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- MWRA



# ITLA

*The Newsletter of  
Independent Testing  
Laboratories Association  
Volume 22 - Issue 28  
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## 2004-2005 ITLA Officers

### **President**

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508-822-9300

### **Secretary**

Susan Sylvester  
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### **Treasurer**

Kevin Braga  
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## **Message from the President**

*By Jim Occhialini*

As this is my first ITLA Newsletter as president, I must say that I am honored to be President of the organization. I must also say that Bob Bentley raised the bar to a very high level as our most recent former president. Bob did an outstanding job for us and I will make every effort to meet your expectations and maintain the standard that Bob set for us.

This is an interesting time for the

environmental lab community (come to think of it, the times are always “interesting”). On the local regulatory front, the perchlorate monitoring emergency regulations implemented by MA DEP has created quite a stir in lab circles as well as with our clients. The way this program was rolled out left a lot to be desired and suggested to me that this would have been a perfect opportunity for our organization to get involved up front. I will try and use this as a case study to make the case to involve us early with any future, similar endeavors. The reverse situation exists with the MCP Data Quality Enhancement Program, where very little progress has been made. ITLA will be active in trying to get the program finalized, once and for all. The state of Connecticut has also begun to review its lab data quality requirements to support LEP decision making. The goal is to have these guidelines implemented within a year, so ITLA will be keeping an eye on these proceedings as well.

The Keynote Speaker for our June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in Chelmsford is Charlie Dyer of the New Hampshire Certification Office. Charlie has been heavily involved with NELAP since its inception, and he will provide us with a status report along with his thoughts of where the program is headed. Most of you know Charlie and the good job he has done over the years. He will be starting a well-deserved retirement shortly after our meeting so this would be a great time to say hello and wish him well. Mitch Perlstein, from Westco Scientific Instruments, will also make a presentation on new ways to automate wet chemistry analyses.

Anyway, I look forward to working with all of you. If anyone has any issues they would like to have addressed or ways in which ITLA can be more effective, please contact me. We have a great meeting coming up on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and I look forward to seeing you all.

## **Quarterly Meeting**

Wednesday, June 9, 2004 Radisson Inn, Chelmsford, MA

**Feature Presentation:** *NELAP Update by Charlie Dyer, NH DEP See page 4 for agenda*

## **Regulatory Update**

Unless you have had your head in the sand, there have been far too many regulatory issues to address. When DEP issued an “emergency” perchlorate regulation that limited participating labs to previously approved UCMR labs, and forcing Public Water Supplies to test in a very limited amount of time, your Association was out in front crying foul. Many of us questioned the need for this “emergency.” We clearly got their attention, however, because an Assistant Commissioner attended the Laboratory Advisory Committee meeting to hear our views. Note - this is the first time any individual from that level of Administration has ever made it to one of these meetings. When proficiency testing for perchlorate was brought up, we successfully lobbied to allow any lab to participate, thereby possibly opening the door to other labs for the next round in September. Hopefully, if nothing else was accomplished, we have them (the DEP as a whole) accepting the importance of better communication with all of us in the future.

## **NELAC Update**

For this newsletter, rather than try to give you an update on NELAP, I suggest you make it to the quarterly meeting. Charlie Dyer, our guest speaker, will give us his take on where it is and where it is going. Having just retired from the State of New Hampshire, he may be more candid with his opinions!

## **MWRA Items**

**By Mike Delaney**  
([mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us))

### **MWRA to Operate the DCR Lab at Quabbin Reservoir**

As part of an inter-agency Memorandum of Understanding, MWRA is becoming responsible for additional laboratory testing for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR, formerly MDC). MWRA has performed chemistry testing for Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs, and Boston Harbor beach testing. Now MWRA will be responsible for the

microbiology testing from the DCR reservoirs. This includes operating DCR’s Quabbin Laboratory.

### **MWRA Testing Samples from Massachusetts Bay**

For over 10 years MWRA’s “Outfall Monitoring” program for Massachusetts Bay was conducted by an outside consultant firm. Now, in 2004, MWRA’s Department of Laboratory Services is handling the bulk of the chemistry testing for this program. This includes a wide array of dissolved and particulate nutrients, suspended solids, dissolved organic carbon, and chlorophyll. Samples are collected by the consultant in 12 annual surveys at a wide array of stations and depths. MWRA’s laboratory tests the samples and transfers the final results back to the consultant for interpretation and reporting.

