

## Highlights

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# ITLA

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## President's Message

*By Dan Falcone*

### President's Message

The Holidays are fast approaching with a New Year and new challenges and opportunities.

For all of those who are not aware or plugged into the MA DEP, the new commissioner Ken Kimmell, is proposing a Regulatory Reform Initiative.

First impressions are, this action will have an impact on all our members and our customers, whether it is drinking water, wastewater, or consulting customers. We can expect these changes to be implemented beginning in April 2012.

Coupled with the Regulatory Reform Initiative is the premise that the eDEP will perform effectively and will make the lab (and by extension our customers) interactions with the MADEP more efficient. However, since the announ-

cement of the Regulatory Reform Initiative eDEP has had major glitches. Software and hardware difficulties with eDEP have made it difficult to network with eDEP on a regular basis and have not been at all efficient.

It is encouraging that the regulators are looking forward to the future in how they protect the environment and the health of the Massachusetts citizens, but I hope that it will be planned and implemented in a helpful and constructive manner.

How we, as the ITLA, or as separate laboratories, approach these changes can bring about opportunities for each of us in the coming year.

I hope that all of our members and their staffs have a Happy Holiday season. I want to invite every member to the December Quarterly meeting so I can wish you the very best Holiday Season and a prosperous 2012.

## Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday., December 14, 2011, Doubletree Hotel in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation:**  
"History of Public Health and Water Testing in Massachusetts" *Marcis Kempe, MWRA*

## MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney, [mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us)

### MWRA Water Named “New England’s Best”— Wins Taste Test at New England Water Works Association Conference

On Tuesday, September 27, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority took home the 2011 award for “New England’s Best” drinking water in a contest held at the New England Water Works Association’s annual conference in Newport, Rhode Island.

There were eight entries from across New England. Each sample was tasted at room temperature, then scored on a 1-10 scale. The international panel of judges included David LaFrance, AWWA Executive Director, Dennis Kelleher, AWWA Vice President, and Tunde Ogunsanwo, of Nigeria, Africa. According to Kirsten King, NEWWA’s communications director, “The winner receives bragging rights for a year as well as a very large trophy.”



### MWRA Receives “Leading By Example” Award from the Commonwealth

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority received the Leading by Example Award from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at a ceremony at the State House in Boston on October 26, 2011.

Richard K. Sullivan, Secretary of Energy and

Environmental Affairs and Chairman of the MWRA Board of Directors, presented the award to MWRA staff. The agency was recognized for completing a number of new renewable energy projects across its service area, including three wind turbines totaling 3.1 megawatts, four solar installations totaling 1.28 megawatts, a 200 kilowatt hydroelectric generator, and a 5.5 megawatt back press turbine to upgrade an existing 18-megawatt steam turbine.

MWRA’s Executive Director, Frederick A. Laskey, noted that \$18 million of the agency’s \$38 million annual energy needs now comes from clean, renewable energy.

MWRA has also aggressively sought out funding opportunities for many of its renewable projects from a variety of sources, including over \$10 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Leading by Example Program was established in April 2007 by Governor Deval Patrick’s Executive Order No. 484, “Leading by Example - Clean Energy and Efficient Buildings.” The program is overseen by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

This marks the second time MWRA has received this award. In 2007, MWRA was recognized for its renewable energy generation on Deer Island, the exploration of other opportunities for solar, wind, and hydroelectric power at a number of facilities, recycling efforts, and its alternative fuel vehicles and diesel retrofits.

MWRA has also received awards for its renewable programs from the Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

### MWRA Installing New Wind Turbine in Charlestown

MWRA installed a new, 1.5 megawatt wind turbine at the DeLauri Sewer Pump Station in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

The turbine will generate 3 million kilowatt hours of

electricity per year and save MWRA ratepayers \$350,000 annually. The power generated will be net-metered to offset MWRA electricity costs.

This \$4.7 million project was paid for with stimulus funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The completed turbine structure will measure 364 feet high at blade peak. Installation was performed by design/build contractor Lumus Construction.

### **MWRA's Renewable Energy Program**

The Charlestown Wind Turbine is part of MWRA's ongoing Renewable Energy Program. MWRA has embraced and implemented clean energy technologies and practices, demonstrating a strong commitment to energy efficiency, renewables and to the environment. With wind, solar, hydroelectric and biogas technologies, MWRA currently uses nearly 14 megawatts of renewable energy. At the Deer Island Treatment Plant alone, MWRA self-generates 23% of the facility's electricity; by also using the methane produced in sewerage treatment, over 50% of the plant's energy demand is met.

