

## Highlights

- MCP Data Quality Enhancement Program
- ITLA Quarterly Meeting Notice
- MWRA



# ITLA

*The Newsletter of  
Independent Testing  
Laboratories Association  
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## 2002-2003 ITLA Officers

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## **Message from the President**

*By Bob Bentley*

The summer weather doldrums have hit hard. It has been like a monsoonal summer in many places! Hopefully your work has been coming in, but not a feast or famine situation-like the downpours of rain many of us have seen.

We finished our training sessions in June. We had a varied program, covering microbiology, organic chemistry, and quality

assurance issues. All were successful, having about 80 people trained on these varied topics. We hope you agree with us that offering cost effective (very low cost to members) training is one of the great benefits of belonging to ITLA. We are considering a training session on ICP for the fall. Please let me know if you would be interested.

As I stated in the last newsletter, ITLA sent a letter regarding potential personnel cuts in the Lab Certification Office (LCO) and protested the increased fees for lab certification. In response to the former, we received no reply. On the latter, they responded that the fees were justified since the cost to maintain the LCO was increasing. They also said that the monies are being earmarked for DEP's operating account (but not necessarily to the LCO). All we can do is watch and see if the fees continue to increase this much on an annual basis (38% this year and 56% in 2 years)!

Do you have specific questions you would like directed to the Lab Certification Office? Are you concerned that "your question" may tip them off to a problem you have? If so, we are going to try to provide a forum to get your questions answered. This may be either through the Laboratory Advisory Committee, on which the ITLA has sitting members or through a formal invitation to the LCO to attend our quarterly meetings. Until we work out all the details, please send your questions to me. I will purge your name and attempt to get the answers.

A few ITLA members went to our sister organizations' (New York AAEL and Pennsylvania AAEL) Annual Convention in Pennsylvania in early August. At our upcoming meeting, we will share what we learned there and give you information on where the new Executive Director of NELAC thinks the program is headed.

The upcoming quarterly meeting promises to be an interesting one.

## ***Quarterly Meeting***

Wednesday, September 10, 2003 Doubletree Guest Suites, Waltham, MA

**Feature Presentation:** The Data Quality Act by Dallas Wait, Gradient Corp. *See page 3 for agenda*

## President's Message continued.....

- Did you know that DEP has foisted a new question on us that could really impact your “Presumptive Certainty” designation? **Jim Occhialini** has new information on this and other changes (alas!) in the MCP.
- Have you run across organic analytes that need analysis by something other than GC/MS? It seems like more and more of the analytes that are cropping up in our arena are requiring LC or LC/MS analysis. **Joe Romano of Waters** will speak on the use of LC/MS in the analysis of environmental samples - the pros and the cons.
- Do you know what the **Data Quality Act** is? Do you know that if you do any federal work, it has real potential to impact your reporting? We have lined up **Dallas Wait of Gradient Corp.** to give us the lowdown on this.

This should be an informative meeting for all! See you there.

Remember, we **are** interested in your feedback. Are we providing enough variety? Do you have any other ideas of “cool” programs? Are there seminars that you would like us to present? Please e-mail me or any member of your Executive Committee with your thoughts. A vacuum only has a sucking sound. We’d prefer to hear your voice.

### NELAC – An Update

*By Bob Bentley*

There **is** news. Due to newsletter deadlines, the synopsis has to come at our quarterly meeting. There are some big changes - your engineering firms will NOT like some of what is coming down - and some not so big changes. Come to the quarterly meeting to hear about them!

### MWRA by Mike Delaney

#### Local Limits Changes

The new Local Limits have been implemented. All industries holding TRAC permits have received permit modification letters. A detailed discussion of the changes is available at [http://www.mwra.com/sewer/html/local\\_limits.htm](http://www.mwra.com/sewer/html/local_limits.htm).

One significant change will be dropping the GC/FID petroleum hydrocarbons test in favor of Methods 624 and 625 for specific volatile and semivolatile organics on the Total Toxic Organics (TTO) list and FOG (fats, oil, and grease). Also, NELAP accreditation is now accepted in lieu of MA-DEP certification.

#### TRAC “eSMART”

We continue to receive laboratory data electronically using the web-based “e-SMART” program. Labs access eSMART 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 eSMART. TRAC will not accept data using old SMART after 9/30/03. To find out more about eSMART contact Alice Chang at 617-305-5621 or [Alice.Chang@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto: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.

#### VOA “Orphan Analytes”

EPA Region 1 has approved MWRA’s request to add five analytes to the VOA Method 624 for industrial pretreatment program testing: carbon disulfide, styrene, vinyl acetate, m,p-xylene, and o-xylene. We refer to these analytes as “orphans” because we regulate them, but they aren’t included in a 40 CFR Part 136 approved method.

#### At MWRA It’s All Out There

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, such as our 2002 Consumer Confidence Report, and many technical reports associated with the Deer Island Treatment Plant and our extensive Harbor and Outfall Monitoring program.

