

Highlights

- ITLA Quarterly Meeting Notice
- Regulatory Update
- MWRA Update



ITLA

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Message from the President

By Kevin Braga

On behalf of the entire Executive Board of the ITLA, I wish to express our sincere hopes that everyone will have a safe and festive holiday season. It has been a joy serving you for the past year.

We are fortunate to have our Dec. 12, 2008, quarterly meeting at the USEPA New England Regional Lab Facility in Chelmsford, MA. Robert Maxfield of the EPA will be giving a presentation on projects at the facility related to Homeland Security. In addition, a brief tour of their All Hazard Receipt Facility along with the DHS prototype lab for receipt of unknown/suspicious samples will be given. It is also possible that we might get the opportunity to tour their mobile laboratory. The facility is located in Chelmsford MA. Directions to EPA facility can be found at www.epa.gov/region1/directions/lab.html. This meeting is expected to run a little long but should be over by 1:00 PM. Due to the nature of the facility, the EPA has requested that we obtain a list of members who

plan on attending the Dec. meeting. **Please RSVP Judy Graves prior to Dec. 7** if you plan on attending this quarterly meeting. Please bring a government issued photo ID to the meeting, as it may be requested when you enter the facility.



Recently, I came across two items in some of the least likely places; a video game & a television program. While performing holiday shopping for two of my nephews, I came across a video game that involved

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 2007, USEPA New England Regional Lab Facility in Chelmsford, MA

Feature Presentation: "Homeland Security and other projects currently under way at the Regional Lab Facility" *Mr. Robert Maxfield, US EPA See page 4 for agenda*

the field of chemistry. The game is “*Mercury Meltdown Revolution*” for the Nintendo Wii video system. I only mention this, because I believe that the game should come with some type of a warning to younger players that mercury is not something that should be played with if found. The game takes place in different “labs” & the object of the game is to move the colored mercury around the laboratory. It does provide some interesting laboratory backgrounds that may induce children into the field of chemistry.

The second item was spotted on the television show *CSI: Las Vegas*. The head of the crime lab was speaking with one of the technicians about a “Carp” (a fish) that had been found. The fish displayed both sex organs, which is unique to this species of fish. Grison (head of crime lab) spoke about how PCP can effect the sex organs of some species of fish. For all of those who missed the June meeting, Mr. Nick Anastas for MA DEP spoke about a study being conducted involving Personal Care Products found in both Water and Wastewater systems throughout the state. Mr. Anastas’s study is scheduled to be complete this month. We will see if he is available to share the his findings for the annual meeting in March.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at the EPA facility in Chelmsford, MA.

MWRA Items

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

UPDATE ON MWRA TRAC.IS AND LIMS

Inflection Point Solutions continues to work on MWRA’s new Pretreatment Information Management System (PIMS), formerly known as TRAC.IS. This commercial, off-the-shelf system is being modified to address MWRA’s unique needs for enhanced data management capabilities in the MWRA’s Toxic Reduction and Control section. MWRA plans to request willing labs to beta-test the software in January and plans to go-live with the new software in March.

The New LIMS contract has been awarded to LabWare, Inc. (www.labware.com) and

configuration and implementation will take place over about the next year. The current LIMS and TRAC.IS have been in use for over fourteen years and are in need of updates due to changes in computer technology.

PUBLISHED STUDY SHOWS CYANIDE CAN FORM IN DRINKING WATER SAMPLES DURING PRESERVATION AND STORAGE

MWRA’s study on cyanide, “False Cyanide Formation During Drinking Water Sample Preservation and Storage” has been published in Environmental Science and Technology. A series of bench-scale and on-site experiments demonstrated conclusively that cyanide can form *in the sample container* during preservation and storage. We have also been certification by MassDEP for cyanide by MICRODIST® allowing us to avoid false cyanide formation by stabilizing samples in MICRODIST® tubes on-site.

HISTORY CHANNEL FEATURED MWRA’S SLUDGE TO FERTILIZER PROCESS ON ‘BONEYAR’

MWRA was featured on the cable TV show “Boneyard”. The episode, “Bio Waste,” highlighted ways that organic matter from animals and humans is recycled. MWRA was also included in the program’s final segment, which traces the history of Boston’s sewer system from Paul Revere’s privy to the Deer Island Treatment Plant where we recycle methane to heat the plant and make fertilizer out of the treated sludge.

JUDGE A. DAVID MAZZONE HONORED AT DEER ISLAND

On Friday, October 19, 2007, over 250 family members and friends of the late Judge A. David Mazzone gathered on Deer Island in Winthrop to dedicate a memorial erected in his honor.

For 19 years, Judge Mazzone presided over the federal lawsuit brought by conservationists and others condemning the state of Boston Harbor. His landmark rulings led to a massive public works project to restore the Harbor as a spectacular natural resource. The Boston Harbor clean up is recognized as one of the nation’s greatest environmental success

stories - a far cry from the Harbor's notoriety in the 1980s as "the filthiest harbor in America."

