

Highlights

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ITLA

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President's Message

By Dan Falcone

Hello to all,

It is difficult to believe that summer is almost gone.

As I was walking out this morning to get the newspaper, I thought how nice this summer has been, and how much I do not want it to end. But the seasons pass and now I look forward to the fall and football. So as summer passes we get back to our ITLA meetings.

The ITLA Executive Committee has decided to try something new. We will be emailing the minutes from our Executive Committee Meetings to the membership to try and keep our members better informed. The goal of distributing the Executive Committee Meeting minutes is an effort to generate additional interest in the ITLA meetings.

At our upcoming meeting October 3rd, we will be having a hot breakfast buffet. We have Lisa Touet from the MA DEP to talk about Laboratory Certification

Office Audits, what MA DEP views as common deficiencies during their audits, and what the labs can do to be more compliant with the MA DEP regulations.

We will also have a timely update from the MA DEP Laboratory Advisory Committee meeting.

I hope to see all of the ITLA members at our upcoming meeting on October 3rd.

MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney
(mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us)

MWRA Mails Annual Water Quality Report - Results Confirm Water Quality Is Excellent

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has mailed its Annual Water Quality Report to every household in its service area. The report provides an update to consumers on last year's water quality test results. The hundreds of thousands of tests taken during the year confirm that the quality of MWRA's water is excellent. For 2011, MWRA met every federal

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday., October 3, 2012, DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation: "MA DEP Laboratory Certification Update"** *By Lisa Touet, MA DEP*

and state drinking water standard.

“The report is essentially a nutrition label for your drinking water, and the news is good,” said MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey. He added that the agency hopes customers will take a moment to read the report and learn more about the water system.

The report also includes important information on how to reduce the risk of lead in drinking water. Although the water itself is lead-free, lead can get into tap water through home plumbing and even some brass water fixtures. System-wide, the MWRA has been below the Lead Action Level for the past eight years. And tests have also shown that there are no traces of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water supplied by MWRA.

The report is required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. MWRA distributes the report to over 850,000 homes in 41 cities and towns. Community-specific inserts also provide information about municipal water systems. The reports are being mailed through the end of June. Look for it in your mailbox.

The report is available on mwra.com at www.mwra.com/annual/waterreport/2011results/2011results.htm.

MWRA Brings Home the Platinum

MWRA’s Deer Island Treatment Plant has received the Platinum Peak Performance Award for 2011 from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). The award recognizes facilities for outstanding compliance of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits.

This recognition program consists of three categories – Platinum, Gold and Silver. Platinum is awarded to facilities that have had no NPDES permit violations for five years in a row. Deer Island has received the Gold Peak Performance Award for the past four years.

Dam Safety Modification Projects

Work is underway to retrofit five MWRA dams to meet standards required by the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety:

- Weston Reservoir, Weston
- Foss Reservoir, Framingham

- Sudbury Reservoir, Southborough/Marlborough
- Wachusett Open Channel, Southborough
- Chestnut Hill Reservoir Dam, Boston/Newton

Although the dams are not in any danger of imminent failure, the Commonwealth issued new regulations in 2006 to ensure that dams classified as “High Hazard” could withstand most any catastrophic event. The classification High Hazard does not refer to condition, but to proximity to residents. All 18 dams within the MWRA/DCR system are well maintained and are inspected regularly.

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.

Regulatory Update

By Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net

Laboratory Advisory Committee

eDEP

It was reported that approximately one-third of the drinking water data is now being submitted through eDEP. Damon showed a graph of submissions & emphasized the increasing number over the past years. The DEP is currently looking for more money for their IT department. The western region was acknowledged as the furthest behind in terms of submitting data electronically, but it was also recognized that this was more due to poor Internet connections in the western part of the Commonwealth than to recalcitrant labs.

Manganese

The guidance level of 300 ppb (0.30 mg/L) has been approved and this is moving forward. It was reported to be in the Commissioner’s office now and there seems to be some likelihood that further action will come this fall. (See *Regs* on page 4)

