

## Highlights

- ITLA Quarterly Meeting Notice
- Regulatory Update
- MWRA Update



# ITLA

*The Newsletter of  
Independent Testing  
Laboratories Association  
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## 2013 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*

The ITLA has had some dedicated and honorable people step up to the plate and put their names into the pool as candidates for officers of the ITLA.

**Mike Erickson** of ConTest Labs as President—Mike is the Lab Director for ConTest Labs, East Longmeadow MA.

**Paul Hobart** of TestAmerica Inc. as Vice President—Paul is the Customer Relations Manager for TestAmerica in Waltham MA.

**Eric Baanante** of ESS Labs as Secretary—Eric is the Operations Manager, ESS Labs, Cranston RI.  
**Laurel Stoddard** of ESS Labs as Treasurer—Laurel is the Lab Director of ESS Labs in Cranston RI.

Please reach out to these devoted individuals and give them the support they need to perform the important work of the ITLA.

Ballots for the election will be sent to the membership in February for your vote. Please remember one vote per lab.

With this being my last Presidents Message, I thought I would recap some of the accomplishments of the ITLA over the last four years.

- ITLA filed as a non-profit organization
- eDEP advocacy for the member labs
- MADEP Lab Advisory Committee for Drinking Water Certification changes
- MADEP Certification shareholder outreach
- MADEP Audit and eDEP presentations
- Engaging presenters found at the NY & PA Environmental Lab Associations

I would ask that everyone reading this newsletter to be involved in some capacity with the ITLA. It might be as an officer of the ITLA or just attend the member meetings. As a united voice we have a larger impact on the regulators that alter, mold and influence our industry and our future. By being involved you have the ability to positively impact our industry for our respective labs and by extension have a positive impact for your customers.

## Quarterly Meeting

Wed., March 19, 2014, DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation:** "Toxic Cyanobacteria-Their Ecology, Toxins Produced, & Potential Threats to Public Health" *By James F. Haney, University of NH*

So if you are involved with the ITLA, thank you. If you're not involved with ITLA please get involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your President and a part of the ITLA.

## Regulatory Update

By Bob Bentley, [bob@h2otest.net](mailto:bob@h2otest.net)

### Laboratory Advisory Committee

#### eDEP

For those who have been uploading electronically, you have encountered a new twist - a security question for every upload!! We asked about this at the LAC meeting and were told it was a mandate from the EPA and that they did not care about the extra time it took to do uploads. We were reminded that a way around this was to "bundle" as many reports as possible and do them as one upload.

After the meeting we also commented about getting spammed by two reply e-mails for every upload. So, 36 uploads became 72 reply e-mails. About 6 weeks ago we asked them to find a fix for this but eDEP personnel seem too busy on other work.

We were also told that there continued to be no resources for issues relating to our bulk upload process and that 2015 was around the corner!!

#### Manganese

The Manganese guidance has gone out to all PWS', day cares, and OB/GYN offices. Several PWS' in the Southeast & Northeast Regions have seen problems with high concentrations of Mn. The DEP is assisting these suppliers.

#### Other

Although it is known that revisions to the certification regulations are needed with at least 26 different changes, the LCO cannot begin working on these until an 8 page justification is reviewed and approved.

Changes to policies, however, can move more quickly. The Committee discussed changes to Performance Testing policies which will make changes allowing quick responses for both microbiology & chemistry. NOTE: These have **not** been promulgated yet.

At the Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee meeting, it was noted that the revisions to the Total Coliform Rule were taking more time internally at DEP than hoped. The projected time table is now for promulgation in May (not likely) or June.

At the SDWAAC meeting there was some discussion about Cyanobacteria. Although this is not regulated by EPA or MA DEP, there is significant concern regarding the toxins on both the drinking water and recreational sides. DEP is hoping to get some guidance out to PWS' early this year.

We plan to update you in March with news from the next Lab Advisory Committee meeting. If you know of any items we should be watching, please contact me or any member of the Executive Committee.

## MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney, [mike.delaney@mwra.com](mailto:mike.delaney@mwra.com)

### EPA Approved 20-Congener GC/MS/SIM Method for "Total PCBs" for the Deer Island NPDES Permit

When EPA and MassDEP issued the NPDES permit for the Deer Island Treatment Plant in 2000, it required a monthly test of final effluent for "Total PCBs". However, there wasn't an NPDES-approved method for Total PCBs, so EPA allowed MWRA to use a 67-congener GC/ECD method. Since there still wasn't a NPDES-approved Total PCB method, in 2012, MWRA requested to switch to a 20-congener Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM) GC/MS method for Total PCBs. Based on a reasonable comparison of the two methods, EPA approved this method switch in early 2014.