After his passing, the MWRA Board of Directors voted to name the park land surrounding the new treatment plant after Judge Mazzone. A group of his friends and family then joined together to design a suitable monument to honor the Judge's legacy and raise the necessary funding to construct it.

The memorial is comprised of granite installations and a bronze sculpture in the Judge's likeness. It is located near the entrance of the Deer Island Public Access area. The memorial was designed by landscape architects Polly Reeve and Margaret Coyle Nestler and local sculptor Joseph Pesce. Framed by water, sky and the city beyond, the stone circle provides a place to sit, gather and enjoy the scenery.

At the beginning of the project, Judge Mazzone ruled that "the law secures to the people the right to a clean harbor." These words are now inscribed in granite and will remind those who walk, jog, bike, fish, or just enjoy the breathtaking views of the city and the sea at Deer Island - or anywhere around the harbor - of Judge Mazzone's role in the cleanup for generations to come.

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.

Regulatory Update

By Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net

Lab Regulation Revisions

The regulations were finalized and went into effect immediately on the 5th of October 2007. Remember that there are changes to the regulations, which will be reflected, in your next audit!

eDEP

This is still a work in progress. DEP has heard that some in our community are not overly excited about how the process works. They have a couple of "pet projects" which are being worked on to make the system a bit easier for the labs as well as the end user, but have given no time line as to when they expect to have this completed. We hope to be able to provide more information at our upcoming meeting.

Emerging Contaminants

DEP has a new page on their web-site devoted to this issue. It can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/emercfs.htm>.

We will update you at our upcoming meeting with news from the December Lab Advisory Committee meeting. If you know of other regulatory issues, please contact me or any member of the Executive

Food for Thought

The freedom to make mistakes provides the best environment for creativity. Author unknown

Rely on the ordinary virtues that intelligent, balanced human beings have relied on for centuries: common sense, thrift, realistic expectations, patience, and perseverance.

John C. Bogle (1929-), American Investor

Originality and the feeling of one's own dignity are achieved only through work and struggle.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-81) Russian Novelist

calendar

December 12, 2007

ITLA Quarterly Meeting
EPA Regional Lab Facility
9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

January 30, 2008

Executive Board Meeting
Bugaboo Creek Restaurant

March 19, 2008

ITLA Annual Meeting
Crown Plaza
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

US EPA New England

Regional Laboratory Facility

11 Technology Drive, Chelmsford, MA

Phone: (617) 918-8300

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

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

9:30 a.m. Regulatory/Lab Advisory Committee Report

By Bob Bentley, Analytical Balance

10:00 am Trac/Smart Update

10:15 am Sampling and Analysis of Volatile Organic Compounds in Air

Wade Bontempo, Entech Instruments

Entech Instrumentation will discuss the advantages of "whole air" sampling and analysis of VOCs using Silonite canister

based technology. This discussion will cover the general principles involved in collecting an air sample, analyzing the sample in the laboratory, and preparing the Silonite canister to be reused for the next sampling event. Entech Instruments (www.entechinst.com) is an analytical instrumentation company located in Simi Valley, California.

10:45 am Break

11:00 am Presentation on Homeland Security and other projects currently under way at the Regional Lab Facility in Chelmsford, MA

By Robert Maxfield, US EPA

11:45 am We will tour the EPA Facility, including the area where Unknown Samples are received and processed. If the mobile laboratory is on-site, a tour of that facility may be possible as well.

12:45 pm Meeting Adjourns

Directions to EPA's Regional Lab Facility

From Downtown Boston

Take I-93 north 22 miles to I-495; take I-495 south 8 miles to Route 3; take Route 3 north about 2 miles; take exit 32; go straight through first light and bear right at second light onto Route 4; turn right at the first light onto Technology Drive; about 1/4 mile on the right is the lab, a brick building with an EPA sign.

To 11 Technology Drive From Route 128

Take exit 32 off Route 128 onto Route 3 north; take Route 3 north about 15 miles; take exit 32; go straight through first light and bear right at second light onto Route 4; turn right at the first light onto Technology Drive; about 1/4 mile on the right is the lab, a brick building with an EPA sign.

To 11 Technology Drive From Interstate 495

Take exit 35 off I-495 onto Route 3 north; take Route 3 north about 2 miles; take exit 32; go straight through first light and bear right at second light onto Route 4; turn right at the first light onto Technology Drive; about 1/4 mile on the right is the lab, a brick building with an EPA sign.

To 11 Technology Drive from the North

Take Route 3 south to exit 32; go straight through first light; bear left at second and third lights; bear right at the fourth light onto Route 4; turn right at the first light onto Technology Drive; about 1/4 mile on the right is the lab, a brick building with an EPA sign.