

Highlights

- ITLA Quarterly Meeting Notice
- Regulatory Update
- MWRA Update



ITLA

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President's Message

By Dan Falcone

Since Thanksgiving was just last week, I have a few items to add to my thanks giving list:

- The 2010 elections are over and the political advertisements have ceased, at least for a little while.
- The U. S. economic jobs reports indicate that more and more people are being hired and the economy is improving.
- The holidays are just around the corner and the mood of America is becoming more positive and upbeat.

These are all good reasons to be thankful.

The ITLA December Quarterly Meeting will have a presentation on ICP/MS technology and capabilities and "What Does a Consultant Look For In A Laboratory" by LSPA President James Young. Both presentations should be timely and informative.

The ITLA is asking for ideas from our members on training topics that

would be helpful to your laboratory or business. We are also looking for volunteers for the Nomination Committee and candidates for Treasurer and Secretary. If you might be interested, please contact any of the ITLA officers.

I hope to see you at the December Quarterly Meeting.

Regulatory Update

Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net

Laboratory Advisory Committee

The Lab Advisory Committee met in September and discussed a number of issues. The proposed revision to the Total Coliform Rule had an open comment period until October 13th. It was noted that there were some significant changes in this if adopted. There was a question about the efficacy of analyzing for *Enterococcus* in groundwater since Massachusetts is the only state to require this, and there (See *Update* on page 3)

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2010, DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation:** "What does a Consultant Look For In A Laboratory?" LSPA Representative James Young Environ Corporation

MWRA Items

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

MWRA Passes 10 Straight Rounds of Lead Sampling

MWRA water systems have met 10 straight rounds and 16 of the last 18 sampling rounds for lead and copper. Results from the latest samples from March 2010 show that 97.1% of targeted high-risk homes had lead levels equal to or below the Lead Action Level of 15 parts per billion, meeting the requirement of at least 90%. The 90% value was 7.05 ppb.

Renewable Energy at Deer Island

MWRA's Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant treats an average of 360 million gallons of wastewater each day from 43 communities in greater Boston and is one of the largest electricity users in the Northeast.

Deer Island currently self-generates 23% of its electricity needs and more than half of the Island's energy demand is provided by on-site, renewable generation:

Wind Turbines at Deer Island

In November 2009, two 190-foot wind turbines (600 kW each) went on-line at Deer Island. The wind turbines generate over 2 million kW hours per year for an annual estimated savings of \$230,000. The \$4

million project was funded in part by a \$400,000 grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. Plans are underway for three more wind turbines at Deer Island.

A 100-kW roof-mounted solar photovoltaic system was installed on the Residual/Odor Control Building at Deer Island in early 2008. All power generated is being utilized on-site. The \$870,000 solar photovoltaic project was funded by a \$310,000 CREB loan and a grant of \$560,000 from the Division of Energy Resources. The solar installation will be qualified as a Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standards Program (RPS) renewable generation unit and MWRA can sell the Renewable Energy Certificates for solar as it currently does for digester gas.

A 180-kW roof-mounted solar photovoltaic system was installed on the Administration/Warehouse roof in fall 2009. This \$1.2 million design/build project was partially funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Another 456 kW in solar panels will be installed soon both on the ground under the existing wind turbines and on two more roof tops. The \$1.1 million project was procured through a Solar Power Purchase Agreement, is a financial arrangement in which a third-party developer designs, procures, installs,



owns, operates and maintains the system and the host customer provides the site and purchases the electricity. The installation cost is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Since 2002, energy is recovered by the flow of treated wastewater as it drops from the plant into the outfall tunnel shaft through two one-megawatt hydroelectric generators that produce over 5 million kW hours of electricity, avoiding approximately \$500,000 in energy costs annually.

The methane generated from the sludge digestion process (“digester gas”) is collected and used in Deer Island’s on-site power plant to create steam that supplies hot water and heat for the facility. The steam is also run through a steam turbine generator that produces electricity. This co-generation facility saves MWRA approximately \$15 million in annual fuel oil costs.

