

Highlights

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- Regulatory Update
- MWRA Update



ITLA

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President's Message

By Dan Falcone

Hello fellow members,

The routine is back now that vacations are over and summer is at an end.

The everyday lab activities for the staff are back as well.

The ITLA is back into the swing of things too!

The MADEPLab Advisory Committee will be meeting September 11th and the ITLA members meeting will be held September 25th.

You can expect a detailed briefing on the upcoming changes at the MADEP. Expectations are drinking water changes, eDEP changes and announcements and discussions on new certification requirements.

I hope to see you at the September members meeting.

P.S. Don Shulze of GZA, a long standing member of the ITLA will be retiring at the end of August after a long and illustrious career. By the time you get this newsletter

Don will probably be in retirement mode, but you might reach out to Don and wish him a healthy and happy retirement.

MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney

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

MWRA Holds Laboratory Ethics Training for Its Lab Staff

Earlier this year MWRA hired Ms. Marlene Moore of Advanced Systems, Inc. to present a 1-day Lab Ethics course for all lab staff. The course included the following topics: What Is an Ethical Program?, Documentation of Ethical Conduct, Corrective Action Program, Traceability of Data and Re-view, Log Book Protocols, Electronic Data Handling, Computer Software Validation & Verification, Handling Electronic Data Calculations, Security & Protection of Data, Data Handling Do's and Don'ts, Calibration and Quality Control Practices, and Archiving Data. During the course, Ms. Moore stressed that the "Don'ts" were things that lab staff SHOULD'N'T DO.

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday., September 25, 2013, DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, MA.

Feature Presentation: "MADEP Invited"

Total Cyanide Field Spikes for Industrial Waste water Samples Verify Successful Sample Integrity, Preservation, Pretreatment and Testing

Like many other publicly operated treatment works (POTW), the MWRA regulated discharges of the highly toxic chemical cyanide from industrial sources into the sewer collection system as part of its industrial pretreatment program, as required by its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit as part of the EPA Clean Water Act (CWA). Successfully collecting, pre-treating, and testing Total Cyanide sample has always been problematic due to cyanide's diverse chemistry. For example, even in drinking water we demonstrated cyanide can be formed in the sample container after proper sample preservation (1).

In 2007, EPA published a Method Update Rule (2) that detailed the required procedures for testing and treating for potential cyanide positive and negative interferences. Then in 2012 in the next Method Update Rule, EPA took out the extensive cyanide sampling and pretreatment requirements, replacing it with reference to ASTM Method D7365-09a and the following statement: "*There may be interferences that are not mitigated by the analytical test methods or D7365-09a. Any technique for removal or suppression of interference may be employed, provided the lab demonstrates that it more accurately measures cyanide through quality control measures described in the analytical test method. Any removal or suppression technique not described in D7365-09a or the analytical test method must be documented along with supporting data.*" This is akin to saying "do whatever you want but you need to document that it actually works".

To address this new requirement, MWRA began creating total cyanide field spikes to accompany the field wastewater samples so that successful sampling, preservation, and testing could be demonstrated. The field spikes were created by adding a known amount of complex cyanide to a known volume of the field sample. Then the field sample and field spike were handled and treated in the same manner. Successful recovery of the field spike demonstrated that cyanide was not lost during sample processing. For 188 field

spikes on industrial wastewater samples recoveries averaged 87.1% with a range of 0 to 680%. Over 90% were within the nominal acceptance range of 10 to 175% recovery. Low field spike recoveries are caused by the sample matrix destroying cyanide in the field spike. Field spike recoveries above 100% indicate that the sample matrix is forming cyanide when the sample is preserved or treated. Both very high and very low field spike recoveries suggest that the cyanide results in the associated field sample is likely to be biased and that this matrix needs to be investigated more fully to get usable cyanide results.

MWRA'S Annual Water Report is in the Mail: Test Results Confirm Water Quality is Excellent

MWRA has mailed its Annual Water Quality Report to every household in its service area. For 2012, MWRA again met every federal and state drinking water standard. The hundreds of thousands of tests taken during the year confirm that the quality of MWRA's water is excellent.

MWRA hopes the report will encourage residents to drink local tap water and highlights its environmental benefits and low cost compared to bottled water.

"Bottled water is convenient when you're on the road and is a healthy alternative to sugary drinks," said MWRA executive director Fred Laskey. "But at less than penny a gallon, tap water is the cleanest, safest and most cost effective alternative."

The report also includes important information on how to reduce the risk of lead in drinking water. Although the water itself is lead-free, lead can get into tap water through home plumbing & even some brass water fixtures. System-wide, the MWRA has been below the Lead Action Level for the past nine years.

Required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the report is distributed to over 850,000 homes in the MWRA service area. Community-specific inserts also provide information about municipal water systems.

Visit MWRA'S Free Drinking Water Fountain at Events This Summer and Fall

Keep an eye out for MWRA's roving water fountain this summer & fall. The fountain provides free chilled

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

DoubleTree by Hilton Boston - Milford
11 Beaver Street, Milford, MA 01757
(508) 478-7010

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet and Networking

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

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

9:45 a.m. Ethics Presentation

By Mike Delaney, MWRA

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. MADEP Presentation

*By Andrew Durham, Damon
Guterman, and Ann Marie Allen,
Invited*

11:45 a.m. Meeting Adjourns

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drinking water to public event-goers in Boston and other MWRA service communities. Just bring your own bottle or cup and fill it at the fountain for free, or try drinking from one of the old-fashioned bubblers. Either way, the water is fresh, local and safe, and you don't have to spend money on bottled water or worry about throwing away an empty container. The water fountain's schedule is at www.mwra.com.

MWRA's water comes from the pristine and protected Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs in Central Massachusetts. It is treated according to strict state and federal standards and tested every step of the way to your tap.

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.

ITLA Award Winner at the 2013 Massachusetts Science and Engineering Fair

Ms. Kate Armstrong of Falmouth Academy was the ITLA Award Winner at the 2013 Massachusetts Science and Engineering Fair, held at MIT in May. Her environmental science project was entitled "Measuring Carbon Sequestration in Ten Forest Plots in Barnstable". Ms. Armstrong, a tenth grader, also won a second place award and was an alternate for a 2013 UMASS Lowell Scholarship. ITLA has been sponsoring this \$500 award for several years.

