

Status Report
Modeling Technical Review Group (MTRG)
Savannah Harbor Expansion Project
May 10, 2000

A meeting was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2000 in Savannah, GA at the office of the US Corps of Engineers, Savannah District. The goals of the meeting were as follows:

- Present overview of April 27, 2000 draft Data Report titled: *Hydrodynamic and Water Quality Monitoring of the Lower Savannah River Estuary, August 2 through October 9, 1999*
- Presentation and discussion of Cross-Sectional Profiling Data
- Presentation and discussion of the status of the hydrodynamic model calibration

The following persons attended the meeting and participated in the MTRG discussions:

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Chris Ahern	ATM	843-884-8750	cahern@atm-s2li.com
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Paul Conrads	USGS	803-750-6140	pconrads@usgs.gov
John Sawyer	City of Savannah	912-964-0698	jsawyer@ci.savannah.ga.us
Roy Burke III	GA EPD	404-675-1665	roy_burke@mail.dnr.state.ga.us
Helen Beaty	Harbor Committee	912-238-6426	
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Harvey Seim	Skidaway Institute	912-598-2361	seim@skio.peachnet.edu
Jack Blanton	Skidaway Institute	912-598-2457	jack@skio.peachnet.edu
Judy Jennings	Sierra Club		

General Discussion

Draft Data Report Overview Presentation

The Draft Data Report overview presentation was an opportunity for the MTRG to review and become familiar with the organization of the April 27, 2000 Draft Data Report. The Draft Data Report was distributed on CD to the MTRG April 27, 2000. A brief summary, section description and example figures were presented for each section of the report. Features and details of the Summer 1999 Data Collection Events were discussed and explained as meeting attendees requested background information. The MTRG discussed figure axis scale, contents of section text, and possible presentation formats for data report. Specific MTRG comments regarding the data report are as follows:

- Add an appendix containing the January 17, 2000 Report titled: *Findings of In-Stream Water Chemistry Data Savannah Harbor Expansion Project – Field Data Collection August 2 through October 9, 1999* to present historical account to date concerning In-Stream Water Chemistry Data.

- Provide a more detailed description of water chemistry reporting limits and J-values in report text.
- The purpose of the Data Report is to present the data from the summer 1999 data collection effort, analysis of the data will be presented in future presentations and reports.

The MTRG will continue to review the report and decided that written comments on the draft Data Report should be submitted to ATM (Chris Ahern CAhern@atm-s2li.com) by July 14, 2000. The MTRG set a goal of resolving any comments received by the end of August 2000. ATM will then revise the Data Report accordingly and submit it to GPA.

Presentation and Discussion of the Cross Sectional Profiling Data

Draft contour plots of Cross-Sectional Profiling Data for salinity and temperature were presented to the MTRG for discussion. The contour plots were discussed as a sub-section of the Draft Data Report Presentation. The contour plots will be included in Section 9.5 of the Draft Data Report. A summary of the MTRG specific comments relative to the Cross-Sectional Profiling Data are presented below:

- Standardize contour legend for each parameter shown.
- Include 6 contour plots per figure with High and Low Slack for three weeks to allow easy comparison between weeks.

Presentation of the Status of the Hydrodynamic Model Calibration

ATM presented model to data comparisons from the 1997 and 1999 data collection events. The revised hydrodynamic model showed clear improvements at certain locations of the harbor for tides and flows when compared to the data collected. ATM will present the calibration results for the hydrodynamic/salinity model at the next MTRG meeting. These results will be documented in a modeling report.

Other

It was agreed that a single CBOD rate would be used by reach for the water quality model calibration. These model inputs will be developed from the data analysis and presented to the MTRG before calibration of the water quality model.

Future Meeting

The next MTRG meeting will be held in Atlanta at the EPA office on June 22, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.