

Highlights

- EPH/VPH Methods out for Public Comment
- ITLA Quarterly Meeting Notice
- MWRA



ITLA

*The Newsletter of
Independent Testing
Laboratories Association
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Message from the President

By Bob Bentley

As the outgoing President, I am pleased to report that your organization is strong. We have had several accomplishments in the past two years.

- We have had a surge in attendance at our quarterly meetings, which we think was due, in part, to a greater variety of speakers as well as finding relevant speakers to respond to timely issues.

- We also have had numerous training sessions - attempting to cover the spectrum of what your lab might need.
- After the Laboratory Certification Office suggested that the number of Laboratory Advisory Committee meetings should be cut, the ITLA spoke out, convincing the DEP that this would not be in anyone's best interest, thereby retaining at least quarterly sessions.
- We have spoken out in opposition to increased fees. Although this did not result in any rollbacks (surprise!), it did let the DEP know that at the least, the fees should be directed to where they are needed - the Lab Certification Office.
- Members of ITLA have worked tirelessly on your behalf to ensure that DEP heard (and heeded) our concerns relating to the implementation of the MCP quality guidelines.
- And, lastly, we continue to question the relevance of NELAC, their policing practices, the proliferation of fees, etc.

Despite these accomplishments, there remains the following challenges - to grow our membership, to continue to speak out on issues, and to remain a leading voice for quality results and ethical practices in our industry. I thank you for your interest and support over the past two years. Hopefully, working together, we can make this organization even more dynamic!

The program for the upcoming meeting looks really great. We have two key speakers who will provide insight into some timely issues. They are:

Forensic Chemistry & Laboratory Analysis - by Mr. Dennis Hilliard of URI & RI Crime Lab

As the Director of the Rhode Island State Crime Lab, Mr. Hilliard specializes in collection and preservation of evidence, forensic DNA analysis, the examination and use of scientific evidence in court, hair and fiber analysis and breath and blood alcohol analysis. The program which

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2004 Crowne Plaza, Worcester, MA

Feature Presentation: Developing a Rugged Analysis for Method 8270 *See page 5 for agenda*

Mr. Hilliard is involved with at URI consulted on the popular television show CSI. Mr. Hilliard will offer his chemist's perspective to us on many of these topics.

Homeland Security - A New Challenge for the Environmental Laboratory Community - by Rob Maxfield of the US EPA

September 11th and the Anthrax incident that followed forced the country to accept the possibility that terrorists might employ chemical or biological agents in the United States. This new reality has caused the federal government and the EPA to look critically at both measures to reduce the possibility of such an occurrence and the response assets that might be required if such an incident were to occur. Lab capacity and capability would be a critical component in a response and efforts are underway at CDC, FDA and EPA to understand the vulnerability and address the issues.

And finally, we have elections. The nominating committee has presented **Jim Occhialini** for President and **Peter Kane** for Vice-President. We received no other nominations. If you will be unable to attend, please e-mail me with your vote. There is one vote per member organization.

This should be a captivating meeting. Hope to see all of you there!

Regulatory Update

As you know, in January the Lab Certification Office and the DEP promulgated new regulations. These were "technical corrections" only, but bromate, chlorite and HAA5 were added to the certified parameter list. ITLA stated their willingness to establish a committee to work with LCO to update these regulations, but "disinvestment" prevented it ever getting off the ground. "Disinvestment" means there will be no regulatory changes in the Commonwealth unless absolutely required (among other items). No one is sure where the budget axe is going to fall this year although everyone expects still more cuts.

The LCO stated that the chemistry audits are on

track, but they are still trying to complete the microbiology audits. They hope to be back on schedule by the end of December.

The LCO showed us the prototype of the new on-line searchable database. Once the database is online, you will be able to search by laboratory, analyte, category, etc. rather than scroll through the entire PDF list. In addition, it will also flag any analyte for any laboratory that will be downgraded to "not certified" two weeks prior to the effective date. This flag will appear shortly after your formal notification from DEP. As of this writing, the new database has not been initiated. We were told 4 weeks ago that it would be running within 2 weeks, so stay tuned.

