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ITLA

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President's Message

By Dan Falcone

This past year has been an unprecedented year. We have experienced a sinking economy, a nose diving stock market and job losses that continue to the present. It has been the most trying economic time in three generations.

The economy, however, is improving like it always does after a recession. There is hope for the economy and business and good reason for optimism.

The environmental lab may never be the booming industry it was in 2006 and 2007, but it will make a comeback. As an industry we can expect more regulations. We have heard that the MADEP & the EPA will regulate more contaminants in both drinking water & waste water. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) limits are being tightened, leading to more analysis and samples. Pharmaceutical & Personal Care Products (PPCP) are on the regulators radar. These contaminants are being investigated and could become new analyses.

The extra regulations will improve the environment for us & our families. They also are potential sources of business for the env'l lab community. All these items are good reasons for an optimistic view of our future and the future of our industry

The ITLA is working with the regulators, especially the MADEP, RIDEM, and EPA on behalf of the member laboratories to give our side of the story. This includes the technical input for the regulators, but also the business aspects of providing accurate and precise data for the safe and effective characterization of our natural resources.

Our quarterly meetings give the membership a unique opportunity to interact with your peers, colleagues, & even competitors. ITLA is always looking for interesting topics and ideas for presentations, as well as suggestions for training that might benefit our members.

I want to personally invite you to our quarterly meetings. I think you will find that the rewards & benefits far outweigh the effort and time invested. I hope to see you in June.

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2010, Marriott Courtyard Boston Marlborough in Marlborough, MA.

Feature Presentation: "Summary of EPA & MWRA" Ernie Waterman, EPA & Steve Rhode, MWRA

MWRA Items

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

MWRA Boil Order

A wealth of information on the break in the ten foot diameter pipe that carried treated drinking water to the Greater Boston area is available on www.mwra.com. The story is still evolving, but from a laboratory perspective it went like this. The break occurred on Saturday, 5/1/10. On Saturday and Sunday, MWRA tested samples from the Chestnut Hills Emergency Distribution Reservoir as it was prepared for use. Between Sunday and early Tuesday morning, the 30 MWRA communities affected by the break collected about 1,600 bacteria samples that were tested in two of the MWRA laboratories to demonstrate that drinking water standard were met. These results were reviewed in real time by DEP and DPH, allowing the Governor to lift the boil order as soon as two rounds of results were done. I think we were all surprised and impressed with how quickly this incident got resolved.

Record Rains in March

Though it already feels like a dim memory, we received a lot of rain in March, but only allowed a small release of untreated sewage at the Nut Island Headworks to prevent damage to the facility and avoid upstream sewage backups. Here's a typical status report on where our water was going:

30 March 2010 –1815 (6:15 PM) Update: Wachusett Reservoir

The Cosgrove rain gage is at 6.69" up about 2.5" since the last report. The Wachusett Reservoir level is 395.76. There is 1,063 MGD spilling over the spillway, up almost 300 MGD since the last report.

Tributaries are still rising. Based upon rainfall to date and weather forecasts, the MWRA expects that the volume over the spillway will continue to rise to a level at least similar to the storm of March 13th.

Quabbin Reservoir

The Quabbin Reservoir is at 530.48 up 0.10' since the last report. Spilling at 535 MGD. The Winsor rain gage is indicating 1.35 inches of rain up 0.06" since

the last report.

Other Western Operations

The Sudbury Reservoir 259.42 up 0.26' since the last report and rising rapidly, spilling 176 MGD (spillway crest at 259.0 elevation).

Reservoir 3 is at 186.06 up 0.54' since the last report and rising steadily – spilling at 160 MGD (spillway crest at 185.25).

Metropolitan Boston Sewerage System

Total rainfall at Chelsea is 4.59. All MWRA sewer facilities are operational at this time. The MWRA system is at or near capacity. High tide will be at 0026 hrs tomorrow and will be 11.39 ft.

South System

The Nut Island Headworks/IPS is currently running at about 381 MGD. Deer Island has been able to maintain this flow based upon rain to date.

Deer Island

The Deer Island Treatment Plant is processing at a rate of about 1,306 MGD.

Clinton Treatment Plant

Plant flow above 12.0 MGD (flow meter pegged). The Nashua River continues to rise into the plant (within 20 ft of the rear gate).

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.

Update V of SW-846 - Final Planning Phase

EPA is in the process of finalizing 28 new and revised methods for Update V of SW-846. The methods are: 3200, 3511, 3542A, 3570, 3571, 3572, 4025, 4430, 4435, 5021A, 5030C, 5035A, 6850, 6860, 7199, 8000C, 8015D, 8170, 8260C, 8261A, 8265, 8271, 8272, 8323, 8330B, 9013A, 9015, and 9016. All of these methods are on the EPA web site & date back to 2002. EPA indicated they plan to take this action by January.

