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# ITLA

*The Newsletter of  
Independent Testing  
Laboratories Association  
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## 2004-2005 ITLA Officers

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## **Message from the President**

*By Jim Occhialini*

The summer's here (gone?) and hopefully you had your vacations and are looking forward to being busy in the lab over the next few months. In a cyclical industry like ours, there is nothing like having a great 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

There have been some developments on the regulatory front since our last meeting. MADEP has begun its proficiency testing program for perchlorate analysis

at low concentrations. Each proficiency test round consists of two whole volume samples. Labs have one week to analyze the samples and report data to their provider. Up to three rounds of PTs are anticipated. Labs are required to obtain acceptable results for two of the three rounds in order to maintain perchlorate approval.

There also has been some movement on the MCP Data Quality Enhancement Policy. As of July third, the DEP posted final revisions to the CAM & the associated MCP analytical methods. It's hard to believe that the policy has become final, given that the work group began their efforts in the Spring of 2000. While this program has given everyone something to complain about, it does represent an improvement over what existed before. The ball is now in DEP's court to enforce the policy & follow up with data usability & representativeness requirements as part of Wave 2. We will discuss these recent updates at our September meeting.

Our next meeting is September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Courtyard by Marriott in Waltham, MA. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Pamela Mabrouck from Northeastern University. Dr. Mabrouck will speak on Laboratory Ethics. Our second speaker will be Leikin Sergei, of Spectro Analytical. He will speak on modern ICP Atomic Emission Spectrometry Tech. in Environmental Analysis. Optics design with simultaneous CCD detection, original technology featuring extended UV wavelength coverage, axial view plasma interface, complete spectrum capture & data post-processing software and their impact on routine environmental applications will also be discussed.

As always, if anyone has any issues they would like to have addressed or ways in which ITLA can be more effective, please contact me. This is your organization & we want to know what you would like us to be involved in. We have a great meeting coming up on the 15<sup>th</sup>, & I look forward to seeing you all.

## **Quarterly Meeting**

Wednesday, September 15, 2004 Courtyard by Marriott Inn, Waltham, MA

**Feature Presentation:** *Laboratory Ethics by Dr. Pamela Mabrouck* See page 4 for agenda

## **Regulatory Update** *By Bob Bentley*

There is news from DEP. As you are aware, ITLA spoke loudly about the inequity of allowing only previously approved UCMR labs to participate in the recent round of perchlorate analyses. We have just been informed that DEP is allowing an “expansion of eligibility of low-level perchlorate approval to all laboratories that can meet our stringent performance criteria.” The full text of this expansion is on the DEP LCO website. In part, it reads: “DEP/WES is planning a new low-level perchlorate laboratory approval round in September 2004 open to all laboratories that can meet the stringent performance criteria of this program. All labs that are interested in seeking approval must indicate their intention by FAX (978-688-0352) or by e-mail to John Bardzik at [john.bardzik@state.ma.us](mailto:john.bardzik@state.ma.us) by August 27, 2004. Please include the name and address of your laboratory, the name and telephone number of the contact person, and the target date for your submission of the required documentation to the MADEP/WES Laboratory Certification Office (LCO). The LCO will acknowledge receipt of all submissions.” Note that the August 27, 2004 notification deadline may be extended.

ITLA has also been told that DEP has received level funding for the FY2005 budget and therefore further layoffs do not appear to be necessary.

**NELAC** - The annual meeting will take place next week in Charleston. Hopefully we will have some news for you at the Quarterly meeting.

## **MWRA Items** *By Mike Delaney*

### **MWRA Training Session**

MWRA has been asked by ITLA to work on a training session for laboratories and consultants who work for industries with MWRA sewer use permits. The MWRA pretreatment program called Toxic Reduction and Control (TRAC) issues permits to industries that discharge into the MWRA sewer system. Many of these permits require self-monitoring by the industries using certified labs and NPDES-approved methods. If you think this training would be helpful, please let ITLA know.

## **MWRA to Switch to Ozone for Water**

### **Disinfection**

This spring the Walnut Hill Water Treatment plant in Marlboro will come on line to provide state-of-the-art treatment to the drinking water for 41 communities in eastern Massachusetts served by the MWRA. When completed in early 2005, the Marlborough plant will use ozonation and chloramination to treat up to 270 million gallons of water daily (up to 405 million gallons on peak days). This treatment will improve drinking water quality and strengthen the region’s ability to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. These and other improvements mean that the MWRA will be able to drastically reduce the amount of chlorine used in the water treatment process.

### **MWRA Operating the DCR Lab at Quabbin Reservoir**

MWRA is now responsible for laboratory testing for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR, formerly MDC). In addition to chemistry testing for Wachusett & Quabbin Reservoirs, & Boston Harbor beaches, it now includes microbiology testing from the DCR reservoirs & operating DCR’s Quabbin Lab.

### **MWRA Receives EPA Approval for a PCB Congener method by Selected Ion Monitoring GC/MS**

EPA Region I has approved MWRA’s method to determine the 20 so-called NOAA PCB congeners using a SIM GC/MS method. This analysis is used routinely to detect PCB congeners in Deer Island Treatment Plant influent and effluent. However, it doesn’t replace the NPDES-required Method 608, which is based on GC/ECD.

