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ITLA

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2010 ITLA Officers

President

Dan Falcone
(401) 461-7181
dfalcone@thielsch.com

Vice President

Steve Hartman
(413) 572-3707
steve.hartman@testamericainc.com

Secretary

Laurel Stoddard
(401) 461-7181
lstoddard@thielsch.com

Treasurer

Greg Yogis
(508) 759-4441
gyogis@groundwateranalytical.com

Regulatory Affairs

Bob Bentley
bob@h2otest.net

Technical Affairs

Chris Wakefield
cwakefield@alphalab.com

Senior Advisor

Kevin Braga
kbraga@thielsch.com

Ethics Committee

Mike Delaney
mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us

President's Message

By Dan Falcone

My message is to acknowledge the challenges of a down economy, an environmental catastrophe and the issues of eDEP. The challenges of the economy, the Gulf Oil Spill, and eDEP will be overcome. There are many good, talented and motivated people working on the resolution of these challenges. The members of the ITLA are working specifically on the eDEP issues to alleviate the difficulties experienced with eDEP. The shortcomings of eDEP will be resolved. It is only a matter of time.

The Gulf Oil Spill will undoubtedly have a negative impact on the environment in the Gulf of Mexico for decades, but it is already getting better. The well head has been plugged and the cleanup has begun. The media is already reporting 70% of the spilled oil has evaporated, been burned, or collected. The remaining oil will be a stimulus for the environmental industry and contractors for years to come.

The economy will improve. It always does. The question of when

it will improve depends on the leaders and their leadership skills, both at the state and federal levels. I imagine the economy will start improving just before or just after the November elections.

eDEP continues to present performance issues to the regulated environmental community. Slow response times, software “bugs”, and entire shutdowns have all been part of the eDEP experience. Laboratories, consultants and the MADEP all have reported these symptoms. The positive statement is that the symptoms have been identified. Plans on how to correct the shortcomings have been discussed with the MADEP, Energy and Environmental Affairs, and the ITLA and these plans are being put in place. Like the economy and Gulf Oil Spill, eDEP will be corrected and improved.

It seems that we are facing problems all around. We are working in a dismal economy, millions of gallons of oil have spilled into the Gulf of Mexico, & eDEP is a drag on the local environmental community.

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 15, 2010, DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation:** “EPA Microbiological Methods for Testing Drinking, Ground, Recreational & Wastewaters” Gil Dichter, IDEXX

But when everything looks the worst, we need to remember that it will get better.

So, chin up, brighter days are ahead.

I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable summer.

I look forward to seeing all at the September Quarterly meeting of the ITLA.

MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney, mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us

Half of MWRA Coupling and its Bolts Unearthed, Sent To Lab

On July 15, the coupling involved in the May 1 Shaft 5A water main break was found in an excavation adjacent to the pipe. Earlier that day, the second of two “sealing plates” - small components of the coupling - was also found. The first sealing plate was found in late June.

Digging by hand, crews have successfully unearthed half of the coupling involved in the May 1, 2010 water main break. The 15-foot section was lifted from the work pit and transported directly to a laboratory for analysis. The other half of the coupling, which was attached to the first section by a single bolt, is still buried deep under a water pipe. Engineers are assessing options for the safe retrieval of this section.

An independent expert panel is investigating the cause of the break.

MWRA Mails Annual Water Quality Report

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has begun mailing its Annual Water Quality Report to every household in its service area. The report is required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and updates consumers on last year’s water quality test results.

MWRA has great confidence in the water delivered to your home and wants its customers to have the same confidence. MWRA and the local water departments test thousands of samples each week. The results for 2009 were excellent: for the 120

contaminants tested for, every standard was met.

“Over the last 25 years, MWRA has made major improvements to the water system that will ensure the delivery of great water to your tap for decades to come,” said MWRA executive director Fred Laskey. “The major water main break in May really emphasized the importance of this work – and the work that is still left to do.”

In the latest round of testing, the MWRA system was again below the Lead Action Level with the lowest levels ever. And tests have also shown that there are no traces of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water supplied by MWRA.

MWRA distributes the report to over 800,000 homes in 41 cities and towns. Community-specific inserts also provide information about municipal water systems. The reports are being mailed between now and the end of June. Look for it in your mailbox. The report is also available on-line at <http://www.mwra.com/water/html/awqr.htm>. A large print version is available upon request and a Spanish version will also be available soon.

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 many technical reports associated with the Deer Island Treatment Plant and our extensive Harbor and Outfall Monitoring program.

Food for Thought

Confidence on the outside begins by living with integrity on the inside.

Brian Tracy

I'm not convinced that the world is in any worse shape than it ever was. It's just that in this age of almost instantaneous communication, we bear the weight of problems our forefathers only read about after they were solved.