Projects to generate an additional 3.7 megawatts are in construction and more are on the way.

There's a time-lapse video of the construction of this wind turbine here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjATpb6hr7A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjATpb6hr7A)

And an interesting story on the Deer Island wind turbines here: [www.travelchannel.com/Video/the-power-of-windmills-16373](http://www.travelchannel.com/Video/the-power-of-windmills-16373)

### **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.

### ***Food for Thought***

"Always err on the side of doing right. You and only you are responsible for your ethics." Griffin Bell

## ***Regulatory Update***

*By Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net*

### **Laboratory Advisory Committee eDEP**

We were informed that the "missing" analytes (including Perchlorate, Enterococcus, etc.) were almost ready to be accepted. By this writing, everyone should have received the announcement from Andrew Durham. Please note that bromate is still missing from the list, but you are now able to upload perchlorate, Enterococcus, etc.

### **DEP IT**

Apparently, DEP is looking at their entire IT infrastructure in terms of making it more user friendly. The idea is to potentially perform an overhaul of the entire DEP website. A report with recommendations is due in January.

We have heard that the Commissioner is working hard to "increase efficiencies" in the Department with one of his focuses on increasing electronic submissions. As you know, ITLA has been watching this **very** carefully, however, we want to be in some control before we are told to "Do it!"

In direct relation to this, there was apparently a very significant "system failure" (DEP's own words) in the system in early November. At this writing (late November), it is still not fully operational. This is particularly true for anyone dealing with BWSC. It is noted that the "scanned files database" appears to have been completely lost and is being re-created from scratch. Since DEP has told everyone that the data on their servers is the repository for all data, and water suppliers and others have been told that there is no need to keep back-up copies on their premises, this leaves us with some very real concerns. Stay tuned....

### **Manganese**

DEP has not moved ahead on Manganese yet. Although it will become guidance, it is just a matter of when. When asked, the Laboratory Certification Office indicated little interest in adding manganese to the list of certified parameters for drinking water.

# ITLA Quarterly Meeting

**Wednesday, December 14, 2011**

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. EPA Method 524.2 Presentation**  
*By Erik Mallory, Tekmar*

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

**10:45 a.m. History of Public Health and Water Testing in Massachusetts**  
*By Marcis Kempe, MWRA*

**11:30 pm Meeting Adjourns**

## **Regulatory Update Continued:**

When ITLA indicated that there needed to be some oversight of labs submitting data on manganese, the Drinking Water personnel suggested that they could specify appropriate methods.

### **Conductivity**

A question was raised regarding the measurement of conductivity for laboratory reagent water and what methodology should be used. The requirement is for annual verification, and the general consensus was to "use a small beaker and do it quickly."

### **Reporting MDLs and RLs**

As we mentioned in the last update, DEP's position (and apparently EPA's) is that the MDL is just that. DEP says that the MDL must be reported, not the RL (even if the sample has been diluted). The Drinking Water personnel indicated he had contacted the OGWDW in Washington for clarification and apparently was asked, "do you really want to get into that?" We expect that we will stay with the status quo and have to make our dilution comments in the remarks section and assume that the DEP reviewers will pick up on this.

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.

## **EPA Update**

*Provided by Calalyst Information Resources*

### **EPA Establishes Methods Site**

EPA's Forum on Environmental Measurements has developed a website that contains links to all EPA methods.

<http://www.epa.gov/osa/fem/methcollectns.htm>

### **Update on the Method Update Rule**

In 2010, EPA's Office of Water proposed a method update rule. The rule is now expected to be finalized in early 2012. According to a presentation by EPA on October 18, 2011, methods 1614A (PBDE's) and 1668 (PCBs) will not be promulgated in this rule. EPA also indicated the report from the pilot study of efforts to revise EPA's Method Detection Limit should be available in the fall of 2011. Please contact Catalyst if you want additional details on these topics.

### **TNI Publishes Agenda for Winter Meeting**

The NELAC Institute (TNI) has published the agenda for the 2012 Forum on Laboratory Accreditation to be held in Sarasota, FL from January 31 to February 4, 2012. The Forum will include meetings of TNI committees, a training course on wet chemistry methods, and a training course on the new field accreditation program. <http://www.nelac-institute.org/meetings.php>