

## Highlights

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- MWRA Update



# ITLA

*The Newsletter of  
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## President's Message

*By Dan Falcone*

Hello to all ITLA Members,

It is difficult to believe that summer is almost upon us.

The time flies by and seems to go faster as you get older, at least for me.

The ITLA Executive Board has been working diligently to organize an informative and productive quarterly meeting.

The June 2012 ITLA Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Milford.

There are topics that will be discussed at the meeting that will be pertinent to all member labs. They are:

- By-Law amendments
- Education courses offered by the ITLA
- Newsletter articles
- Lab Advisory Committee update
- Stakeholder Meeting Members (SDWAAC)

At the March 2012 ITLA quarterly meeting there was a lively and spirited discussion of value added activities for the ITLA membership. I have set aside a half hour in the agenda at this upcoming meeting to get into the details of what our membership would like to see as value added services to improve the offerings of the ITLA.

So please bring your ideas to June's meeting to discuss those topics or activities that would make your ITLA membership more valuable to your laboratory or company.

## MWRA Items

*By Mike Delaney*

[\(mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us\)](mailto:mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us)

### **“Celebrate the Essential” for National Drinking Water Week 2012**

May 6-12, 2012 was National Drinking Water Week and MWRA customers have a good reason to celebrate: our tap water quality is excellent, year in and year out. Here's why our drinking water is among the best in the country.

## Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday., June 20, 2012, DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation:** "CleanLab Techniques and Uncertainty Calculations for ICP Measurements" *By Yvonne Cangelosi, Spex CertiPrep*

**We aggressively protect our water sources.**

MWRA's water comes from the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs in Central Massachusetts. These naturally pristine water sources are surrounded by miles of protected land. MWRA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation constantly patrol the watersheds to make sure they stay safe.

**We use the safest and most effective treatment processes available today.** At our Carroll Treatment Plant in Marlborough, water is treated with ozone gas, a natural, renewable disinfectant that "zaps" germs out of the water and leaves fewer disinfection byproducts (DPBs) than other treatment methods. Since MWRA started using ozone in 2005, DPB levels have dropped to an all-time low.

**We protect the treated water, too.** Once the water is treated, it goes to covered storage facilities across the MWRA service area. Covered storage protects water from being contaminated by airborne sources (such as birds) and keeps a back-up supply of treated water on hand near each community.

**We test the water at every step on the way to your tap.** MWRA and its member communities perform hundreds of thousands of tests on drinking water from the source to the tap. Testing covers over 120 compounds regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and many other compounds that are not yet regulated.

**We share all of our test results with our customers.** Water test results are posted on our website monthly and annually. We also mail an annual report on drinking water test results to each household within our service area every year. Keep your eyes out for our latest Annual Water Quality Report, due out to homes in June, 2012.

Check out our website for more information on our water system. MWRA has great confidence in the water we deliver to your home and wants you to have the same confidence.

**South Boston Tunnel Project Wins National Award**

At its annual conference in Los Angeles in February, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies

(NACWA) honored the MWRA with its Operations and Environmental Performance Award for the North Dorchester Bay CSO Tunnel project. According to NACWA, the award is presented to member agencies for outstanding initiatives in wastewater treatment, wastewater conveyance, stormwater management, and/or environmental enhancement.

The \$272 million tunnel project was completed in May 2011, at the beginning of last year's swimming season. Since start-up, the storage tunnel and related facilities have consistently performed as designed, preventing millions of gallons of CSO and separate stormwater from discharging to the harbor during more than 75 rainfall events and sending the stored flows at the end of each storm to Deer Island for treatment. Although summer 2011 was rainy, beach closings on South Boston beaches were minimal.

The work involved five major construction contracts by both MWRA and the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC), including the 2-mile long, 17-foot diameter tunnel; the pumping station located at Massport's Conley Terminal and related 24-inch diameter force main that remove stored flows from the tunnel after each storm; the below-ground tunnel ventilation and odor control building behind the State Police Barracks on Day Boulevard; the BWSC Morrissey Boulevard storm drain; and the Pleasure Bay storm drain improvements that eliminated stormwater discharges to Pleasure Bay Beach.

BWSC has also completed three of the construction contracts associated with its \$62.3 million Reserved Channel Sewer Separation Project and continued construction progress on two other contracts. All construction and design work is on schedule for completion of the project by December 2015.

The project was also recently recognized by the American Council of Engineering Companies with a Gold Award for Outstanding Professional Design Excellence.

**Charles River Awarded Theiss International Riverprize**

In 2011, the Charles River was awarded the International River Foundation Theiss International Riverprize. This prestigious environmental award

recognizes and rewards organizations that have accomplished outstanding river management.

