February 8th, 2022

Dr. Michael Boufadel, Dr. Francois Galgani, Dr. Gui-Peng Yang

Co-Editors-in-Chief

Marine Pollution Bulletin

We are pleased to resubmit our manuscript, “Initial estuarine response to the nutrient-rich Piney Point release into Tampa Bay, Florida” to be considered as an original research article in Marine Pollution Bulletin.

An earlier draft of this paper was submitted in December of last year and we received comments from three reviewers. Although the initial decision was to reject the manuscript, we contacted Dr. Boufadel regarding the quality of one of the reviews and we were encouraged to revise the draft for resubmission. We have carefully considered comments from all three reviewers and have made substantial revisions in response to these comments. Overall, we have made many edits to improve clarity of the text and have shortened the content in many locations. The point-by-point responses are detailed below. We are confident these changes have addressed the concerns of our reviewers.

The impact of this event on Tampa Bay is important both regionally and nationally to raise awareness of how insufficient oversight and planning can lead to unintended environmental impacts. We stand by our conviction that these events need to be documented in the primary literature to advance the conversation on how legacy mining facilities can be safely and responsibly closed. We appreciate the opportunity to publish this important work in Marine Pollution Bulletin.

Sincerely,



Dr. Marcus W. Beck

Program Scientist

Tampa Bay Estuary Program