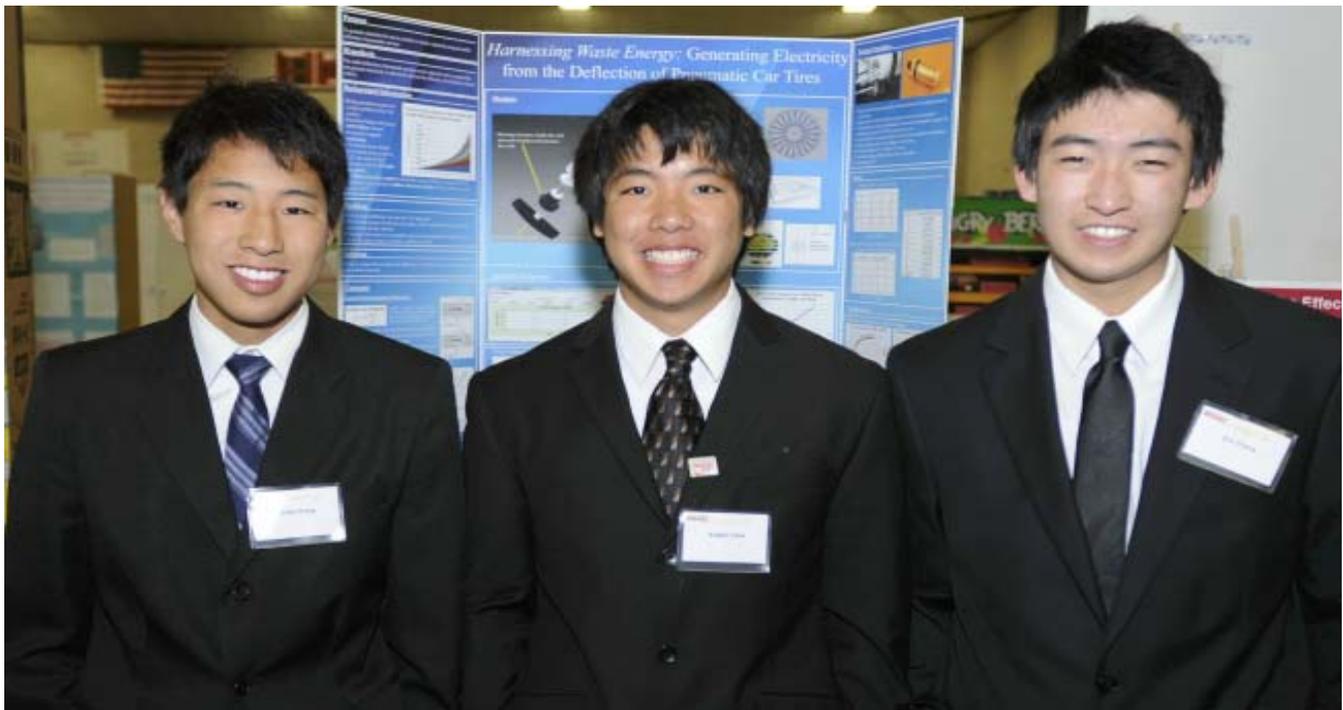
ITLA Award at the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair

The 2012 Independent Testing Laboratory Award was won by 3 juniors from Lexington High School: Xingkai Chew, Felix Chung, and Eric Chiang for their team project, “Harnessing Waste Energy: Generating Electricity from the Deflection of Pneumatic Car Tires”. They also won a second place award at the Fair.

Harnessing Waste Energy: Generating Electricity from the Deflection of Pneumatic Car Tires”

The purpose of this project was to utilize the deflection of car tires to drive a linear induction system that could generate electricity for use in vehicles. An apparatus was built consisting of two bike tires, a pneumatic one and a solid one, to mimic this deflection. These tires were in constant contact, where the solid tire would deflect the tread of the pneumatic tire by 2.2 cm, which is equivalent to the

deflection experienced by a 33 cm radius tire at 2.1 bars. A piston with a magnet was attached to the tread of the pneumatic tire so that the piston/magnet could move with the deflection of the tread. A stationary coil was fitted around the path of the magnet. Using a gear and chain system, a drill rotated the pneumatic tire at 60 RPM. While rotating, the solid tire deflected the tread of the other tire, moving the piston and the magnet and thus inducing a voltage in the coil, which was gathered by data collection software. Analysis of the data showed that the linear induction system in a 33 cm radius tire could generate an average of 318 watt hours after traveling for 1 hour at 97 kph. This electricity generated could be used to power the majority of the electronics in a car and could increase the efficiency of an electric vehicle by around 4.5% and the electric component of a hybrid vehicle by around 18.4%.



Pictured from left to right are Felix Chung, Xingkai Chew, and Eric Chaing

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

DoubleTree Hotel

11 Beaver Street, Milford, MA 01757

(508) 478-7010

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet and Networking

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

- **Regulatory**
- **Ethics**
- **Finance**

9:45 a.m. MA DEP Lab Certification Office Update

By Lisa Touet, MA DEP

10:30 a.m. Break

10:40 a.m. ITLA Roundtable Discussion - ITLA Membership Drive

11:45 a.m. Meeting Adjourns

Regs From Page 2

Other

There was considerable discussion surrounding client notifications when multiple laboratories are involved in an analysis. There have been limited instances of a subcontract lab not reporting MCL exceedance results to the primary lab in a timely manner, thereby violating the 24 hour reporting rule in 310CMR42. It was suggested by some DEP personnel present at the meeting that there should be stricter enforcement of up to, and including, the primary lab's revocation of certification. Luckily, cooler heads (from ITLA) prevailed and the DEP backed off, agreeing to come up with a guidance document to be vetted through the LAC and then sent to all labs.

It was noted that the Revised Total Coliform Rule is in the hands of the Office of Management & Budget and that publication could take place within 90 days. Once published, it is expected that it will be another 18 months for implementation.

On the subject of beach water testing, we were told that Save the Harbor/Save the Bay had complained about closing beaches in a non-realistic time frame (water gets sampled today and results are not available for 24 hours, so the beach is closed possibly after the contamination has been flushed). As a possible remedy to this the Wall Experiment Station

has been testing qPCR which would give real time readings. It was acknowledged that this would be a more expensive analysis and that the instrument cost is in the range of \$50-60K. None of the labs at the meeting exhibited much interest in this testing without having a contract in place.

On these 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.

EPA Update

Provided by Catalyst Information Resources

Standard Methods Published Policy on QC and Tables Related to the Method Update Rule

The Standard Methods organization has published a policy stating "Standard Methods supports only the most recent revision of its methods, including the required QC steps." The policy goes on to indicate that the QC sections in the 22nd edition of Standard Methods were extensively revised. Standard Methods also published 2 tables showing which methods are approved for wastewater and drinking water analyses and a memo from EPA approving methods from the 22nd edition.

<http://www.standardmethods.org/>