

Highlights

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ITLA

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Message from the President

By Kevin Braga

Greetings fellow ITLA members, I hope that all of you, by this time, have taken the opportunity to visit the website (www.itla-ma.org) to see the MA DEP Final Changes to Massachusetts Contingency Plan for Perchlorate Standards, which became effective July 28, 2006, along with the MA DEP DRAFT Proposed Changes to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan. These new PROPOSED regulations should be out for Public Comment within the next month. We need your feedback as soon as possible concerning your ideas on these proposed regulations so that we can present them as an organization when the public comment period is opened.

In our never ending attempt to keep members supplied with the most up-to-date information, we have decided to alter the times of our quarterly meetings. In the past, we have always attempted to have our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month. The timing of this

meeting always appears to be falling the week before the MA DEPLab Advisory Committee (LAC). Important information is discussed during these meetings and this information needs to be disseminated to the lab community as quickly as possible. With this in mind, we have decided to change the dates of our quarterly meeting to follow the LAC meetings.

The Executive Committee is working on ideas of possible training courses that would be available to our members and is always interested in your input on ideas for courses. Please forward any ideas on training course to any member of the Executive Committee. I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting.

MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney

[\(mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us\)](mailto:mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us)

EPA-New England Approves MWRA's PCB Methods.

Following an extensive review of MWRA's SOPs and performance data, EPA-New England has ap-

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 2006, Sturbridge Host Hotels, Sturbridge, MA

Feature Presentation: "Selecting and Working With LIMS Consultants and Vendors"

Ms. Gloria Metrick, GeoMetrick Enterprises See page 4 for agenda

proved the PCB methods MWRA uses to monitor effluent from the Deer Island Treatment Plant. This includes a 67-congener dual-column GC-ECD method and a 20-congener Selected Ion Monitoring GC-MS method. Since 2000, the Total PCB concentration of Deer Island effluent has averaged about 1 ng/L (pp trillion).

MWRA Delivers Annual Water Quality Report.

MWRA has mailed its Annual Water Quality Report to every household in the service area. The report, required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, updates consumers on last year's water quality results.

MWRA takes up to 500 samples each week and, of the 120 possible contaminants tested for, MWRA met every standard. In addition, the MWRA system as a whole was below the Lead Action Level. With the start-up of the new, state-of-the-art John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant in July 2005, water quality is better than ever. MWRA now uses ozone gas - a powerful disinfectant - that provides better disinfection without the by-products of chlorine. According to executive director Frederick A. Laskey, "The new treatment plant ensures strong protection against microbes and viruses, and improved clarity and taste and odor controls. We are pleased that people have noticed the improved taste since the plant came on-line."

The completion of the new treatment plant is the crowning achievement in a decade of improvements to the region's great water system that will ensure safe and reliable service to MWRA customers for generations to come.

The report also includes tips on how to reduce the risk of lead exposure in your home. Community-specific inserts also provide information about municipal water systems.

MWRA distributes the report through bulk mail to over 900,000 homes in 39 cities and towns. Look for it in your mailbox. The report is also available on-line at www.mwra.com.

Update on MWRA LIMS and TRAC.IS.

The TRAC.IS software was put out to bid. A vendor has been identified and MWRA is working on awarding the contract. The bid documents for LIMS

are nearing completion and it should be out to bid soon. Both systems have been in use for over ten years and are in need of updates due to changes in computer technology.

TRAC "eSMART"

We continue to receive laboratory 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.

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, formatting instructions, a sample file, 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. We have a wealth of information for both the public and for experts on our water and wastewater activities. This includes monthly updates on drinking water quality testing, information on lead, our most recent Consumer Confidence Report, and technical reports associated with the Deer Island Treatment Plant and our extensive Harbor and Outfall Monitoring program.

Regulatory Update

By Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net

We have good news for our next quarterly meeting! The meeting is the day after the Lab Advisory Committee meeting, so all of the news will be current rather than a few months old. Don't miss the next

meeting to get the latest updates from the DEP and the Lab Certification Office.