Digester gas-derived electricity generated by the steam turbine qualifies as a renewable (“green”) source of energy under the Massachusetts RPS Program. This program prescribes that a minimum amount of power that is supplied into the Massachusetts market be derived from renewable energy sources. Deer Island is awarded certificates for each megawatt-hour of green electricity produced. Suppliers that do not meet the minimum requirement through their own sources can purchase certificates from generators such as Deer Island through an open bid process, generating \$1 million in revenues for MWRA in FY2008.

Deer Island electricity has been purchased competitively since 2001. Energy market conditions are characterized by their volatility, and MWRA has sought to balance the ability to respond to changing conditions with maintaining a measure of budgetary predictability.

Electrical upgrades are ongoing at the two pump stations to replace the variable frequency drives that power the eighteen 1,250 horsepower motors with more energy efficient technology. Work at the South System Pump Station was completed in August 2007, resulting in an annual reduction of electricity purchases of \$130,000 plus a rebate of \$209,000.

Through NStar, Deer Island recently completed the second phase of a multi-phase lighting improvement program aimed at replacing existing lamps and ballasts with high performance fluorescent reduced wattage fixtures, integrated day lighting, occupancy controls, and replacement of “Exit” signs with LED technology.

MWRA Program Manager Wins Dexter Award for Journal Paper

MWRA is pleased to announce that Dr. Windsor Sung, P.E. has won the Dexter Brackett Award for his paper MWRA’s Experience with Disinfection By-Products.

The “Dexter,” is presented annually by the New England Water Works Association in recognition of the author of the most meritorious paper published in its Journal during the previous year.

The New England Water Works Association is a not-for-profit organization. Established in 1882, the association is the leading authority on education, training opportunities, and public outreach to protect and improve drinking water and water utility operations.

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 From Page 1

seemed to be few positive sample results. Both DWP personnel and Oscar were quite emphatic that they “liked” this method and would not change it to follow the other 49 states.

It was noted that there continues to be one lab that is having a high number of false positive results for perchlorate.

(See Update on page 4)

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Doubletree Hotel Boston/Milford
11 Beaver Street
Milford, Massachusetts 01757
Tel: 1-508-478-7010

8:30 a.m. Coffee

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

9:45 a.m. What does a Consultant Look For In A Laboratory?

By LSPA Representative James Young Environ Corporation

James Young is a professional geologist and senior manager at ENVIRON International Corporation, an environmental consultancy with approximately 40 offices in the US, 30 in Europe, and 10 on the Pacific Rim. Mr. Young has worked in the environmental field in Massachusetts since 1985, and has been a Massachusetts LSP since the inception of the program in 1994. Prior to entering the environmental field, Jim worked in minerals exploration in the

western US. Mr. Young is currently the president of the LSPA, and has been active in the LSPA for a number of years as a member and chair of the Loss Prevention Committee, and as a member of the Board of Directors.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. ICP/MS Presentation

By Leonard Pitts, Ph.D. PerkinElmer

Dr. Pitts received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from the University of Massachusetts/Boston in 1979. He earned his MS in chemistry at Northeastern University in 1984 and received his Ph.D. in environmental sciences from the University of Massachusetts/Boston in 1991. Dr. Pitts has managed the Inorganic Laboratories for Incheape Testing Services, The Woods Hole Group and Alpha Analytical. He has recently joined Perkin Elmer as an Inorganic Product Specialist covering the New England area.

12:00 pm Meeting Adjourns

eDEP

As was stated at this LAC meeting and the September ITLA meeting, DEP has acknowledged that there are some significant issues with the present operation of eDEP (!!). They have now committed to changing the program for the benefit of the laboratory community. Their most important fix is to improve performance. In September, DEP stated that the changes would take place in 4-6 months. NOTE: DEP did state that they were looking at adding additional columns to the 39 columns already in the program. This will require re-programming for all users.

The drumbeat continues regarding mandatory implementation. However, DEP has finally conceded

that they have to make changes before they can require labs to use eDEP.

On this and other issues, stay tuned!!! We plan to update you with news from the next Lab Advisory Committee meeting at our December 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.

Food for Thought

"Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming."
John Wooden