

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE-POLLUTION PREVENTION
Minutes of May 15, 2002 Meeting
Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63rd Street, 4th Floor
Manhattan, New York

Mr. Robert LaGrotta, DEP opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

DEP:

1. Update on Mercury loadings at the New York City Water Pollution Control Plant

Ms. Xiomara Lopez, DEP, gave an in depth presentation on mercury. Ms. Lopez described the various forms of mercury and, identified methyl mercury as the most harmful form of mercury because it bio-accumulates in the fatty tissue of fish. As a result the Food and Drug Administration has recommended that the maximum permissible level should be one part of methyl mercury in a million parts of seafood.

The New York Academy of Sciences has emphasized the need to decrease mercury discharges from wastewater and has identified dental facilities as the major source of mercury; other sources are from hospitals and labs.

The DEP in its efforts to identify the mercury loadings at the fourteen Wastewater Treatment Plants has implemented a sampling plan, which included, identifying sampling sites representative of the waste from dental facilities and conducting sampling. The dental facilities chosen for the study used low-level technology. In addition, the DEP has geographically coded licensed dentists in each NYC drainage area that leads to the fourteen Wastewater Treatment Plants, in order to correlate the number of dental facilities with influent loadings.

The DEP is planning to perform additional sampling of dental offices, research advanced treatment technology, conduct a cost benefit analysis and evaluate regulations for Best Management Practices.

2. Storm Water Management Program Update

Ms. Lily Lee, DEP, presented an update on the Storm Water Management Program. Ms. Lee stated that the DEP is required by the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NYS SPDES) permit to implement a Storm Water Management Program that monitors the pollutants that enter the Municipal Separate Storm Sewers (MS4s) from storm water run-off. Ms. Lee stated that DEP is developing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for companies located within the MS4s.

Ms. Lee stated that the DEP in the future plans to optimize existing programs, develop appropriate Industrial/Commercial BMPs and continue with trend analysis of storm water run-off.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.