

Highlights

- ITLA Quarterly Meeting Notice
- Regulatory Update
- MWRA Update



ITLA

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Ex President's Message

By Dan Falcone

Ex President's Message

Hello ITLA Members,
You are getting this Ex Presidents Message because the elected ITLA President Mike Ericson of Contest Laboratories is unable to complete his term as President. He has accepted a position in California and as such is not able to complete his term due to the ITLA By-Laws. We wish Mike and his family all the success and happiness in his new career choice. Also the ITLA Vice President, Paul Hobart of TestAmerica will not have the time to fulfill the role as President because of a recent promotion. This promotion prevents Paul from devoting the necessary time to act as President, but he has agreed to remain as ITLA Vice President.

So, the message from the Ex President is: many of our ITLA members are aware of the recent fines of ITLA member labs by the Mass. Attorney General for air emissions violations. The ITLA

Executive Committee has been able to arrange a presentation on the air emissions regulations and detail what every commercial lab should be doing to stay in compliance with the MA and EPA regulations.

The next ITLA membership meeting on September 17th will have this important topic as the centerpiece of the meeting. We will have technical experts making the presentation and available for questions after the presentation. We have also invited the MADEP to attend and talk about what they look for in an inspection visit.

Please RSVP to Eric Baanante ebaanante@thielsch.com or Laurel Stoddard Lstoddard@thielsch.com so we can adequately plan the presentation room accommodations with the hotel.

Non-members of the ITLA are welcome but there will be a \$50 attendance fee.

I hope to see everyone at this important ITLA Membership meeting on September 17th.

Dan Falcone

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday., September 17, 2014, DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation:** Environmental Health and Engineering will present "MA Department of Env'l Protection - Air Permitting Process"

Regulatory Update

By Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net

eDEP

We were told that although there continued to be no resources for issues relating to our bulk upload process, the contract for the upgrade to all of the electronic functions of eDEP had been awarded. The items we need to have corrected are slated for sometime in 2015. Keep holding your breath!!

Manganese

As we stated before, the guidance has gone out to all PWS', day care centers, and OB/GYN offices. Several PWS' in the Southeast & Northeast Regions have seen problems with high concentrations of Mn. The DEP says they are assisting these suppliers but it seems that this is for the larger PWS' and not the small mom & pop PWS'.

Other

Although it is known that revisions to the certification regulations are needed with at least 26 different changes, the LCO began working on these and refuses to share any of this until the **entire** process is followed. This means that it is presented to us in a draft final version as opposed to the prior times when it was fed to the LAC members in pieces as it was being drafted. This process was much smoother and addressed our concerns. The "new" process is very backward and slows the process significantly.

We were told that the final changes to the Proficiency Testing Policy had been approved by Oscar Pancorbo. At our June meeting they said the policy would be released "within a few days," but here we are in August and they still are not out. They are important for us since they make quick turnaround policies more lenient.

Air Issues

As you all know, several labs were hit with stunningly large fines for emitting air pollutants to the atmosphere. The ITLA had heard about this over a year ago and **immediately** asked DEP for guidance on how to interpret their 600 pages of air regulations.

The ITLA was stonewalled by various levels of DEP and only after these exorbitant fines were finalized have they been willing to start talking to us. On your behalf, ITLA sent letters of complaint to the Attorney General, the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs and the DEP Commissioner. We had a formal response from DEP and talked with a Deputy AG (who was proud the AG had "caught polluters"). Neither of these responses were satisfactory in our minds. One thing DEP did say was that the fines were driven totally by the AG (Martha Coakley). The implication - though hard to believe - was that they, (DEP), were not in favor of the fines. DEP has told us they are "working on" a program to assist us now. In spite of the fact that they have had since June to work on this, they allege they cannot be ready for our upcoming meeting.

We have, however, found an outside firm to come in to explain DEP's air permitting requirements. They are experts in the field. There will be a presentation followed by an opportunity for questions and answers at the upcoming meeting. We have specifically asked for information on how to calculate the amorphous "potential to emit."

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.

MWRA Update

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

Algal Toxin Not a Problem in MWRA Water

News coverage of a serious bloom of an algae which releases a toxic compound in Lake Erie and water use restrictions in Toledo, has sparked questions about MWRA water.

MWRA water comes from the well protected Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs. These reservoirs have extremely low levels of the nutrients which cause serious algal blooms. Photos of Lake Erie near the

Toledo drinking water intake are in sharp contrast to MWRA's sources reservoirs. MWRA reservoirs are "oligotrophic" meaning that water is clean and clear, with water clarity over 25 feet down.