### MWRA Releases Annual Deer Island Outfall Monitoring Report

MWRA's Outfall Monitoring Overview is an annual report that summarizes the results of MWRA's monitoring of the environmental effects of effluent discharges from Deer Island Treatment Plant. MWRA monitors effluent, as well as water, sediment, & health of fish & shellfish in Massachusetts & Cape Cod Bays. 2012 was the second year monitoring was conducted according to a more streamlined monitoring plan.

MWRA is pleased to report that test results for 2012 show that the Deer Island Treatment Plant continues to operate as designed, and that discharges through the MWRA Outfall had no unexpected effects on the waters or ecosystems of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.

MWRA has been monitoring Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay and Cape Cod Bays and the outfall area since 1992, and discharge monitoring began in 2000 when the outfall came on-line. One way potential effects are evaluated is to compare results collected after the outfall went on-line to results collected before the outfall went on-line (baseline conditions).

**Summary of Effluent Quality Monitoring**

- Deer Island Treatment Plant earned a second consecutive Platinum Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies;
- Relatively dry weather in 2012 meant effluent flow from Deer Island was lower than any year since the outfall came on-line in 2000;
- Virtually all flow (99.6%) received full primary and secondary treatment;
- Total Suspended Solids loads from effluent were less than 10 tons/day, a record low;
- Metals loads in Deer Island’s effluent also decreased to record lows in 2012;
- Record low Total Suspended Solids and Metals Loadings in the Deer Island effluent are mainly due to treatment process improvements in 2005 made possible by the ability to pump sludge to the Pelletizing Plant (completion of the Braintree-Weymouth Tunnel), and record low flows.

2012 was the twelfth year of monitoring since the outfall came on-line and was yet another year with no adverse effects from the discharge in the areas monitored. Meanwhile, Boston Harbor continues to see substantial improvements.



## **MWRA Recovers Costs of May 1, 2010 Water Main Break**

On December 18, 2013, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Board of Directors approved a \$3.1 million settlement of a lawsuit with the ten named court parties in connection with the massive May 2010 water main break on the MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel in Weston.

The settlement covers virtually all of the costs incurred by MWRA to repair the pipeline, and to retrieve and study the coupling components. It also covers site restoration costs for the bank and channel bed of the Charles River.

"The goal of the lawsuit was to make our ratepayers whole," said MWRA executive director Fred Laskey. "We believe this settlement is very reasonable and also allows us to save the significant costs of a lengthy legal battle."

The settlement included all the parties of design consultants, contractors and component suppliers: Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., The Shaw Group, Inc., Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, Inc., J.F. Shea, Inc., Traylor Bros., Inc., Daniel O'Connell's Sons, Inc., Barletta Engineering Corp., Mid-America Pipe Fabrication & Supply Co., A&J Mechanical, Inc., and Victaulic Company.

### **Visit our Web Page for More Information.**

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, 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, March 19, 2014**

DoubleTree Hotel

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**
- **Election Results**

**10:00 a.m. Toxic Cyanobacteria - Their Ecology, Toxins Produced, and Potential Threats to Public Health**

*By James F. Haney, Professor,  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of New Hampshire*

Cyanobacteria, formerly named blue-green algae, are present in virtually all

lakes and streams in New Hampshire. Some species of cyanobacteria produce toxins that can pose a serious health threat. This presentation will discuss the occurrence of toxic cyanobacteria, the types of toxins produce, methods used to detect cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins, and the threats they pose for the health of ecosystems and the public.

**10:45 a.m. Break**

**11:00 a.m. JJ Wilbur/Horizon Vendor Presentation**

**11:45 a.m. Meeting Adjourns**

**12:00 p.m. Lunch**

Lunch is available for anyone that wishes to remain after the structured meeting and network with your peers and colleagues.

# ***Nominating Committee Report***

All offices need to be filled in 2014. The nominee for President is Michael Erickson and the nominee for Vice President is Paul Hobart. We will also be voting for a new Secretary and Treasurer. The nominee for Secretary will be Eric Baanante and the nominee for Treasurer will be Laurel Stoddard. If you are members in good standing, you will be asked to vote at the upcoming Annual Meeting. If you are unable to attend, please print this page, fax it to Paul Hobart at (781) 466-6901, email it to paul.hobart@testamericainc.com, or mail it to Paul Hobart, TestAmerica, 240 Bear Hill Rd., Waltham, MA 02451. Please add your name and your company name to the bottom of this page. Remember: there is **only** one vote per member lab.

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# **ITLA**

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## **2014 Ballot for the Election of Officers**

Please - one vote only per member laboratory

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Please vote for one by circling the bullet for each office.

**President:**

■ **Michael Erickson**

■ \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:**

■ **Paul Hobart**

■ \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:**

■ **Eric Baanante**

■ \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:**

■ **Laurel Stoddard**

■ \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_