

Highlights

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ITLA

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Message from the President

By Kevin Braga

Greetings fellow ITLA members, On behalf of the Executive Board, I forward Holiday Greetings to all of you, our members. I am very grateful for the Executive Committee who provides the time and effort required to make the Independent Testing Laboratory Association an outstanding organization. Without the countless hours expended by these members, this organization would not be able to provide the opportunities to be heard by the regulatory community.

There are many challenges lying ahead for the environmental community in the next few months. Mass DEP is planning to release for public comment the Proposed Changes to the MCP 310 CMR 40.000 for environmental standards. If you are not familiar with these new proposed standards, please see the Hot Topics section at www.itla-ma.org. Along with these changes, DEP will also be releasing the long awaited and much anticipated Asbestos in Soil regulation for public comment at or about the same time.

In addition to the regulations that will be available for public comment, Paul Locke at Mass DEP is looking for information that engineering firms or labs may have addressing background issues for Indoor Air Levels. Presently, the background standards are based upon information from pre-1990 & the department is looking to update or verify the levels that they are presenting using. If anyone knows of or has any information available on this topic, please forward it directly to Paul Locke at Mass DEP. He will be extremely grateful.

At this time, I want all the members to be aware of some information that has been forwarded to the laboratory community from the Mass DEP Laboratory Advisory Committee. One of their members recently attended training at the EPA in Ohio and provided us with some highlights from the meeting. Please take the time to review this information so that we can discuss it at the next meeting on December 13, 2006, at the Radisson Hotel in Milford, MA, where a representative from IDEXX will provide a

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 2006, Radisson Hotel in Milford, MA

Feature Presentation: "Environmental Testing for PCB Aroclors and Congeners"

Mr. Mike Celona, MA Dept. of Public Health See page 4 for agenda

presentation on available method testing. Mike Celona of MA Department of Health will be discussing utilizing different analytic techniques for PCB Aroclors and Congeners in association with work performed in collaboration with the Pittsfield Board of Health. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney,
(mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us)

MWRA Achieves Excellent Performance on NOAA/NIST Interlaboratory Samples

MWRA has been participating in the NOAA/NIST Intercomparison Studies for Organics and Metals in the Marine Environment for several years. While we have achieved “Superior” results for Metals most years, this was the first time that we also got excellent results for trace Organics as well. This interlaboratory study allows the labs to choose the methodology to test Standard Reference Materials consisting of marine tissue and marine sediment samples. We participate in this study to demonstrate proficiency beyond what is required for DEP certification.

MWRA Data Used to Verify EPA Bacteria

Methods: EPA announced in September that it was about to officially approve bacteria test methods at 40 CFR Part 136 for E. coli and enterococci in wastewater. MWRA participated in the verification of methods 1103, 1106, 1600, and 1603. We also participated in the verification of methods 1680 and 1681 for fecal coliforms in sludge.

MWRA Named “Utility of the Year” by New England Water Works Association: The New England Water Works Association has named the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority “Utility of the Year” at its 125th Annual Conference.

The award recognizes MWRA’s massive upgrades to its water infrastructure, including the 17.6-mile MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel, the state-of-the-art John J. Carroll ozone water treatment plant and covered storage tanks throughout the district that will guarantee some of the best drinking water in the country for generations to come. This is the first year

this award was given out. MWRA was recognized in the large utility class.

Update on MWRA LIMS and TRAC.IS

The TRAC.IS software was put out to bid. A vendor has been selected and MWRA has awarded the contract. The bid documents for the new LIMS are nearing completion and it should be out to bid soon. Both systems have been in use for over ten years and are in need of updates due to changes in computer technology.

TRAC “eSMART”

We continue to receive laboratory data electronically using the web-based “e-SMART” program. Labs access e-SMART using a PIN provided by MWRA. The program accepts either data files in a specific format, or on-line data entry. Chains of custody are scanned and submitted as PDF files. So far, over 20 labs are using e-SMART. To find out more about e-SMART contact Alice Chang at 617-305-5621 or Alice.Chang@mwra.state.ma.us.

Labs using e-SMART are reminded of the following: If the chain of custody form is missing, or is missing vital information, including the permit number, the sample location number, or the effluent flow information, TRAC will return the report for correction and resubmission.

e-SMART File Format Specification: To better assist labs that choose to use a LIMS system to submit data, TRAC modified the e-SMART File Format Specification that labs can access using the e-SMART Help function. The specifications include: a data file overview, formatting instructions, a sample file, instructions for checking the file format, and a dictionary of MWRA test codes and components.

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 News

By Bob Bently, bob@h2otest.net

Regulation Revisions

These are moving along - conjecture at the meeting was that it may “fly” through the approval process since Bob Golledge had been elevated from DEP Commissioner to EOE A Secretary. But remember that “fly” is being used in the State setting. Stay tuned.

eDEP

This process has been moving along since ITLA came up with the issues last February. As of September, the DEP contractor was still working on the final revisions. In a letter from Damon Guterman which was sent to all certified laboratories, the projected date is now the end of the year.