MWRA has a regular algae monitoring and response plan in place, tracking the low levels of naturally occurring algae which inhabit all natural water bodies, and has never seen levels which approached those seen in Lake Erie. MWRA has tested for the toxin suspected in the Toledo water system and the results were undetectable.

MWRA disinfects the water supplying the Boston metro area with ozone and UV light. While MWRA levels of the algal toxin are undetectable, in the unlikely event that they were to become elevated, ozone is considered effective at destroying the toxin.

Patrick Administration Celebrates New Water Technology at MWRA Facility

MARLBOROUGH – Wednesday, July 16, 2014 – Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Sec. Maeve Valley Bartlett today helped celebrate the start-up of a new state-of-the-art ultraviolet (UV) disinfection facility at the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant, improving the quality of drinking water delivered to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) customers. The plant serves 2.3 million MWRA customers in 43 communities in the metropolitan Boston and metro west areas.

"With this significant investment in treatment, along with well-protected reservoirs and extensive watershed protection efforts, MWRA's customers can be confident that the water delivered is not just among the best tasting, but of the highest quality," said Secretary Bartlett, chair of the MWRA BODs.

UV light is a more potent form of natural disinfection from sunlight that enables MWRA to inactivate the most difficult to kill pathogens that could potentially be in source water, without the use of additional chemicals and any associated disinfection byproducts.

The facility was completed in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, which requires the addition of a second primary disinfection process. This rule is intended to improve

public health by reducing illness due to *Cryptosporidium* and other disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water.

"EPA applauds MWRA's innovative efforts to meet requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act by installing ultraviolet disinfection, thus providing an effective layer of drinking water protection for citizens of the Commonwealth," said Curt Spalding, regional administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New England office.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), which regulates drinking water in the state, formally approved the start-up of the new facility. Construction of the \$32 million UV project began in 2011. The new facility was designed and constructed to not only meet current treatment needs, but to provide flexibility to meet future changes in water quality or regulatory requirements.

Since 2005, MWRA's water has been treated with ozone, which is produced by applying an electrical current to pure oxygen. Ozone has ensured strong protection against microbes/viruses, improved water clarity & has actually improved the water's taste.

"In just a few short years, water treatment has gone from chlorine with its taste and odor issues, to ozone and now ultraviolet – with no additional chemicals and no disinfection byproducts," said MWRA executive director Fred Laskey, "Just better, safer water."

The Carroll Water Treatment Plant is a prime example of Governor Patrick's commitment to innovate water technology. The state-of-the-art treatment methods employed at the plant, ozone and UV, ensure that MWRA's customers are receiving some of the best drinking water in the country.

MWRA's Annual Water Report is in the Mail: Test Results Confirm Water Quality is Excellent

Throughout the month of June, the Mass Water Resources Auth. has been mailing its Annual Water Quality Report to every household in its service area.

For 2013, MWRA again met every federal and state drinking water standard. The hundreds of thousands of tests taken during the year confirm that the quality of MWRA's water is excellent.

MWRA hopes the report will encourage residents to drink local tap water and highlights its environmental benefits and low cost compared to bottled water.

MWRA is also proud to announce that Quabbin water was voted “Best of the Best” in a taste test held at the American Water Works Association annual conference in June. Samples from both the Boston Water & Sewer Commission and MWRA were among the 31 entries and came in first and second, respectively – a clean sweep!

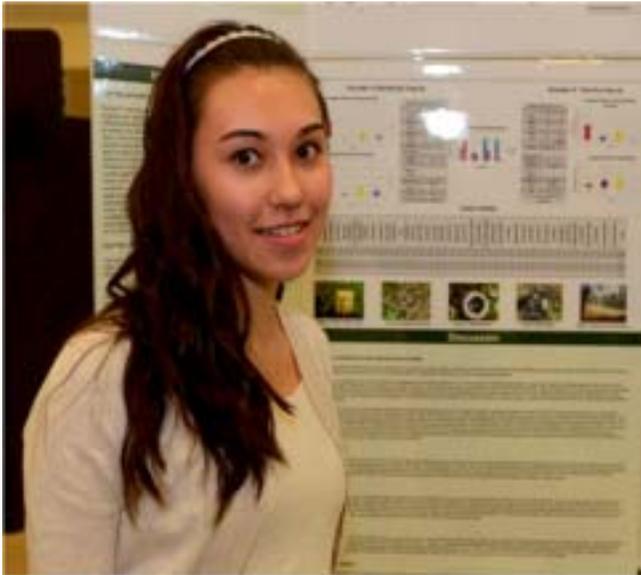
Required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act,

the report is distributed to over 850,000 homes in the MWRA service area.

