

## Highlights

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- Regulatory Update
- MWRA Update



# ITLA

*The Newsletter of  
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## Message from the President

*By Kevin Braga*

I thank everyone who attended the last meeting in March, and I entrust that all of the attendees found the meeting to be insightful. The Executive Committee is working on securing many quality speakers for future meetings. Nick Anastas (MA DEP) will be providing an update on a project that the MA DEP and UMass at Amherst have undertaken to find pharmaceutical compounds and their derivatives in both drinking and waste water samples. This study will include over 20 sites around the country, at least 6 of which are within Massachusetts.

Bob Bentley will provide an update on the status of the MA DEP Lab Advisory Committee work group along with an update on eDEP Drinking Water Forms. Dan Falcone is spearheading an effort to revise the by-laws which should be available for the September 2007 meeting. Jim Occhialini will have a brief update of MA DEP's stands on the second set of revisions to the MA DEP Limits along with an

update on Asbestos in soil. Pat Lacey of Teledyne Tekmar will present their new TOC analyzer and auto-sampler for the GC.

In addition to these updates, it appears that we will be offering two different GC/MS Interpretation Courses. The instructor will be Dr. Barry Gump, now of Florida International Institute, who has provided this training in the past on behalf of the organization. The training is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, September 12 - 13. The introduction course for MS Interpretation will be offered on Tuesday and an intermediate course will be offered on Wednesday. The course fee is still to be determined but we will do everything possible to keep the fee under \$200 per person.

As always, the Executive Committee invites the input of all of our members on future speakers, training courses, and vendors. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting on June 20, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Taunton, MA and I thank all of you for your continued support.

## Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, June 20, 2007, Holiday Inn in Taunton, MA

**Feature Presentation:** "Finding Pharmaceutical Compounds in Both Water and Wastewater"

*Mr. Nick Anastas, MA DEP See page 4 for agenda*

## MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney, [mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us)

### **Experiments show Cyanide can form in Drinking Water Samples during Preservation and Storage**

Since MWRA started using ozone as its primary drinking water disinfectant in July 2005 there have been several samples with low, but detectable concentrations of cyanide. Based on previous wastewater experience, MWRA suspected that these might have been false positives. A series of bench-scale and on-site experiments have demonstrated conclusively that cyanide can form *in the sample container* during preservation and storage. MWRA is writing the results up for publication and will share the information once the manuscript has been submitted.

**No Perchlorate found in MWRA water:** You may have seen recent media reports about perchlorate, a chemical that can be found in drinking water. MWRA has never found perchlorate in its water supply.

Beginning this year, the Massachusetts DEP requires all water suppliers to monitor for perchlorate. MWRA will report results annually.

Before perchlorate was regulated by DEP, MWRA tested for perchlorate quarterly in 2001 and 2004, with the last sample in November 2004. MWRA samples were tested with highly-sensitive equipment that can detect levels of perchlorate to less than 1 part per billion. No perchlorate was found.

MWRA tests the water supply each year for over 120 contaminants to ensure the water supplied is of the highest quality. For more information, please read MWRA's Water Quality Report at [www.mwra.com/water/html/awqr.htm](http://www.mwra.com/water/html/awqr.htm).

**No PCBs Found In Wachusett Reservoir:** When the MWRA was preparing to do some construction work at the Wachusett Dam spillway, the caulking at the top of the dam was tested and discovered to contain PCBs.

*Additional water samples have been collected from the reservoir and no PCBs were detected. It is important to note that PCBs have never been*

*detected in samples from the Wachusett Reservoir.*

Subsequent review of the dam construction indicated that caulking was used to seal joints in concrete slabs across the top of the entire dam during the 1950s. PCB compounds were often used in construction prior to 1977, when they were banned.

MWRA has collected samples regularly since they were first required in 1993. In view of the discovery of PCBs at the dam, we sampled the water in the immediate area of the dam and no PCBs were detected in the water.

Soil samples from the base of the downstream side of the dam were found to contain reportable levels of PCBs, which triggered notification to the Department of Environmental Protection in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan.

MWRA has begun preparing an expedited remediation plan, which must be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, describing removal and methods to contain the material during removal.

**Update on MWRA LIMS & TRAC.IS:** Inflection Point Solutions has been awarded a contract from MWRA for a new Pretreatment Information Management System. The commercial, off-the-shelf system, which will be modified to address MWRA's unique needs, will provide enhanced data management capabilities to MWRA's Toxic Reduction and Control section. MWRA expects the new system to be fully operational in the spring of 2008.

The bid documents for the new LIMS should be out on the street by the time this newsletter is published. The current LIMS and TRAC.IS have been in use for over ten years and are in need of updates due to changes in computer technology.

**TRAC "eSMART":** We continue to receive lab 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 e-SMART. To find out more about e-SMART contact Alice Chang at 617-305-5621 or [Alice.Chang@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:Alice.Chang@mwra.state.ma.us). The

new TRAC information system will continue to allow web-based submittal of self-monitoring reports but there are likely to be some changes. We will notify labs and permitted users well in advance of modifications that may affect them.

Labs currently 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 modified the e-SMART File Format Specification that labs can access using the e-SMART Help function. The specifications 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.

**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 & 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.

calendar

**July 29 - 31, 2007**  
NY/PaAAEL Annual  
Convention & Exposition  
Syracuse, NY

**September 19, 2007**  
ITLA Quarterly Meeting  
TBD  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**December 12, 2007**  
TBD  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## Regulatory Update

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

**Lab Regulation Revisions:** As you know, in April the proposed Lab Regulations revisions were published for public comment. ITLA submitted our final comments on behalf of the membership. We expect the responses to be published, and then to be passed through the Secretary of EOEAA Administration & Finance and then to be enacted. To those who provided comments for inclusion, ITLA (& your sister organizations) thanks you!!