Regulation Revisions

The ITLA has commented on the draft 310CMR42 regulatory revisions several times now. Where we agreed, our comments have been incorporated into the document. The Commissioner and Secretary are now processing this for review before dissemination through the legal process.

eDEP

As you know, we have been bird-dogging this from the outset. The latest from the eDEP personnel is that Stellar Corp. is presently working on our suggested changes to the program. The hope is that all of the fixes will be out around mid-September. We are still asking - as we have been for the past year - to see the paper copies of the revised drinking water forms. We have heard more promises, so, hopefully, we will get some movement at the upcoming LAC meeting!

Finally, we asked questions on various Total Coliform Rule interpretations since there seemed to be differences from region to region. Please see me at the ITLA meeting if you want more information.

If you know of other regulatory issues, please contact me or any member of the Executive Committee.

Perchlorate Standards and the Proposed New Standards for the MCP

Please visit the following links on the web. ITLA will be offering comments as soon as they are allowed. Please provide your input to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

Perchlorate - <http://www.itla-ma.org/Perchlorate%20Update.pdf>

Proposed New MCP Standards - <http://www.itla-ma.org/MA%20DEP%20Draft%20Proposed%20Changes%20to%20MCP%20Limits.pdf>

Next Meeting

September 13, 2006

Sturbridge, MA

calendar

September 13, 2006

ITLA Quarterly Meeting
Sturbridge Host Hotels
366 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

October 25, 2006

ITLA Executive Board Meeting
Bugaboo Creek Restaurant
Milford, MA
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

December 6, 2006

ITLA Quarterly Meeting
TBD
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

January 24, 2007

ITLA Executive Board Meeting
Bugaboo Creek Restaurant
Milford, MA
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

February 25 - March 1, 2007

PITTCO 2007, Chicago, IL

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Sturbridge Host Hotels

366 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Phone: (508) 347-7393

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

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

9:15 a.m. Regulatory/Lab Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Bob Bentley, Analytical Balance

9:40 a.m. "Introducing the DSQ II Series GCMS System" Thermo Electron

The developments in the DSQ II focus on reliability, robustness and workflow integration while maintaining the sensitivity and flexibility that made the DSQ Classic such a great success. Our discussion will focus on Method 8270 C/D and include new developments in software. EnviroLab Forms 2.0 is a layered application for the environmental markets which integrates the DSQ II into the workflow of today's high volume production laboratories. Rounding out the discussion is an over view of our **Productivity Solution**. These Productivity solutions allow Thermo to go beyond normal installation of the system to complete integration into your lab's workflow.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 p.m. "Selecting and Working With LIMS Consultants and Vendors"

*Ms. Gloria Metrick, Owner
GeoMetrick Enterprises*

Have you had a difficult time selecting the right consultant to advise you or work with you on your LIMS project? Have you ended up with someone that does not match your needs or does not produce

what you needed? In this presentation, Gloria Metrick of GeoMetrick Enterprises will cover the following issues in order to help you avoid such problems:

- Selecting and working work with a LIMS consultant. We will cover the Catch-22 of interviewing, and the problem of supervision.
- Procuring LIMS services. Some issues in procurement involve preferred vendor programs, as well as whether to use contracts or purchase orders.
- Using consulting services to get your LIMS project successfully completed; i.e., how to use the services once they're contracted for.

Gloria will also finish by taking questions, so feel free to come prepared with some topical questions.

Bio

Gloria Metrick is the Owner and sole member of GeoMetrick Enterprises, which helps companies understand and manage their lab data. She publishes "Out on a LIMS: The Newsletter for People Who Risk Life and LIMS on a Daily Basis" which is produced free and monthly, and subscribed-to by hundreds of members throughout the international LIMS community, including representatives from every major LIMS vendor.

Gloria has worked in many aspects of the industry, as a LIMS administrator, employee of a LIMS vendor, and in a variety of consulting roles. She has written for "Scientific Computing" & "The Journal of GxP Compliance," and has spoken at Pittcon, the Masswick European LIMS Conference, the Distribution Solutions Council, and the Midwest Business Administration Association, as well as having been quoted by a number of publications.

GeoMetrick Enterprises' customers have included, but are not limited to: Biogen Inc., Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M), LabWare Inc., Pfizer, Pharmaceuticals International Incorporated, The Quaker Oats Company, Wavefront Software.