NELAC - The interim meeting took place the last week in January. Hopefully we will have some news for you at the Quarterly meeting.

MWRA Items

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

The MWRA Drinking Water System: Covered Water Storage Tanks

MWRA has built five covered water storage tanks to replace open distribution storage reservoirs. Covered storage tanks provide superior water quality control and security for treated drinking water en route to customer communities. Storage tanks help water systems maintain sufficient pressure for peak demands and provide backup in emergencies.

At 115 million gallons, the Norumbega Covered Storage Tank in Weston, along the Mass. Turnpike is the largest in the country. The tank's three compartments are filled through a shaft in peak demand periods. Water in the 26-foot deep tanks is routed around a series of baffles. It only stays in the tank for 12 hours on average.

Other covered storage tanks include Loring Road in Weston, Nash Hill in Ludlow, Fells in Stoneham, and one at the Walnut Hill Water Treatment Plant. Additional tanks are planned for the Blue Hills in Quincy and in the Stoneham region.

TRAC "e-SMART"

We continue to receive laboratory data electronically using the web-based "e-SMART" program. Labs access e-SMART 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. To find out more about e-SMART contact Alice Chang at 617-305-5621 or 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.

e-SMART File Format Specification: To better assist labs that choose to use a LIMS system to submit data, TRAC is modifying the e-SMART File Format Specification that labs can access using the e-SMART Help function. The specifications, which will be available on-line in early December, include: a data file overview, formatting instructions, a sample file, instructions for checking the file format, and a dictionary of MWRA test codes and components.

Bids for Laboratory Services

MWRA plans to put a contract out to bid for Cryptosporidium, and also backup contracts for Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids.

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

Food for Thought

It is the nature of man to rise to greatness if greatness is expected of him.

John Steinbeck (1902-1968)

EPH / VPH Methods out for Public Comment

The Revised EPH Method (Final January 2004) has been posted on the Department's web page as a Public Comment Draft. Comments are due to the Department on or before 5 March 2004. This document may be found at: <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/bwsc/files/data/eph0104.pdf>

Members of the ITLA are urged to thoroughly review these documents and comment to the DEP. There have been some substantial changes, make sure you agree with them. The DEP has commented repeatedly that they never hear from labs. If you have any comments on how these procedures can be improved, by all means let the DEP know.

The EPH Revisions Summary included with the Public Comment Draft is included below. ITLA members are cautioned that this excerpt is only a summary of some of the more general revisions; you will have to review the method to cover all of the specific changes.

EPH Revisions Summary Method for the Determination of Extractable Petroleum Hydrocarbons (EPH) Revised Final, January 2004

Please direct your comments regarding this document by mail or electronically on or before 5 March 2004 to: Donald Muldoon
Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

donald.muldoon@state.ma.us

MADEP Method for the Determination of Extractable Petroleum Hydrocarbons (EPH), Revision 1.0 dated January 1998 – Updated Sept. 2003

Based on the recommendations of the EPH Revisions Workgroup a number of revisions and edits were incorporated into the current MADEP EPH Method, dated Jan. 1998 as revised on Sept. 24, 2003. This Public Comment Draft document (MADEP-EPH-04-1, Rev 1.1) is posted on the Department's web page http://mass.gov/dep/bwsc/vph_eph.htm for a 30 day public comment review period. (See **EPH** page 4)

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 15, 2004

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

November 3, 2004

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

November 10, 2004

Deadline for Newsletter submissions

December 1, 2004

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

This Public Comment Draft document

Major edits include:

