

Highlights

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- Regulatory Update
- MWRA Update



ITLA

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President's Message

By Dan Falcone

As I was sitting watching one of the Christmas television specials I started thinking of all the reasons why I am happy.

I have a wonderful family.

I have good friends.

I have a good job.

I work with and for a group of dedicated and professional scientists known as the ITLA.

It is easy to see why I am happy.

I want to take this opportunity to say to all the ITLA members.....

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

I hope all of you have a happy holiday season.

Dan Falcone

Regulatory Update

eDEP

Based on a question sent to DEP from ITLA, we were told that legally, e-signatures have been officially deemed acceptable. Some

members have also found that DEP's regional staff do not know what data is required to be submitted as back-up data for sub-contracted work. DEP has stated that they have re-instructed their regional staff as to what to expect (and not just throw it away). Due to issues with changing location IDs for drinking water sites, we requested more frequent updating of the on-line listing of PWS location IDs. DEP committed to monthly updates although they have not kept this promise at this time. There still seems to be resource issues as it comes to IT staffing for eDEP.

Manganese

Although we anticipated action this fall on this issue, the DEP remains in a holding pattern. It is unclear when any change in guidance will transpire.

Other

There was some discussion regarding the decertification of a lab in western Mass. as well as the recent issues surrounding the Public Health Lab in Jamaica Plain. DEP found deceptive practices at the western MA lab and unfortunately

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday., January 16, 2013, DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, MA.

Feature Presentation: "Speaker to be Determined"

determined that it was “systemic” in nature which caused them to take the action they did. The LCO stated they had **no** involvement on this issue, but they (and ITLA) are quite concerned about the impact on the reputation of the laboratory community. It was interesting to note that audits for DPH are only every five years, and for the most part, they only undergo internal audits.

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 Items

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



Example of possibly misleading advertisement

Don't Be Frightened or Misled By Advertisers: Get the Real Facts about Your Drinking Water from Your Town or MWRA

Residents in some MWRA communities are being frightened, and possibly misled, into making unnecessary purchases of water treatment systems by advertisements that tell them there is an issue with their drinking water. For example, one mailing tells residents their water has "... 3 times as much chlorine... than in a swimming pool." Since 2005, the primary disinfectant for your water is ozone – made with pure oxygen – which leaves no taste or odor, and in fact improves the natural taste of the water. MWRA, like nearly all water suppliers, does add some chlorine in the form of mono-chloramine at

levels well below EPA's health standards. This mild disinfectant protects the water as it travels through miles of pipelines to your home. Since the switch to ozone, levels of disinfection by-products have declined by nearly 90%. Information on your water quality is always available on our website. The test results have been analyzed by MWRA's certified laboratories and MWRA's licensed operators using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques. If you have any questions about your drinking water, please contact Joshua Das, Public Health Manager, or call our 24-Hour Water Quality Hotline: (617) 242-5323.

Boston Phoenix Writer Visits Deer Island in Search of Boston's Worst Smell, is "Oddly Disappointed"

A Boston Phoenix intrepid correspondent travels deep into the bowels of the Deer Island sanitation complex to get a snootful. By TREVOR QUIRK, November 27, 2012. Read all about it at: <http://thephoenix.com/Boston/news/148144-in-search-of-bostons-worst-smell/>

The Town Of Framingham & the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Celebrate Start of Aqueduct Trails Program

Under a new policy announced in May 2012, MWRA is allowing public access on inactive aqueducts in the Metro West area, through partnerships with local communities. This policy makes available over 40 miles of trails for public use along the Sudbury, Weston, Wachusett and Cochituate Aqueducts. The first of these permits, between MWRA and the Town of Framingham, has now been finalized and the first section of trail opened today along the Weston Aqueduct. "This policy is a great example of promoting open space access and connecting people to the outdoors," said Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan. "We thank Framingham for partnering with us to help kick off the start of the trail network and look forward to working with other local communities in the future." Framingham Selectwomen Laurie Lee, who spearheaded this initiative on behalf of the Board of Selectmen said; "We are grateful to the MWRA Board for adopting their new policy on aqueduct use. The Permit agreement strikes a good

balance between the rights of abutting neighbors and providing our residents access to an extraordinary trail system. We are confident this pilot will be the first step in a long and successful relationship with MWRA and will serve as a model for other communities in Massachusetts.” The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has championed this effort and is using a federal Community Transformation Grant, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, to provide design and trail planning assistance to municipalities. “As we take down the ‘No Trespassing’ signs and put up signs to welcome the public, we are launching a system of Metro West greenways that will last for hundreds of years. Families will use these trails to enjoy nature and get physical exercise,” said Joel Barrera, Deputy Director of MAPC and one of Governor Deval Patrick’s representatives on the MWRA board of directors. “The small section of the Weston Aqueduct that we are opening today represents a big vision.” This is the first of what will be a series of openings over the course of the next year as work to create fence openings and street crossings is completed. The full length of the Weston Aqueduct trail in Framingham will be 5.28 miles.” Thanks to the efforts Senator Spilka, Representative Sannicandro, Representative Walsh, and the hard work of everyone in the Town of Framingham, we’ve gotten to this point much faster than anyone thought,” said MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey. “These aqueducts are

wonderfully scenic and it will be great to see people out enjoying them,” Under the permit, MWRA will retain care and control as some of the aqueducts still serve as emergency back-up for the region’s water supply system. Details of the Policy include:

- Communities will develop emergency response plans and recreational plans
- Communities will maintain trails, collect trash
- Passive recreation only allowed (no dirt bikes, ATVs, etc.)
- MWRA will work with communities on procedures for a water supply emergency The aqueducts also run through the communities of Berlin, Boston, Clinton, Marlborough, Natick, Needham, Newton, Northborough, Sherborn, Southborough, Wayland, Wellesley, and Weston. MWRA has reached out to all of the eligible communities and several have submitted permit applications. For more information on the policy, please visit: www.mwra.com/projects/access/aqueducts/aqueducts.html

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.

ITLA Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

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**

10:00 a.m. Speaker to be determined.

11:00 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. ITLA Roundtable Discussion - Open Discussion

11:45 a.m. Meeting Adjourns