### **TRAC “eSMART”**

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 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).

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 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 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.

## 2004-2005 ITLA Officers

At the March meeting we held our bi-annual elections. The following members were elected for the 2004 - 2005 year.

#### **Jim Occhialini, President**

Alpha Analytical, Westboro 800-624-9220  
[jocchialini@alphalab.com](mailto:jocchialini@alphalab.com)

#### **Peter Kane, Vice-President**

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#### **Kevin Braga, Treasurer**

ESS Laboratories, Cranston, RI 401-461-7181

#### **Sue Sylvester, Secretary**

Resource Labs, Portsmouth, NH 603-436-2001

#### **Jim Todaro, Membership Chair**

Alpha Analytical, Westboro 800-624-9220

#### **Chris Wakefield, Technical Chair**

Spectrum Analytical, Agawam 413-789-9018

#### **Bob Bentley, Regulatory Chair**

Analytical Balance, Middleboro 508-946-2225

## Regulatory Update

*Information provided by Jerry Parr, Calibrate*

#### **New Soil Sampler for Volatile Organics**

ESS has announced a new soil sampling system to be used in conjunction with Method 5035. The device is designed to collect an undisturbed soil core for transport from the field to the lab. [http://www.essvial.com/pr/pr\\_45.html](http://www.essvial.com/pr/pr_45.html)

**Standardized Monitoring Guide for Drinking Water** - EPA has published a Quick Reference Guide designed to reduce the variability within monitoring requirements for chemical and radiological contaminants across system sizes and types. [http://www.epa.gov/safewater/pws/pdfs/qrg\\_smonitoringframework.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/pws/pdfs/qrg_smonitoringframework.pdf)

#### **Evaluation of Portable Arsenic Analyzers**

EPA has verified the performance of five portable analyzers for arsenic in water. <http://www.epa.gov/etv/verifications/vcenter1-21.html>

#### **Accred. for Anions by Methods 300.0/300.1**

Washington DOE has published guidance on the use of ion chromatography methods, discussing the differences between Methods 300.0 and 300.1, stating that a lab can be accredited for most anions by either 300.0 or 300.1 if it is using the column and eluent specified in 300.1. However, the office has a letter from EPA indicating that only Method 300.1 can be used for compliance testing of bromate. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/launews.htm>

#### **Minor Corrections & Clarification to Drinking Water Regs**

- EPA proposed minor changes to clarify typographical errors, editorial errors, inadvertent omissions, & outdated language in the final Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR), the Surface Water Treatment Rule, and related rules. As part of this action, EPA has proposed optional monitoring for disinfection profiling and a detection limit for Uranium of 1 ug/L. No new monitoring requirements are proposed. (3/2/04; 69 FR 9781)

**UCMR Update Issue Number 7** - EPA has published an information sheet related to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR). <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/standard/ucmr/update07.html>

#### **Report on New Jersey Proficiency Testing**

**Provider Meeting** - New Jersey's Office of QA held 2 meetings in February to discuss issues raised by the lab community regarding the PT Program. Summary information and presentations from 6 PT providers & NJDEP are available. <http://www.nj.gov/dep/oqa/bboard.html>

**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.

## *ITLA Quarterly Meeting*

**Wednesday, June 9, 2004**  
**Radisson Inn, Chelmsford, MA**  
**(Route 495, Exit 34)**

**8:30 a.m. Registration**

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

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

**9:30 a.m. MCP Update**

**10:00 a.m. Break**

**10:15 a.m. Vendor Presentation**

**Wet Chemistry Automation**

Mitch Perlstein of Westco Scientific Instruments will discuss new ideas and products for automating the wet chemistry department.

**11:00 a.m. NELAP Update**

Charlie Dyer from the New Hampshire Certification Office will bring everyone totally up to speed with the status and potential future directions for this important program. Please come and wish Charlie well as he begins his retirement.