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

ITLA Award Winner at the 2014 Massachusetts Science and Engineering Fair



Laura Jenny, ITLA Award Winner

Laura Jenny of Leominster High School was the winner of the coveted ITLA award at the 2014 Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair held in May at MIT. Laura also earned a second place award. The title of her project was “Insect Ecology: Organic Vs. Agricultural Pesticide Biology” and here is the abstract for her project: “In this experiment insect specimen were collected using non chemical based insect attractants during the months of September and October 2013. The specimens were from four farms that use different

insect controls. The effect of those insect controls on insect populations and variety was determined. All farms were located in central Massachusetts. The first farm uses chemical pesticides (Chlorantraniliprole, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Imidacloprid). The second uses various biopesticides (Insecticidal Soap, Azadirachtin and Bacillus thuringiensis). The third uses only one microbial pesticide (Spinosad). The fourth farm uses biopesticides and fungicides (Bacillus thuringiensis, Copper Ammonium Complex, and Spinosad). It was found that the different types of insect controls have the same effect on total insect numbers. However, the pesticides Chlorantraniliprole, Lambda-cyhalothrin, and Imidacloprid were found to have adverse effects on the population of beneficial Carabidae beetles, as there were significantly fewer found at farm one compared to farm three. Chlorantraniliprole, Lambda-cyhalothrin, and Imidacloprid were found to reduce insect variety at farm one, whereas farm three that only uses the microbial pesticide Spinosad had the greatest insect variety. Farm one which uses chemical pesticides, has significantly higher total numbers of beneficial insects, specifically the parasitoid wasps Ichneumonidae and Braconidae compared to farm three which uses only one microbial pesticide. But, the total variety of beneficial insects was the same overall. All insect controls were found to have an equal effect on harmful insects.”

We wish Laura every success in her future endeavors.

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

DoubleTree by Hilton Boston - Milford
11 Beaver Street, Milford, MA 01757
(508) 478-7010

8:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet and Networking

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

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

9:45 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Air Emissions Presentation

Environmental Health & Engineering

11:00 a.m. MADEP - Air Emissions

MADEP Invited

11:45 a.m. Meeting Adjourns

Is Your Lab Ready for a DEP Audit on Air Regulations? Movie trailer version, queue the voice of Don LaFontaine... "In a world where the MA Attorney General issues million dollar fines to testing labs..." Can you afford hundreds of thousands of dollars in punitive fines like the four large Mass labs? Has your lab "failed to obtain necessary MassDEP permits" when you "started emitting large amounts of hazardous air pollutants..without adequate controls, despite the proximity of the facilities to residential areas, schools, day care centers, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and other commercial establishments"? Does your lab use **organic solvents**? Do you have the "**potential to emit**" these solvents above the regulatory limit? Do you know what the regulatory limit is? Which parts of the 600+ page Massachusetts air regulations apply to your lab? Do you know which solvents and other chemicals are considered hazardous air pollutants? Do you know how much of each solvent you use? Are you recovering solvents before they go up your fume hood? ITLA is looking out for your best interests by inviting speakers for your Sept. meeting that should have the answers to these questions & many others that you might have before DEP auditors show up at your lab's door. This could be the most important ITLA meeting to attend since the one several years ago that featured a presentation by an EPA RCRA auditor who had proposed millions of dollars in fines to a New England commercial lab.

NOTICE - Don't Miss This Presentation!!

ITLA has found a firm willing to come out and explain some of the vagaries of the air permitting regulations. Did you know that the "potential to emit" is calculated as if you are running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and that this is how some of these labs got their necks in DEP's noose?

At our meeting, we have invited **Environmental Health & Engineering (EH&E)** to make a presentation on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's air permitting process. Items to be covered include:

- the process of determining when permits might be needed
- different levels of air permitting
- calculating potential emissions to determine applicability
- the process of obtaining a permit
- various compliance strategies

EH&E provides services to clients in health and safety compliance, indoor environmental quality, environmental assessment and compliance, including environmental regulatory compliance. EH&E has a depth of knowledge and credibility unmatched in the industry and a wealth of readily accessible information that makes them a powerful resource.