1. Appendix 3 and 4 have been combined into a new Appendix 3 entitled "Required EPH and TPH Data Report Information". The MADEP MCP Analytical Method Report Certification Form (CAM VII A) is included in this Appendix.
2. A new Appendix 4 entitled "EPH Calibration & Analysis Using Linear Regression" was added. *The new appendix is a formatting change to improve readability. All equations regarding internal calibration have been removed from the document and all equations regarding linear regression have now been included in a new appendix*
3. A new Appendix 5 entitled "Initial Demonstration of Laboratory Capability for MADEP EPH Method" has been added. *An example calculation will be included in a revised CAM IV B. Section 10.3 has been revised to further clarify the technical approach to satisfy the Method's requirement for an Initial Demonstration of Laboratory Capability described in Appendix 5.*
4. A notation that the internal standard calibration procedure is no longer recommended for the MA DEP EPH Method is included in Section 9.7.1.
5. Table 3 has been modified to allow for freezing as a preservation technique. The hold time prior to extraction for soil/sediment samples has been extended to 14 days for consistency with other organic methods
6. Table 3.1 has been modified to exclude the use of Ultrasonic Extraction (SW-846 Method 3550C) as an approved EPH Extraction Method for soils and sediments. This extraction method may still be used for "highly contaminated soil/sediment samples and debris."
7. A Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate (LCSD) as a required analytical batch QC element to evaluate method precision is now included in Section 10.0. Section 10.4.2 also requires an evaluation of the LCS/LCSD pair for naphthalene and 2-methylnaphthalene for breakthrough by analyzing the aliphatic fraction of these "batch QC" samples for these compounds.
8. The EPH method now allows for determination of the collective aliphatic and aromatic range, and Target PAH Analyte concentrations in fractionated samples by GC/MS operated in the Total Ion Current mode. Specifications and QC requirements for this option are described in Section 9.10

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

**Wednesday, 10 March 2004
Crowne Plaza, Worcester, MA**

- 8:30 a.m. Registration**
- 9:00 a.m. Committee Reports**
Secretary
Treasurer
Elections
Technical
Ethics
Membership
By-Law
Newsletter
Regulatory
Lab Advisory
- 9:30 a.m. MCP update - Jim Occhialini**
- 9:45 a.m. NELAP update**
- 9:50 a.m. Break**
- 10:15 a.m. Developing a Rugged Analysis for Semivolatile Compounds following Method 8270 - by Restek Corp.** - One of the Env'l Industries standard tests is EPA SW-846, Method 8270, the analysis of semivolatile compounds by GC/MS. The target compounds for this method range from low boiling compounds, N-nitrosodimethylamine to high boiling polycyclic aromatic hydro-carbons such as benzo(g,h,i)-perylene. Due to the complexity of the required target compound running this method is difficult requiring constant maintenance. We will show data that has been collected during research to optimize analytical conditions. Data will include key parameters that will help make a more rugged method for the analysis of semivolatiles in method 8270.

10:45 a.m. Forensic Chemistry & Laboratory Analysis by Mr. Dennis Hilliard, URI & RI Crime Lab - As the Director of the Rhode Island State Crime Lab, Mr. Hilliard specializes in collection and preservation of evidence, forensic DNA analysis, the examination and use of scientific evidence in court, hair and fiber analysis and breath and blood alcohol analysis. The program which Mr. Hilliard is involved with at URI consulted on the popular television show CSI. Mr. Hilliard will offer his chemist's perspective to us on many of these topics.

12:00 Lunch

1:00 p.m. Election results

1:05 p.m. Homeland Security - A New Challenge for the Environmental Laboratory Community - by Rob Maxfield, US EPA - September 11th and the Anthrax incident that followed forced the country to accept the possibility that terrorists might employ chemical or biological agents in the United States. This new reality has caused the federal government and the EPA to look critically at both measures to reduce the possibility of such an occurrence and the response assets that might be required if such an incident were to occur. Laboratory capacity and capability would be a critical component in a response and efforts are underway at CDC, FDA and EPA to understand the vulnerability and address the issues.