

Role and function of POD Satellite Teams

Confusion exists over the role and nature of the satellite teams. This email is to clarify the intent of the POD management team at the July 16 POD meeting in helping to form the satellite teams.

First, IEP is exploring entirely new aspects of the delta environment and we will need the experience and expertise of many new people. The satellite teams are intended to provide a forum for people with such expertise to discuss technical issues with each other and with IEP personnel. We hope the teams help us to get the maximum value from all work performed in 2005 and 2006. The questions posed in the earlier guidance document identify areas where IEP personnel believe the greatest help is needed.

Secondly, the teams exist to help individual participants develop better understanding of the POD issues, and we expect feedback from individual participants, not the teams. The satellite teams will produce no “team” analyses or recommendations, nor any other “team” products, nor will the teams engage in “consensus decision making” regarding the content of recommendations or analyses. All individual recommendations and analyses are welcomed. Voluntary cooperation among individuals to produce joint products is perfectly acceptable but not required. Recommendations and analyses the IEP receives from individual members of the satellite teams will be subject to the normal processes of internal and/or public review for IEP. Decisions whether to accept or act on products or recommendations coming from within satellite teams will be made solely at the discretion of the State and Federal agency members of IEP.

Finally, because the teams are guided by researchers and stakeholders, team leaders are free to constitute their teams as they see fit, to combine with other teams or to split into smaller teams. Interested parties are free to start new teams as seems appropriate. IEP will facilitate communication among satellite team participants and interested parties but the teams have no official standing and exist for the convenience of their individual participants only.