

Highlights

- ITLA Quarterly Meeting Notice
- Regulatory Update
- MWRA Update



ITLA

*The Newsletter of
Independent Testing
Laboratories Association
Volume 30 - Issue 1
February 2013*

2012 ITLA Officers

President

Dan Falcone
(781) 296-6155
dan.falcone@testamericainc.com

Vice President

Nancy Burnett
(508) 460-7600
nburnett@microbac.com

Secretary

Alan Ford
(978) 568-0041
aford@rianalytical.com

Treasurer

Paul Hobart
(781) 466-6900
paul.hobart@testamericainc.com

Regulatory Affairs

Bob Bentley
bob@h2otest.net

Technical Affairs

Mike Delaney
mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us

Senior Advisor

Kevin Braga
kbraga@thielsch.com

Ethics Committee

Mike Delaney
mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us

President's Message

By Dan Falcone

In preparing for the upcoming ITLA Annual Meeting, I started to think about all the good things the ITLA does.

- We sponsor an award at the MA State Science and Engineering Fair.
- We arrange for interesting speakers for our meetings. Our upcoming presenter Kevin Reilly of the USEPA will be talking about the Total Coliform Rule and Cyanobacteria.
- We inform our membership of upcoming and important issues.
- We attend MADEP meetings as representatives of the ITLA.
- We persuade and consult to the local state regulators on important regulatory issues and guidance.
- These are just a few of the important actions and functions taken up by the ITLA for the membership.

And all this is done by volunteers who give their time to advance the mission and ideals of the ITLA.

As we enter a new year, please consider being involved with the ITLA, not only by attending the member meetings, but as a member of the Executive Committee.

Please feel free to contact any of the executive committee members to find out about our next Executive Committee meeting. We would love to have you participate in one of our meetings. I know you will find it educational and fun.

Regulatory Update

Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net

eDEP

At the last committee meeting, we were told that there had been an increase of voluntary submissions via eDEP and that this data has been passed on to the Assistant Commissioner. It is our hope that this will slow down the drumbeat toward the mandatory uploading of data. There still seem to be IT staffing issues for eDEP.

Manganese

It is expected that some action will be taken at the upcoming Safe

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday., April 17, 2013, DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation: "Total Coliform Rule and CyanoBacteria"** By Kevin Reilly, New England EPA

Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee meeting to set a “guidance level” for Manganese. We are planning to report on this at our next meeting.

Other

There was some discussion regarding the need for MA certified labs to have a formal ethics training program given the recent revelations about problems with the lab in western MA and the Public Health Lab. Everyone at the table thought it important although there was some concern about making it mandatory.

The LCO has recently initiated reviews of data from out-of-state labs where the LCO personnel do not physically audit. We were informed that the data review was the exact same type of review performed at Massachusetts labs and that **all** data was requested and reviewed. The LCO stated that they feel this will allow for a fair assessment of out-of-state labs, and that they were happy that they had initiated it.

There was a discussion about flagging samples taken in the field for total residual chlorine or pH which were not run in the field but in the lab on receipt. It was noted that there was a decision made by the NH Certification Office that these samples had to be flagged as exceeding holding times. There was some agreement at the meeting, but not everyone seemed to be in total agreement on these two parameters.

Finally, it was noted that UCMR3 is now in play. This testing is going to be quite stringent, requiring low analytical detection limits, many more QA samples, and very strict requirements regarding field blanks. Labs will also need to re-sample if there are positive field blanks.

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.

Food for Thought

There is only one way to happiness and that is to cease worrying about the things which are beyond the power of our will. Epictetus

MWRA Items

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

MWRA Wins National Award For Saving Both Energy And Water

MWRA’s Long-Term Sustainability Program has won a national award from The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE), in recognition of exceptional efficiency programs that save both energy and water.

“These awards highlight the huge potential for savings when you combine water and energy efficiency together,” said Steven Nadel, Executive Director of ACEEE.

MWRA’s Long-Term Sustainability Program originated when the agency was established in 1984. First developed as only a water efficiency effort, the program has expanded over time to include:

- **Water demand management, conservation programs, leak detection, local pipeline maintenance and repair initiatives.** These efforts have reduced average water system withdrawals from 340 million gallons per day in 1980 to less than 200 million gallons per day in 2012.
- **Renewable energy and on-site power generation.** About 45% of MWRA’s total energy cost profile is derived from renewable sources. The use of wind, hydroelectric, solar power and methane-generated steam has netted energy savings and revenue totaling approximately \$177 million since 2001.
- **In-house practices.** Facility energy audits, process optimization, energy-focused design for new facilities, competitive bidding for power supplies and the use of greener technologies in power, vehicles and computing save almost \$2M annually.

“We are delighted to be recognized nationally for our sustainable practices,” said MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey. “MWRA is, at its core, an environmental agency and we will continue to work aggressively to use our resources efficiently and reduce the environmental impacts of our daily operations.”

MWRA has received the Leading By Example Award from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs in 2007 and 2011 in recognition of its renewable energy generation on Deer Island, installation of solar, wind, and hydro-electric power at a number of facilities, recycling efforts, and alternative fuel vehicles and diesel retrofits.

MWRA has also received awards for its renewable programs from the Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

MWRA Helps Further MIT Research

Deer Island was recently the site of a data collection effort by researchers at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory for a Department of Defense project to develop a "360-degree panorama infrared sensor." Deer Island was an ideal location for this project due to the diverse

scenery. The researchers used the sensor to collect "an all-inclusive, complex, data set containing water, land, large buildings, cars, boats, and aircraft." They are now working on the "several terabytes" of image data to show the versatility of the sensor. Lead scientist Justin Baker noted, "The MWRA at Deer Island provided a truly unique opportunity to actually capture all those objectives at once.", and that they were "very grateful for accommodating us at your facility."

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 Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

DoubleTree by Hilton Boston - Milford
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. EPA Update on Cyanobacteria & the Newly Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) of February 13, 2013

By Kevin Reilly, New England EPA

This presentation will review EPA's current efforts regarding cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) including recent research activities supported by EPA's Office of Research and Development. In addition a review of

the new RTCR will specific to laboratory issues of coliform methods to be used, holding time of coliform samples, use of dechlorinating agent, disinfection of filter funnels, holding temperature of samples in transit and notification of water suppliers when samples are positive. Mr. Reilly has been with the EPA since 1985 specializing in the areas of drinking water treatment, operation & microbiology. He is on the national work group for the RTCR. He holds a BS in Microbiology from UMASS Amherst and is a MA Certified Grade 4 Drinking Water Operator.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Hanna Instruments Presentation

By Deirdre Gallivan, Hanna Instr.

11:45 a.m. Meeting Adjourns