

MINUTES
TOXIC SUBSTANCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TSCC)

December 16, 2008
9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

1. Call to order and welcome visitors; **In attendance: Richard Beauchamp, Heidi Bojes, Carrie Bradford, Tom Ellerbee, Joseph Haney, Nancy Ingram, Susan Prosperie, David Villarreal, Tina Walker, Natalie Archer, Michelle Bost, Brienne Brown, Meredith Byrd, Luci Cook, Michael Tennant.**
2. Approval of minutes from the June meeting; **moved and seconded, minutes accepted as written.**
3. Presentation: Grand Prairie Vapor Intrusion Investigation: **Carrie Bradford**
4. Subcommittee reports
 - a. Harmful Algal Bloom workgroup meeting update: **Meredith Byrd, all is quiet at this time. The December meeting for the Harmful Algal Bloom committee was canceled due to lack of subject matter. They are currently getting ready for a conference on harmful algal bloom, being held in January 09 in conjunction with the Texas Chapter of American Fisheries Society. The conference will be held in Fort Worth and anyone interested in attending is welcome. The first golden algal bloom for the season occurred in Odessa at the Commanche Trail Park ponds. The ponds had been stocked with rainbow trout and within a couple of days the fish began to die. A fish ban has been placed on the ponds and a fish removal is taking place. This is usually the time of year that blooms usually start to occur so they are grateful that there has only been the one so far.**
 - b. Fish Sampling Subcommittee meeting update: **Michael Tennant, Seafood and Aquatic Life Group has received a grant that will allow them to re-evaluate fish advisories/bans in Texas. They will be starting with the following water bodies: Mountain Creek, Leon Creek, Trinity River, and Fort Worth Lake. There is a new mercury workgroup that has been set up with TCEQ. The purpose of the group is to determine ways to handle the needed changes to the mercury total maximum daily load and how is Texas going to handle the current and future mercury issues. It is currently in the beginning stages. There have only been two meetings at this time but they have another one scheduled for the first part of next year.**
 - c. The Human Health Workgroup update: **Carrie Bradford, having problems getting all members together. During the last meeting the DSHS Indoor Air Program talked about the work they do. It was suggested that the Human Health workgroup be used to keep everyone advised/updated about legislative actions.**

5. Agency updates: TCEQ – Several toxicologists went to Corpus to meet with the Hillcrest neighborhood association. They talked about air issues, benzene in blood, water quality, and superfund sites in the area. They met with State Senator Hinojosa. Kip discussed the USA Today news article regarding air quality in schools. Parents are concerned, and TCEQ is getting calls from schools, reporters, and parents. The data of the article was weighted in some ways, but didn't calculate risks or hazards. The article ranked almost 10,000 schools in Texas. TCEQ is looking at the data they have for schools mentioned. They currently don't know of any schools in Texas that have a health risk at this time. They are not seeing anything in actual ambient air data, which they have a lot of. TCEQ has requested the data that USA used but it may not be released to them.

TDA – The legislative session is coming soon and the big issues this time will be water. Water issues will be toxicity of bacteria, pharmaceuticals, animal hormones, and pesticides that are being found in water. They are unsure how new EPA head is going to affect what they do. David suggested that DSHS look into making the TSCC meetings available through conference call in for those who have to travel a long distance to get here.

TPWD – They have a new Executive Director – Carter Smith. Timothy Birdsong is the new Branch Chief.

DSHS – Richard Beauchamp finished draft of dioxins in Houston Ship Channel, Upper Galveston Bay, and San Jacinto River Bay. The documents should be released for technical review to other agencies in the next month or so.

RRC – John Tenteran (?), Executive Director resigned. They currently have an acting director until a new one is hired.

6. Adjourn

TSCC Mission:

Our mission is to protect and promote the health of the people of Texas through the prevention and control of adverse health effects related to toxic substances and harmful physical agents. This is accomplished through interagency coordination of regulation development, health risk assessments, cooperative studies, information dissemination, and public education efforts.