### **TRAC “eSMART”**

We continue to receive lab data electronically using the web-based “e-SMART” program. Labs access e-SMART using a PIN provided by MWRA. The program accepts either data files in a specific format, or on-line data entry. Chains of custody are scanned and submitted as PDF files. So far, over 20 labs are using e-SMART. To find out more about e-SMART contact Alice Chang at 617-305-5621 or [Alice.Chang@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:Alice.Chang@mwra.state.ma.us).

Labs using e-SMART are reminded of the following: If the chain of custody form is missing, or is missing vital information, including the permit number, the sample location number, or the effluent flow information, TRAC will return the report for correction and resubmission.

**e-SMART File Format Specification:** To better assist labs that choose to use a LIMS system to submit data, TRAC modified the e-SMART File Format Specification that labs can access using the e-SMART Help function. The specifications include: a data file overview, a sample file, formatting instructions, instructions for checking the file format, and a dictionary of MWRA test codes and components.

**Visit our web page for more information**  
Check us out at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com). We have a wealth of information for both the public and for experts on our water and wastewater activities. Included are monthly updates on drinking water quality testing, information on lead, our most recent Consumer Confidence Report, and many technical reports associated with the Deer Island Treatment Plant and our extensive Harbor and Outfall Monitoring program.

## Regulatory Update

*Information provided by Jerry Parr, Calibrate*

**Improved Performance for Ion Chromatography Methods:** EPA has determined that the use of hydroxide eluents in Methods 300.0 and 300.1 is acceptable for compliance monitoring of common inorganic anions by ion chromatography. The performance of a high-capacity anion-exchange column specifically designed for use with hydroxide eluents for fulfilling the requirements of Method 300.0 Part A was evaluated and the results with data generated with an anion-exchange column using carbonate eluents. The high-capacity anion-exchange column used with an on-line electrolytically generated potassium hydroxide eluent yielded improved calibration linearity, improved

retention-time stability, and comparable or better detection limits. <http://www.lcgcmag.com/lcgc/data/articlestandard/lcgc/122004/88809/article.pdf>

**NIST Updates PT Provider List:** NIST has updated the list of organizations accredited to conduct PT programs to support EPA requirements for environmental labs. Accreditation is offered in those areas necessary to support environmental lab testing of drinking water & waste water. Testing is divided into four major areas: inorganic chemical analysis; organic chemical analysis; biological & microbiological testing; & radiological testing & analysis. <http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/scopes/calchem.htm>

**ICP/MS Tentatively Approved for Analysis of Uranium in Drinking Water:** EPA has published a direct final rule approving ICP/MS (Methods 200.8, D-5673-03 and SM 3125) for the analysis of uranium in drinking water. The rule would become effective August 31 unless EPA receives adverse comments by July 2. EPA also published a proposed rule in case such negative comments are submitted. Because of EPA's tendency to withdraw final rules on what may seem minor issues, readers of this issue are advised to be careful in submitting comments, even comments in support of this rule. (6/2/04; 69 FR 31008)

**Field Screening Test for Perchlorate in Water**  
A colorimetric method for perchlorate in water and soil extracts has been developed and tested with surface water, well water, bioreactor effluent, and soil extracts. The detection limit for water is 1 ug/L and 0.3 ug/g for soils. A 0.5-L sample of water or a 1-mL sample of aqueous soil extract is passed through a solid-phase extraction cartridge that has been conditioned with a perchlorate-specific ion-pair reagent. Perchlorate, as well as small quantities of chlorate and major ions, is retained. A rinse step removes the interferences and the perchlorate is eluted into an ion-pairing dye in a test tube. An aliquot of xylene is added, the tube is shaken, and the dye-pair extracts into the xylene that is measured with a portable spectrophotometer. [http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/techpub/CRREL\\_Reports/reports/TR04-8.pdf](http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/techpub/CRREL_Reports/reports/TR04-8.pdf)

**February 4, 2004**

ITLA Executive Board Meeting  
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA  
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**February 11, 2004**

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

**March 10, 2004**

ITLA Annual Meeting  
 Crown Plaza, Worcester, MA  
 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**May 5, 2004**

ITLA Executive Board Meeting  
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA  
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**May 12, 2004**

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

**June 9, 2004**

ITLA Quarterly Meeting  
 Radisson Inn, Marlboro, MA  
 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**August 4, 2004**

ITLA Executive Board Meeting  
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA  
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**August 11, 2004**

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

**September 15, 2004**

ITLA Quarterly Meeting  
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA  
 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**November 3, 2004**

ITLA Executive Board Meeting,  
 Doubletree Guest Suites, Waltham, MA  
 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**November 10, 2004**

Deadline for Newsletter submissions

**December 1, 2004**

ITLA Quarterly Meeting, Radisson Inn,  
 Milford, MA  
 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## *ITLA Quarterly Meeting*

**Wednesday, September 15, 2004**  
**Courtyard by Marriott,**  
**387 Winter Street, Waltham, MA**

**8:30 a.m. Registration**

**9:00 a.m. Committee Reports**

Secretary	Technical
Newsletter	Lab Advisory
Regulatory	Treasurer
Elections	By-laws
Ethics	Membership

**9:30 a.m. MCP Update**

**10:15 a.m. Vendor Presentation**

"Modern Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry Technology in Environmental Analysis" by Leikin Sergej, Spectro Analytical

**11:00 a.m. Featured Speaker**

"Laboratory Ethics" by Dr. Pamela Mabrouck, Northeastern University



*Charlie Dyer from NH DEP and Jim Occhialini at the June ITLA Meeting.*