
 - Lake Livingston and Trinity River (U.S. Highway 287 to U.S. Highway 90)
 - ◇ Fish collection 2012–2013
 - ◇ Advisory-53 (ADV-53) issued December 18, 2015
 - ◇ Contaminants of Concern (COCs): Dioxins and PCBs
 - ◇ Presented advisory information to Polk County Hookers fishing club in Livingston, Texas, on January 21, 2016.
 - Arroyo Colorado
 - ◇ Fish collection January–February 2013
 - ◇ ADV-54 issued December 18, 2015, rescinding ADV-34
 - ◇ COCs: Mercury and PCBs
 - ◇ Pesticide concentrations in fish from the Arroyo Colorado have slowly decreased to acceptable levels overtime.
 - ◇ Smallmouth buffalo consumption recommendations for adults changed from DO NOT EAT to two meals/month.
 - Houston Ship Channel (HSC)
 - ◇ Fish collection September 2012
 - ◇ ADV-55 issued December 18, 2015, rescinding ADV-49 and ADV-50
 - ◇ COCs: Dioxins and PCBs
 - ◇ Pesticide concentrations in fish from the Galveston Bay Estuary (HSC) have slowly decreased to acceptable levels overtime.
 - Echo Lake (Fort Worth, Texas)
 - ◇ Fish collection April 2014
 - ◇ ADV-56 issued December 18, 2015, rescinded Aquatic Life Order-11 (AL-11)
 - ◇ COCs: Dieldrin, Dioxins, and PCBs
 - Lake Como (Fort Worth, Texas)
 - ◇ Fish collection April 2014
 - ◇ ADV-57 issued February 9, 2016
 - ◇ COCs: Dieldrin, Dioxins and PCBs
 - ◇ Presented advisory information to Lake Como Homeowners Association (HOA) on March 3, 2016.
 - Fosdic Lake (Fort Worth, Texas)
 - ◇ Fish collection April 2014
 - ◇ ADV-33 remains unchanged (issued December 20, 2007)
 - ◇ COCs: PCBs
 - More information about fish consumption advisories is available on the Seafood and Aquatic Life Group web page of the DSHS website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/seafood
 - Grant funds have been used for the purchase of advisory signs for some of the lakes.
 - Lake Como
 - Echo Lake
 - Fosdic Lake
 - An up-to-date fish consumption advisory booklet is being prepared.

- The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Fish Project is ongoing.
 - Risk assessment for Ellison Creek Reservoir in progress (fish collection May 2014)
 - Fish collection Mountain Creek Lake November 2015
 - Plan to sample Lake Worth November 2016
- Potential San Jacinto River (SJR) Waste Pits project is being proposed.
 - EPA Superfund requested proposed budget to perform additional SJR monitoring.
- Environmental Health and Toxicology work group update
 - Work group has not met in several months.
 - If an issue or issues arise that the work group needs to address, contact Laura Morse to coordinate a meeting.

Agency updates on department policy and/or legislative issues:

- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
 - *Zika Virus*
 - DSHS is ramping up to respond to a potential Zika outbreak in Texas. The mosquito-borne virus has been spreading rapidly across South and Central America and the Caribbean over the past year. In February, the World Health Organization declared it to be a global health emergency. Zika is spread primarily by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Illness is usually mild, but the virus has been associated with microcephaly, a birth defect that causes babies to be born with smaller heads than expected. At this time, local transmission is not occurring in Texas, but there have been several travel-related cases. As warm weather returns and mosquitoes become more active, the threat of local transmission will increase.
 - The **DSHS Laboratory** has built up its capacity to perform polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing on human samples; the **Zoonosis Control Branch** is coordinating sentinel trapping of mosquitoes in select local areas of the state; and the **Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch** is preparing to implement “rapid ascertainment” for cases of microcephaly.
 - *Health Assessment and Consultation Program*
 - The Health Assessment and Consultation Program was reviewing data recently received for the Superfund site, North East 2nd Street Site, in Happy, Texas. Staff observed benzene, a contaminant not associated with the Superfund site, in some of the private wells. One of the wells had a level more than 100 times above the drinking water standard. DSHS notified Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) of the benzene contamination, and has been coordinating with them to address it. The contamination appears to be from a petroleum release. As a result, the TCEQ Petroleum Storage Tank/Dry Cleaner Remediation Program Section began sampling wells in the potential plume area. TCEQ’s Toxicology Division has been talking with residents who have benzene contamination in their wells. DSHS will provide further assistance where needed.
 - On February 17, 2016, the U.S. EPA held a public meeting regarding a breach in the protective cap at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site. In response to elevated community concerns and interest from U.S.