Our meeting is after the December Lab Advisory Committee meeting, so we will be able to give you real time information at the meeting. We should have information on the LCO’s PT policy and approved vendors for 2007, the impact of the LT2ESWTR and DBR2 on labs, and much more! We hope to see you at the meeting.

If you know of other regulatory issues, please contact me or any member of the Executive Committee.

TITLE:

calendar

December 6, 2006

ITLA Quarterly Meeting
TBD
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

January 24, 2007

ITLA Executive Board Meeting
Bugaboo Creek Restaurant
Milford, MA
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

February 25 - March 1, 2007

PITTCO N 2007, Chicago, IL

EPA Update

Provided by Catalyst Information Resources

EPA Finalizes Water Methods Rule

EPA has finalized a 2004 proposed rule relating to use of analytical methods for both the drinking water and wastewater programs. The rule:

- corrects inconsistencies in sampling requirements,
- adds E. coli and Enterococci to the list of parameters for wastewater analyses,
- approve new methods, including 200.8 and 300.0,
- correct errors to several tables,
- clarifies method requirements, and
- withdraws some outdated methods.

The rule should appear in the Federal Register this week. <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/update2003/index.html>

Clarifications on CLP Methods: EPA has published clarifications made to the Contract Lab Program Analytical Methods for Organics Analysis, SOM01.1. The clarifications address Selected Ion Monitoring and blanks for pesticide analyses. http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/clp/download/som/som11_clarifications_09-29-06.pdf

Identification of Hazardous Wastes from Drinking Water Facilities

EPA has published guidance on determining whether or not residuals from drinking water systems produce hazardous wastes.

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/pdfs/guide_arsenic_disposalhazardous-nonhazardous.pdf

A2LA Announces another NELAC PT Provider

Absolute Standards has been named as the seventh accredited provider of proficiency test samples for the NELAC program. <http://www.a2la.org/dirsearch/nelactproviders.cfm>

Next Meeting

December 13, 2006

Milford, MA

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Radisson Hotel

11 Beaver Street, Milford, MA 01757

Phone: (508) 478-7010

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

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

9:15 a.m. Regulatory/Lab Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Bob Bentley, Analytical Balance

9:40 a.m. Use of Colilert®, Colilert-18® and Enterolert™ for the Determination of E.coli, Fecal Coliforms & Enterococci in Wastewaters and Sludge

By Gill Dichter, IDEXX Labs

Wastewater Facilities are required to test the final effluent in order to be in compliance with their NPDES permit which permits them to discharge the effluent into a specific body of water. Presently several states allow the use of Colilert® and Colilert-18 for the detection of *E.coli* in the final effluent. On Aug. 16, 2005, EPA proposed to add *E.coli* and enterococci for testing wastewater prior to the discharge into a body of water & also included Colilert & Enterolert as proposed methods. Promulgation of this rule is expected to be by the end of Nov. 2006.

Colilert, Colilert-18 and Enterolert™ and Quanti-Tray® are a proven method and will be an important analytical tool for the testing of these parameters for wastewater effluents.

Colilert is based on Defined Substrate Technology® and detects coliforms and *E.coli* simultaneously using two nutrient indicators ONPG and MUG, which will turn yellow for the presence of coliforms and yellow and fluorescence for the presence of *E.coli*. With Enterolert, a blue fluorescence will be

observed for the presence of enterococci. Colilert or Enterolert with the Quanti-Tray yields quantitative results within 18-24 hours and is a fast, easy and reliable proven procedure.

Studies will be presented to support this technology as an analytical tool for the detection of these parameters in wastewaters and sludge

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 p.m. “Environmental Testing for PCB Aroclors and Congeners Using Different Laboratories and Analytic Techniques”

Mr. Mike Celona, MA DPH

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Center for Environmental Health, Environmental Toxicology Program (MDPH/CEH/ETP), in collaboration with the Pittsfield Board of Health, first conducted indoor environmental testing at the school in November & December 2005 using the standard US EPA Aroclor analytic method. At that time, all samples (surface dust, indoor air, and unit ventilator filter, as well as two outdoor air samples) showed no detectable levels of PCBs. Subsequent to this effort, MDPH/CEH and other local and state agencies involved with the General Electric Site learned of two filter samples reportedly taken from the school by a community resident and analyzed by the State University of New York at Albany (SUNY). SUNY used a different analytical technique (congener-specific) than the MDPH contract lab & reported the presence of low level PCBs in the samples. In order to best address continuing concerns, MDPH/CEH, in collaboration with all interested parties, agreed to conduct additional sampling at the school and to have labs analyze the samples using both Aroclor and congener scientific analytic methods. Although PCBs were detected in some indoor environmental samples, with one exception (of 98 samples), no detection of either Aroclors or congeners exceeded any available screening guideline or regulatory standards.