

## Highlights

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# ITLA

*The Newsletter of  
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## President's Message

*By Dan Falcone*

It is hard to believe that Labor Day is here. Summer is almost gone and school is back in session.

The ITLA has several challenges facing us as we put vacation time behind us and get back into the routine day to day business.

The economy is barely growing if expanding at all. That means an extremely competitive market not only for our customers but also for our member laboratories.

The electronic data submittals being discussed by the federal government & by state regulatory agencies are another upcoming challenge. Multiple levels of security as a requirement by the federal government will present technical, financial, and programming challenges to every lab making electronic submittals to any federal or state agencies.

The changing regulatory requirements at the federal and state levels, especially with new standards, pose challenges for the ITLA members to stay current and

be able to compete in the coming year. These changes may require capital expenditures and alter the methods and techniques we all use to process our customers samples.

The ITLA cannot make an impact on the economy. That is beyond the capabilities of our group of member companies.

However the ITLA executive committee & other ITLA members are involved with the electronic data challenges being presented to our market. The electronic data requirements of the federal government are being followed closely so they will have a minimal negative impact on the ITLA members.

The changing standards being proposed by the federal government & New England states are in a state of flux. Hexavalent Chrome, Manganese and 1,4 Dioxane standards could be changing in the near future. How these changes will affect our member labs is yet to be seen.

All of these challenges will be topics of discussion at our September quarterly meeting. I hope to see you on September 28th.

## Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday., September 28, 2011, Doubletree Hotel in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation:** "Manganese and the MA DEP" *TBA, MA Department of Environmental Protection*

## MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney, [mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us)

### **MWRA Completes Overflow Tunnel in South Boston—Beaches Will Be Among the Cleanest In the Country**

In June, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority held a ceremony in South Boston to mark the opening of its combined sewer overflow (CSO) storage tunnel, which will eliminate CSOs and storm water discharges to the beaches in South Boston after all but the heaviest of storms.

Speakers at the event included Boston Mayor Thomas Menino; Senator Jack Hart; Rick Sullivan, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Chairman of MWRA's Board of Directors; H. Curtis Spalding, EPA Regional Administrator; Federal District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns; DCR Commissioner Ed Lambert; and MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey.

"Today, Massachusetts marks a significant environmental and public health milestone," said Governor Deval Patrick. "The completion of this project ensures that the shores of Boston Harbor will be among the cleanest urban beaches in the country, enhancing recreational opportunities for city residents and visitors alike."

"This project marks yet another major milestone in the Boston Harbor cleanup, one of the greatest environmental restoration efforts in our nation's history. The results are visible across our city," said Boston Mayor Thomas Menino "and I commend the MWRA for making this project a reality and I thank our rate payers for their investment in a cleaner environment that will continue to pay dividends in the future."

"The cleanup of Boston Harbor and its public beaches is an outstanding example what happens when citizens advocate for issues important to them, and government then listens, makes promises, and fulfills those promises with strategic investments. The investments made by the MWRA in state-of-the-art wastewater treatment infrastructure and by the Patrick-Murray Administration to improve & maintain

high quality beach facilities represent promises kept, & I can assure you we intend to keep those commitments so that Boston Harbor remains the shining jewel it is today," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

Until today, combined sewer overflows discharged about 20 times a year at six outfalls along the South Boston beaches. From now on, CSO and storm water flows will be stored in the tunnel until the storm subsides. The tunnel will then be pumped out and the flows sent to Deer Island for treatment and discharge.

"Over a long period of time, many groups and individuals have shown great commitment and worked very hard on the difficult task of cleaning up Boston Harbor. This work is now paying off real dividends for our residents who can take advantage of the urban beaches right here in the Boston area and, on a hot summer day, enjoy a swim in clean healthy water," said Curt Spalding, regional administrator of EPA's New England office.

This project was mandated under the same federal court order that oversaw the Boston Harbor Cleanup program.

Federal District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns, who oversees the Boston Harbor case said, "Today marks the completion of another important milestone in the cleanup of Boston Harbor. The court has not been the easiest of taskmasters - on April 14th of this year, I issued the 219th Compliance Order in this historic endeavor. At every step of the way, the men and women of the MWRA have risen to the challenge. And this step is one in which the ratepayers and the community at large can take particular delight - the goal was to have this \$225 million project finished in time for the 2011 swimming season and under director Laskey's leadership, it has been met."

"The positive environmental development at our beaches is also an investment in our recreational resources. From our beaches to the Harbor islands, this work enables us to take back our urban waterfronts, enhancing the quality of life of our residents," said DCR Commissioner Ed Lambert.

The South Boston CSO Storage Tunnel is the single largest project in MWRA's \$850 million program to

control combined sewer overflows. The project also received \$9.09 million in federal stimulus funding.

### 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. This includes monthly updates on drinking water quality testing, information on lead, our most recent Consumer Confidence Report, & many 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](mailto:bob@h2otest.net)

### eDEP

The upgrade for eDEP has been working somewhat smoothly for the past few months although recently some of us have had issues uploading specific data. The bug has been found, however, and we were told that it will be fixed in early September.

DEP continues to need more time to program for added contaminants (e.g. Enterococcus, etc.) but they did commit to the LAC that further changes requiring any re-programming would be discussed with the affected lab community prior to finalization.

We were told that 16 labs are presently using eDEP. We were also told that the Commissioner has been pushing for increased efficiency since there are decreased resources (people) in the DEP. Given this,

the push will be on to increase overall submissions using eDEP. The ITLA has been very clear that this needs to be done **only** with adequate resources devoted to the DEP IT staff.

Several issues existed with the “help” desk at EOEEA. Efforts are being made internally to make this unit more responsive to the end users.

### Manganese

The Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee (SDWAAC) had more discussions about the health effects of manganese in drinking water. The guidance level will be 0.3 mg/L. The Department of Public Health and the DEP are working on a joint release. Infants are the particular group of concern. All PWS’ will be required to test for Manganese by fall. This will allow DEP to focus their efforts on those PWS’ that have Mn levels in excess of the criteria. It seems to this writer that DEP is focusing on the larger water suppliers only and did not have a cogent plan for the mom & pop PWS’. It also seems that no thought has been put into the private well situation. I expressed ITLA’s concern that adequate notice be given to the laboratory community, particularly since the presence of Mn in private wells is very significant. (We have a speaker from DEP coming to our upcoming meeting to discuss DEP’s Mn initiative.)

On this and other issues, stay tuned!!! We plan 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.

## ITLA Quarterly Meeting

**Wednesday, September 28, 2011**

Doubletree Hotel

11 Beaver Street, Milford, MA 01757

(508) 478-7010

**8:30 a.m. Coffee**

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

**9:30 a.m. Hexavalent Chromium, Perchlorate and Other New Methods - What the**

**EPA May Regulate**

*By Charles Ahrens, Lachat Instruments/Hach Company*

**10:15 a.m. Break**

**10:30 a.m. Manganese and the MA DEP**

*By TBA, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection*

**12:30 pm Meeting Adjourns**