**November 5, 2003**

ITLA Executive Board Meeting  
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA  
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**November 12, 2003**

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

**December 3, 2003**

ITLA Quarterly Meeting  
 Radisson Inn, Milford, MA  
 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**February 4, 2004**

ITLA Executive Board Meeting  
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA  
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**February 11, 2004**

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

**March 10, 2004**

ITLA Annual Meeting  
 Crown Plaza, Worcester, MA  
 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**May 5, 2004**

ITLA Executive Board Meeting  
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA  
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**May 12, 2004**

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

**June 9, 2004**

ITLA Quarterly Meeting  
 Radisson Inn, Marlboro, MA  
 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**August 4, 2004**

ITLA Executive Board Meeting  
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA  
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**August 11, 2004**

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

**September 8, 2004**

ITLA Quarterly Meeting  
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA  
 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

***ITLA Quarterly Meeting***

**Wednesday, September 10, 2003**  
**DoubleTree Guest Suites, Waltham, MA**

- 8:30 AM Registration**
- 9:00 AM Committee Reports**
  - Secretary                      Treasurer
  - Technical                      Elections
  - Newsletter                      By-Laws
  - Lab Advisory                      Ethics
  - Regulatory                      Membership
- 9:30 AM MCP update - Jim Occhialini**  
 YES, there have been more changes.  
 Jim will bring us the latest news.
- 9:45 AM NELAP update - Bob Bentley**  
 the latest information as gleaned  
 from the new Executive Director of  
 NELAP.
- 10:00 AM Break**

- 10:15 AM Vendor Presentation**  
**LC/MS in environmental analysis.**  
 Have you run across organic analytes  
 that need analysis by something other  
 than GC/MS? It seems like more and  
 more of the analytes that are cropping  
 up in our arena are requiring LC or  
 LC/MS analysis. **Joe Romano of**  
**Waters** will speak on the use of LC/  
 MS in the analysis of environmental  
 samples - the pros and the cons.
- 11:00 AM The Data Quality Act** - Do you  
 know what the **Data Quality Act** is?  
 Did you know that it has real potential  
 to impact all of our reporting? Are  
 you aware of how it impacts scientific  
 reporting to federal agencies? We  
 have lined up **Dallas Wait of**  
**Gradient Corp.** to give us the  
 lowdown.

## **MCP Data Quality Enhancement Program**

*By Jim Occhialini, Vice President, ITLA*

### **August 1, 2003 Implementation - Current Status**

Most of you are now aware that August 1<sup>st</sup> marked the official rollout of the MCP Data Quality Enhancement Program. All samples collected after this date in support of MCP project applications are expected to be in compliance with this policy in order to receive Presumptive Certainty status. All of the MCP analytical methods and associated policies are documented as part of "The Compendium of Quality Assurance & Quality Control Requirements and Performance Standards for Selected Analytical Methods Used in Support of Response Actions for the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP)", WSC-02-320. This document & all other related information can be found on the MCP Data Enhancements Program homepage, as part of the MADEP web site [www.state.ma.us/dep/bwsc/files/data/qaqcdocs.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/bwsc/files/data/qaqcdocs.htm).

There have been some recent changes concerning the preservation of samples for volatile organics analysis. The DEP does NOT consider any of the MCP Method 8260B target compounds to be reactive at this time, therefore separate sample preservation schemes are NOT required if potentially reactive & aromatic compounds are both contaminants of concern. The standard, HCl-preserved, cooled to 4° C, VOC vial is the appropriate preservation for all aqueous samples. The DEP is still acquiring information concerning potentially reactive compounds & may revise the required preservation scenario at a later date. The Department is also recommending that soil samples submitted for VOC analysis via the Method 5035B Low Level procedure be collected with 5 mL of water, which will then need to be frozen at the lab within 48 hours of collection. Alternatively the Low Level samples can be preserved with sodium bisulfate.

The implementation of this policy will require a higher level of communication & documentation between the LSP & their lab. The cover page of a MCP lab report consists of a series of six questions the lab has to answer concerning sample receipt, adherence to the MCP methods, analytical performance, & QA/QC. The answers to these questions

will determine whether the LSP will receive Presumptive Certainty for the associated data or not and there is one question the laboratory may not be able to answer affirmatively without documented input from the LSP.

**Question #3 (C)** asks the lab whether all of the requirements for Presumptive Certainty as specified in Section 2.0 CAM VII A have been achieved. One of the requirements listed here concerns whether the field QC sample requirement has been satisfied. The lab will have no way of knowing whether this requirement has been met unless it is documented by the LSP with sample submittal. Proper documentation of field QC sample status will allow the lab to answer Question #3 in the affirmative (provided the requirement has been met) & maintain Presumptive Certainty status.

### **Labs need to request the following information from their clients if they intend to receive Presumptive Certainty from DEP:**

- Clearly indicate you are seeking Presumptive Certainty & you want your samples analyzed & the results reported in accordance with CAM
- State whether the Minimum Field QC Sample Requirements that are applicable for this project have been achieved
- Indicate whether any of the samples submitted for analysis are drinking water samples, as defined in the CAM
  - if drinking water samples are included, indicate that the associated field QC samples have also been submitted
  - direct the laboratory to analyze the drinking water field QC samples together with the samples or to hold the drinking water field QC samples pending the analytical results (note: holding time issues may result)
  - given drinking water analysis (under the MCP) is a special case, it is recommended to discuss sample collection and analysis with the lab prior to sample submission.
- Clearly indicate the applicable MCP criteria or required detection limits

Labs are encouraged to visit the web site and familiarize themselves with the program. DEP has added a new "Questions & Answers" section that should prove to be quite helpful.