Regulatory Update

By Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net

Laboratory Advisory Committee

The news this issue is relatively sparse. As you know, the Laboratory Advisory Committee December meeting was canceled due to snow, the LCO was “moving” in March when we should have had our next meeting and they are still moving as this is being written so they are not sure whether they can schedule an off-site meeting(?). There are MANY issues which need to be aired to the DEP. This is our only forum for discussion of items real time. Your ITLA representatives have been pushing for a meeting and are now turning up the heat.

eDEP

There have been enough twists, turns and glitches in the eDEP process since January that many of us have been left frustrated. We asked for a face-to-face meeting some months ago with all the present users, including all other stakeholders, but we have heard nothing to date. The eDEP personnel kicked it to the LCO and the LCO kicked it right back to eDEP. We have heard nothing about scheduling a meeting to date. Clearly, kicking it down the road does not resolve any issues. In spite of this, the drumbeat continues regarding mandatory implementation.

On this & other issues, stay tuned! We hope 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.

EPA Update

EPA Update

Approval of Alternative Test Procedures for Drinking Water Analyses

- EPA has approved 25 alternative test methods for use in measuring contaminants in drinking water that are considered “equally effective”. The methods include EPA Method 334.0, for residual

ITLA Award at the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair

Andrew Bellesis, a tenth grader at the Wachusett Region High School, was the winner of the 2010 ITLA award at the Massachusetts Science and Engineering Fair. His project, which also won a second place, as entitled “The Detoxification of Agricultural Runoff”. He studied the “feasibility of activated carbon in decreasing the concentration of the insecticide malathion in water”. In a thank you letter to ITLA he wrote “My vision is that this concept could one day be applied in a real world situation using activated carbon as a buffer along river banks that directly abut farmland.” ITLA wishes Mr. Bellesis well in his studies and research endeavors.



chlorine; EPA Method 302.0, for Bro-mate; EPA Method 557, for Haloacetic Acids, Bromate, & Dalapon; Standard Methods 9223 B (20th Edition), 9223 B (21st Edition) and 9223 B-97 for E. coli; 10 ASTM methods for metals, anions, & residual chlorine; & 3 vendor method for turbidity, free and total chlorine, and total coliforms and e. coli. The rule was effective November 10, 2009. *11/10/09; 74 FR 57908*

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Marriott Courtyard Boston Marlborough

75 Felton Street • Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: (508) 480-0015

8:30 a.m. Coffee

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

9:30 a.m. MWRA Pipeline Brake Report

By Mike Delaney

9:45 a.m. Microwave Extraction: Taking Throughput and Cost Savings to a New Level

By Milestone, Inc.

Environmental contract labs have standardized their methods for solid extraction with little change in technology for a number of years. The Soxhlet extraction method is an EPA standard method for extracting organic environmental contaminants from solid matrices such as soils. Although very efficient, the overall time and amount of solvent used for this process continues to burden analytic lab productivity and cost. Alternative methods such as sonication show significant time enhancement but little improvement in the amount of solvent used. The microwave extraction method is a newer productivity tool for performing the same function. Applying microwave radiation in a closed-vessel system enables higher temperatures to be reached with less solvent consumption as well as an accelerated rate of extraction. Over the past several years the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has focused on microwave extraction development and validation experiments for improving sample preparation and analysis of organic analytes from solid samples. Recently promul-

gated EPA Method 3546 is the result of that effort and provides a guideline for the latest trend in accelerated extraction techniques. In addition to time & solvent savings, the method was developed to include a large number of volatile and semivolatile organic analytes (VOC/SVOCs) of interest. In addition to a general discussion on microwave extraction & method 3546 guidelines, this presentation will focus on factors critical for successful implementation of microwave extraction as well as new data on analytes of interest.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 am Summary of EPA and MWRA Presentation

By Ernie Waterman, EPA & Steve Rhode, MWRA

The EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) **Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA)** provides the Water Sector with an integrated nationwide network of laboratories. This network offers the capabilities and capacity to analyze water samples in the event of natural, intentional, or unintentional water contamination involving chemical, biological, or radiochemical contaminants. The WLA is composed of public health, environmental, and select commercial laboratories. The WLA focuses solely on drinking water and wastewater and is an integral part of EPA's Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN). The speakers will discuss the current status of the ERLN, the WLA and the WLA-Response plan from the laboratory and utility perspectives. .

12:00 pm Meeting Adjourns