How Black Fly Populations in PA are Affected When Black Fly Control Activities Cease Mid-Season – Andy Kyle

a) Background
   i) Program started in 1985
   ii) Aerial application of Bti for black fly control
   iii) Largest black fly control program in the world
   iv) Treat 46 rivers and streams (1600 miles)
b) Procedure
   i) Eggs hatch in April
   ii) Control begins in April or May
   iii) Control ends in early Sept
   iv) 3 river basin area contracts
c) Monitoring and surveillance
   i) Larval surveillance ~900 sites
   ii) Adult sampling ~1100 sites
   iii) Samples taken back to lab and ID'ed
d) What was new in 2009
   i) State budget impasse
   ii) No budget until Oct
   iii) Black fly program appropriation was slated to be reduced
   iv) Decision – stop treatments on July 21, 2009
   v) Continued to do surveillance
e) What happened in August - 2 weeks after control was stopped
   i) Citizen complaints began to rise
   ii) Black fly numbers rose to impossible levels
   iii) Problems continued after the regular season was over
   iv) Businesses were complaining of loss of business due to black flies
   v) Legislative inquiries began – didn't seem to understand the connection between budget cuts and rising black fly populations
f) What happened with the black fly populations
   i) Larvae were seen in late Sept and early Oct, even after colder weather had begun
   ii) Adult surveillance
      (1) <=10 are tolerable
      (2) 0-1 are normal after control
      (3) Considerably more adults were found in 2009 than in the 4 previous years – as many as 600 adults in a sweep net
g) Implications for 2010
   i) Budget hasn't increased
   ii) Control will likely stop early again
   iii) Black fly populations got a head start due to lack of later season control in 2009