**eDEP:** Andrew Durham of DEP presented the final version of eDEP at our last meeting. Outreach to the Lab community has now begun. The “second floor” (Commissioner’s level) of DEP is pushing hard for more and more of DEP’s deliverables to be submitted electronically. ITLA’s desire is to make sure that **both** electronic and paper remain acceptable for the foreseeable future.

**Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee (SDWAAC):** After years of asking, ITLA has finally been included in at least the e-mail distribution for this Committee.

DEP’s Division of Water Supply discussed their desire to encourage the use of *E. coli* rather than fecal coliform in reporting total coliform positive samples, indicating that *E. coli* was a much more definitive indicator of human fecal contamination. There was general agreement that a regulation change to require *E. coli* rather than fecal coliform would be acceptable

There was a fair amount of discussion on the recent Emergency Response in Spencer where contaminated water in the Town’s distribution system was having negative effects on some in the population. Some communication issues have caused DEP to do an internal review of the entire process. Additionally, we understand that Oscar Pancorbo, Director of the Division of Environmental Analysis, is preparing a list of analytes to be analyzed. ITLA is interested in this list and hope to have some input. In questioning whether outside labs were used, there was confusion as to what labs were “available” for emergency responses.

# ITLA Quarterly Meeting

**Wednesday, June 20, 2007**  
**Holiday Inn Taunton**  
**700 Myles Standish Blvd**  
**Taunton, MA 02780**  
**Phone: (508) 823-0430**

## **9:00 a.m. Committee Reports**

Secretary	Technical
Newsletter	Lab Advisory
Election	Membership
Ethics	Treasurer
Regulatory	By-laws

## **9:15 a.m. Regulatory/Lab Advisory Committee Report**

*By Bob Bentley, Analytical Balance*

## **9:30 a.m. Pat Lacey, Teledyne Tekmar Next Generation Purge & Trap Concentrator**

Teledyne Tekmar's StratUm PTC offers excellent purge efficiency, ultra-low carryover, superior water management and an exclusive trapping technique. These four core advances will take your lab to a new level of productivity and performance.

## **Total Organic Carbon Analyzer**

Teledyne Tekmar's Fusion is the newest addition to the TOC product line. The Fusion offers superior sensitivity by utilizing the industry's cutting edge technology, Static Pressure Concentration (SPC) detection. By implementing the SPC technology, the Fusion is able to achieve unprecedented low-end sensitivity from a Non-Dispersive Infrared (NDIR) detector.

## **11:00 am Break**

## **11:15 am Finding Pharmaceutical Compounds and Their Derivates in Both Drinking Water and Wastewater**

*By Nick Anastas, MA DEP*

This presentation will provide an update on a project that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst have undertaken to find pharmaceutical compounds and their derivates in both drinking and waste water samples.

We plan to have further discussion about this at upcoming meeting. If you cannot make the meeting but have comments or thoughts, please send them to me.

**Emerging Contaminants:** At both meetings there was a presentation by DEP about a new "emerging contaminants workgroup." This is to focus on pharmaceuticals, endocrine disrupters, daughter products of these disrupters, compounds like perchlorate which are beginning to raise concern, etc. DEP has the lead in a study that is looking at both wastewater as well as drinking water. At our upcoming meeting, Nick Anastas of the DEP will be describing the scope of

the project, analytical techniques to be used, and the ultimate use of the gathered data. ITLA is among the first organizations to hear about this program in depth. Since you know that it will most likely affect our future analytical suites, we encourage you to attend and hear what Nick has to say.

Our upcoming meeting is after the June Lab Advisory Committee meeting, so we will have a real time information at the meeting. We hope to see you there.

If you know of other regulatory issues, please contact me or any member of the Executive Committee.

## ***ITLA Award at the 2007 Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair***

The first-ever “ITLA Award” at the 2007 MA State Science and Engineering Fair ([www.scifair.com](http://www.scifair.com)) was presented to Mr. Ariel Wexler of Shrewsbury High School for his project “Comparison of Computer-Based Education to Note-Card Learning” which concluded that note-cards were more effective than a computer program to aid learning of Hebrew and Arabic letters. In addition to the ITLA Award, Mr. Wexler was awarded a third prize. Mike Delaney presented the award to Mr. Wexler at the ceremony that was emceed by WBZ-TV’s meteorologist Mish Michaels. There were over 300 projects at the fair representing high schools from across Massachusetts.

“Our exhibitors represent a group of highly motivated, talented, curious young minds,” said Cora Beth Abel, Executive Director of MSSEF. “Through the generosity of our sponsors and donors, we can reward them for their efforts and for the results they’ve achieved. This inquiry-based, scientific learning process highlighted by the statewide exhibition gives students an opportunity to explore topics that truly interest them, while also building key skill sets for careers in the 21st century innovation economy. It’s truly an experience that lasts a lifetime.”

ITLA, through Mike Delaney, received a thank you letter from Mr. Ariel Wexler, dated 5/19/07, that says, in part... “I would like to thank your organization for its donation to the Massachusetts State Science Fair. In this Science Fair a third prize was awarded to me. . . . I plan to continue my study of computer sciences. Next year, I will be attending the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science. Once again, thank you very much for your contributions.”