The award was officially presented at an event at the Cambridge Boat House in March 2012 and was accepted by the Charles River Watershed Association in Brisbane, Australia in September, 2011 on behalf of the many federal and state agencies, municipalities, environmental organizations, businesses and individuals who have worked together over the years to improve the health of the Charles River.

MWRA's Combined Sewer Control Program was recognized as part of this collaborative effort. Since 1988, MWRA has invested \$91 million for CSO control projects along the Charles River.

Tremendous water quality improvements have been seen and measured in the Charles River Basin, where average annual combined sewer overflow discharges have been drastically cut from about 1.7 billion gallons in 1988 to 27 million gallons today, a greater than 98% reduction. Approximately 86% of this remaining overflow is treated at MWRA's Cottage Farm CSO facility.

### **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.

## ***Regulatory Update***

*By Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net*

### **eDEP**

DEP reported that a question has arisen about the ability of more than one person from a Lab being able to upload data as themselves. The present system does not allow for this. ALL data gets uploaded under one name. They have looked at this internally

and have seen some benefit to allowing this and are in the process of implementing the change.

They also understood that the system was still not as stable as they desire and are working to make improvements. Since the LAC meeting, there have been a number of "freezes" where data cannot be moved from one point to another in the eDEP system without (we have been told) a re-boot of the server. This continues to create consternation on the part of the ITLA.

### **Manganese**

We were again told at the LAC meeting that this was essentially on hold. There has been a peer group review and some new directions were in the works, BUT the SDWAAC decided to postpone their May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting because there was continuing internal disagreement on the final Mn recommendation. This meeting will be re-scheduled when DEP comes to some agreement internally (It has not been re-scheduled as of this writing.).

### **Other**

One member of the LAC asked about a Lab in Leominster who reported a 26 ppm nitrate and then changed it to 7.6 ppm when questioned about it. Other members of the LAC also brought the person up to date regarding this Lab. The LCO indicated that the lab continues to be on their radar screen.

On this 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.

***Next Meeting***

***June 20, 2012***

***Milford, MA***

# ITLA Quarterly Meeting

**Wednesday, June 20, 2012**

DoubleTree Hotel  
11 Beaver Street, Milford, MA 01757  
(508) 478-7010

**8:30 a.m. Coffee and Networking**

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

- **Regulatory**
- **Ethics**
- **Finance**

**9:45 a.m. CleanLab Techniques and**

**Uncertainty Calculations for ICP Measurements**

*By Yvonne Cangelosi, Spex CertiPrep*

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:40 a.m. ITLA Roundtable Discussion**

**11:00 a.m. Unified Documentation - From Login to Report**

*By Bill Goodman, PerkinElmer*

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

## EPA Update

*Provided by Catalyst Information Resources*

**Webinar: Corrective Action and Root Cause**

**Analysis:** The NELAC Institute, in cooperation with Analytical Excellence, Inc., will provide a 2-hour webinar on June 8 on materials and techniques that laboratories, data users and assessors can use to successfully address the challenges posed during the audit process. A strong focus will be on eliminating report findings and capitalizing on assessment opportunities to improve the management system and operating performance.

[www.nelac-institute.org/eds-home.php](http://www.nelac-institute.org/eds-home.php)

**EPA Grants NJ Exemption From DMR-QA**

EPA approved **New Jersey's** request to withdraw from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Program. EPA granted approval of the withdrawal because the Department's state-wide laboratory certification program is an adequate surrogate for the DMR-QA Program. The withdrawal is effective beginning in 2012 and pertains to an exemption for DMR-QA Study 32.

[www.nj.gov/dep/oqa/docs/dmr-qa\\_exemption.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/oqa/docs/dmr-qa_exemption.pdf)

**Method Update Rule Finalized**

The Method Update Rule, discussed extensively by

Catalyst in the last few weeks has been finalized with an effective date of June 18, 2012. Note that this implementation date may be later for some states that must adopt the rule into their regulation. (5/18/12; 77 FR 29785) [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-18/pdf/2012-10210.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-18/pdf/2012-10210.pdf)

**Department of Interior Issues Proposed Rule for Fracking Operations**

The Department of the Interior issued a proposed rule updating regulations for hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas wells on federal and tribal lands. The proposed rule affects drilling operations on the 700 million acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. [www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=293916](http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=293916)

**Request for Nominations to CCL4**

EPA is requesting nominations of chemical and microbial contaminants for possible inclusion in the fourth drinking water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL4). The CCL is a list of contaminants that are currently not subject to drinking water regulations, that are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems, and which may require regulation. EPA uses this list to help determine whether it should regulate a specific contaminant and to prioritize research and data collection efforts. (5/8/12; 77 FR 27057)

[www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-08/pdf/2012-11048.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-08/pdf/2012-11048.pdf)