Representative Gene Green, 29th District, EPA has requested assistance from DSHS in educating the community. DSHS staff are planning an educational campaign that will take place April 8th through April 13th. Staff will be going door-to-door in neighborhoods adjacent to the site to distribute educational materials and visit with residents to address their concerns. In addition, staff will be participating in the Baytown Nurture Nature Festival that will enable us to reach a broader audience regarding the DSHS fish consumption advisory that is in place for the San Jacinto River, Houston Ship Channel, and Upper Galveston Bay.

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
 - *Development Support Documents*
 - Proposed – **Comments Due March 25, 2016**
 - ◇ Dibutylamine
 - ◇ Diisopropylamine
 - Finalized – Posted
 - ◇ Ethylene Glycol (Feb 2016)
 - ◇ Methoxysilanes (Jan 2016)
 - *Society of Toxicology Meeting (March 13-17, 2016)*
 - Several Toxicologists attended
 - Scientific Poster Presentations
 - ◇ Dose-Response Curves Derived from Clinical Ozone Exposures Can Inform Public Policy, by Sabine Lange, Michael Honeycutt, G. Tao, et al.
 - ◇ Common Misconception: Rats Receive a 4-5 Times Lower Ozone Tissue Dose than Humans at the Same Concentration, by Darrell McCant, Sabine Lange, Joseph Haney, Michael Honeycutt.
 - ◇ The Most Scientifically-Supported Approach for Assessing the Carcinogenicity of Oral Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium: Non-Linear, Non-Threshold versus Threshold Approaches (Top 10 risk assessment abstract), by J. Haney.
 - ◇ Chromium in Texas Groundwater - Is Allergic Contact Dermatitis a Risk?, by Shannon Ethridge and Allison Jenkins.
 - Top 10 Papers Demonstrating Application of Risk Assessment in 2015
 - ◇ Consideration of non-linear, non-threshold and threshold approaches for assessing the carcinogenicity of oral exposure to hexavalent chromium. *Regul. Toxicol. Pharmacol.* 73: 834-852, 2015.
 - ◇ Use of dose-dependent absorption into target tissues to more accurately predict cancer risk at low oral doses of hexavalent chromium. *Regul. Toxicol. Pharmacol.* 71: 93–100, 2015.
 - *Publications*
 - J. Haney. Development of an Inhalation Unit Risk Factor for Cadmium (proposed DSD out soon). Accepted in *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology*.
 - J. Haney, T. Phillips, R. Sielken, et al. Development of an inhalation unit risk factor for isoprene. *Regul. Toxicol. Pharmacol.* 73: 712-725, 2015.
 - Special Issue of *Chemico-Biological Interactions* was finally released: *Understanding the Health Risks of Lower Olefins*. It's a compilation of what was presented at the Symposium on Understanding the Health Risks of Lower

Olefins, which was hosted by the TCEQ November 5-6, 2014
(<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00092797/241>)

- *Drinking Water*
 - Lead – TCEQ has experienced increased calls/PIRs about lead in drinking water as a result of Flint, Michigan issues. Question: Has DSHS experienced the same for blood lead levels, etc.?
 - Arsenic – Environmental Integrity project came out with a report recently, in which they recommend that the state warn residents not to drink water above the MCL. They looked at ~5 states that use supplemental language, but TCEQ currently uses EPA’s recommended language (to change would require approval from EPA). This report could lead to more calls for DSHS on arsenic in water.
- Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
 - Staff was unable to attend and provide an update.
- Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 - Staff was unable to attend and provide an update.
- Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
 - Staff was unable to attend, but provided an update via email prior to the meeting. DSHS read the update to meeting participants.
 - The RRC has a new executive director, Kim Corley, who previously worked for Shell Oil Company.
 - The Commission continues to operate on a decreased budget.
 - Only job vacancies that are critical are being filled, such as two District Office Director positions that are currently vacant (Kilgore District 5/6 and Midland District 8).
 - To continue to meet measurement criteria even with a decreased budget, the State Managed Plugging Program is plugging shallow abandoned oil and gas wells rather than deeper wells and the State Managed Cleanup Program- Site Remediation is remediating smaller tank battery sites.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
 - Staff had no agency update for the meeting.

Public comment:

- No members of the public were in attendance.

Review of upcoming meetings in 2016:

- June 21, 2016 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am
- September 20, 2016 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am
- December 20, 2016 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am

Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourned before 11:30 am.