Burton Hillis, Columnist

Regulatory Update

By Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net

Laboratory Advisory Committee

The Lab Advisory Committee finally met again. We discussed electronic communication with LCO, focusing on renewals. We asked DEP to consider allowing labs to re-use personnel data instead of having to re-enter it if it was unchanged. We also asked questions relating to modifications of certifications and electronic requirements to re-submit data over and over again. Both of these were taken under advisement.

The LCO stated that some laboratory audits have had repeat findings of deficiencies reoccurring from audit to audit. The LCO state that the NELAC standard has been moving to drop re-occurrences for a parameter to “not certified.” The LCO stated that they were not planning to implement this now, but we were warned that we need to eliminate re-occurrences!

eDEP

There have been enough twists, turns and glitches in the eDEP process since January that many of us have been left frustrated. We have strongly suggested that a face to face meeting was needed with all the present users as well as all other stakeholders. There are many issues that need to be discussed. We, as users, feel that we need to meet with most of the players including IT staff from DEP or EOEEA. In spite of this, the drumbeat continues regarding mandatory implementation. This continuing drumbeat with an apparent, relaxed attitude toward holding a meeting to hear and resolve these problems, remains very disconcerting.

On this and other issues, stay tuned!!! We hope to be able to update you at our upcoming meeting with news from the next Lab Advisory Committee meeting. If you know of other regulatory issues or have any other items we should be watching, please contact me or any member of the Executive Committee.

EPA Update

Provided by Catalyst Information Resources

EPA Proposes “Method Update Rule” for Water Program

EPA has published a pre-publication notice that proposes new methods, or changes to existing methods, that affect 22 EPA methods, 16 Standard Methods methods, 10 ASTM methods, and 8 alternate test procedures in 40 CFR Part 136. The proposed rule also contains a number of clarifications relating to approved methods, sample preservation and holding times, quality control, and method modifications as well as changes to specific sections of the code of federal regulations that relate to NPDES permits for three different industrial categories. A summary of the 167-page pre-publication notice is attached to this issue of Calibrate. The proposed rule should appear in the Federal Register later this month. <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/update/>

Changes in Requirements for Spiking Samples for SW-846 Methods: EPA’s Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery has published a memo concerning SW-846 methods 3500C, 3545A & 3550C. The memo states surrogate & matrix spikes should not be added prior to adding drying agents such as sodium sulfate. www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/testmethods/pdfs/spiking-memo.pdf

EPA to Propose Revisions to Water Quality Standards: EPA announced it plans to initiate a national rulemaking to make a limited set of targeted changes to EPA’s water quality standards regulation. EPA expects to publish such proposed rule changes in the summer of 2011. The purpose of this notice is to announce EPA’s intent to hold two informal public sessions in August 2010. (6/30/10; 75 FR 44930)

Updates to EPA’s Whole Effluent Toxicity Manuals Published

EPA has published an errata sheet for the manual “Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms.” www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/wet/wetmanual.pdf

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Doubletree Hotel Boston/Milford
11 Beaver Street
Milford, Massachusetts 01757
Tel: 1-508-478-7010

8:30 a.m. Coffee

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

9:30 a.m. Abacus Software and Enhancements for Agilent Chemstation EnviroQuant Data Analysis Software

By Neil Yarranton, Abacus

EnviroQuant Data Analysis Software for Agilent's Chemstation software is commonly used in Environmental Analysis labs to acquire and process environmental sample extracts, both in GC and GCMS instruments. Much of the software's capability has not changed since it was first developed, and is not keeping pace with the challenges of today's analytical processing and reporting requirements. Abacus has developed a number of software add-ins and enhancements that directly address limitations in calibration methods, data review and documentation, and reporting raw and final results. Each of the software add-ins, CHROMtools, CALtools, and DATAtools, provide control over data calibration, re-quantification, data review (QEDIT), and result reporting (CLP Forms) to ensure fast, accurate and efficient use of the EnviroQuant software. The Abacus Enhancements, mFlags, QC Reporting, Sequence Log, Blank Subtraction, Baseline propagation, Massachusetts EPH and APH reporting and many other tools,

target specific tasks that are required by the new method modifications emerging in Massachusetts and New Jersey markets. All of these features are applicable to GCFID and GCMS analyses preferred by the petroleum industry. Abacus Software directly addresses limitations of Agilent's Chemstation EnviroQuant software and improves the performance and efficiency of the data analysis process.

10:10 a.m. Break

10:20 a.m. US EPA approved Microbiological Methods for Testing Drinking, Ground, Recreational and Waste Waters

By Gil Dichter, IDEXX Laboratories

- Introduction to water microbiology
- Overview of Regulations pertaining to approved methods
- Methods for total coliforms, Fecal, E.coli and enterococci
- What is a number; MPN vs. MF
- Q&A

11:15 a.m. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - eDEP Update

By Andrew Durham, MA DEP

12:00 pm Meeting Adjourns

Food for Thought

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience or trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.

Helen Keller (1880-1968)

Being defeated is often only a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent.

Marilyn vos Savant