

Highlights

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ITLA

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2005-2006 ITLA Officers

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Message from the President

By Jim Occhialini

Greetings fellow ITLA members,

Well, it's time for another meeting, and not just any meeting...its Annual Meeting time again. The Annual Meeting also means that it's election time, and we will be voting for a new President and Vice President. I am pleased to announce that we have a pair of distinguished candidates ready to step in. The candidates are:

President

Kevin Braga
ESS Laboratories

Vice President

Chris Wakefield
Spectrum Analytical

Please join me in voting for this fine slate of candidates & wishing them well in their new role as leaders of our organization.

We have a great agenda for our meeting coming up on March 1st. If you use GC/MS in your laboratory, you will want to attend this meeting. We have two vendor presentations on the subject that will be as instructive as they are illustrative of

the instrumentation's features and benefits. Our first vendor presentation is by John Dwan of Quantum Analytics. Mr. Dwan will present the Agilent 5975, explaining how you can utilize the software to operate the instrument in both the SIM and full scan modes. Our next vendor, Terry Jeffers of Thermo Electron, will compare single quadrupole GC/MS with ion trap technology.

Our featured speaker is Jeffrey Curran, Supervising Environmental Laboratory Consultant with the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The Connecticut DEP's new preservation policy for the analysis of VOCs in soil will become final on March 1, the day of our meeting. Mr. Curran will explain the new policy and take questions on its implementation. Mr. Curran will also give us an update on the Reasonable Confidence Protocol's analytical methods and reporting requirements.

It has been my honor to serve you in my role as President of the Association. I want to thank the Executive Board for all of the

Quarterly Meeting - Wednesday, March 1, 2006, Crowne Plaza, Worcester, MA

Feature Presentation: "Status Report on the Connecticut RCP" & "New Soil Preservation Requirements for VOC Samples" *Mr. Jeffrey Curran, Connecticut Department of Public Health* See page 4 for agenda

assistance they have given me throughout my term. Their hard work and dedication has made ITLA a better association. I greatly appreciated their efforts, as they should be by the entire membership. With two members of the Executive Board now ready to take over the leadership, I know we will be in good hands.

MWRA Items

*Provided by Mike Delaney
(mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us)*

Successful MWRA TRAC Training Session

MWRA held a successful training session on Wednesday, January 18th, 2006, for laboratories and consultants who work for industries with MWRA sewer use permits. About 30 participants learned about the MWRA pretreatment program, called Toxic Reduction and Control (TRAC), which issues permits to industries that discharge into the MWRA sewer system. Many of these permits require self-monitoring by the industries using certified laboratories and NPDES-approved methods. The training session was held at the Deer Island Treatment Plant in Winthrop, MA, and included an indoor tour of the treatment plant and the MWRA Central Lab because it was a rainy howling gale outside. The training session received good marks on evaluations submitted by participants.

Update on Disinfection By-Products

With the recent start-up of the Carroll Water Treatment Plant and the use of ozone instead of chlorine for primary disinfection, the level of disinfection by-products has dropped dramatically. MWRA has always met the standards for disinfection by-products, but with ozonation, the new levels of disinfection by-products are even further below current and future standards. MWRA tracks the levels of DBPs in the water closely. In fact, we take more than five times as many samples as required. The present MA-DEP and EPA standards require that the running annual average (average of past four quarters) not be over 80 ug/L for THMs and not be over 40 ug/L for HAAs. Based on sampling at 16 compliance sites, disinfection by-product levels have

now dropped by over 80%, with THM and HAA levels now averaging less than 10 ug/L. With the startup of the CWTP in July 2005, MWRA water now meets EPA's recently issued standards (December 2005), 6 to 8 years ahead of the regulatory schedule.

Update on Lead and Copper sampling for 2005: Good News on Lead Levels

The most recent sampling round, once again, meets the Lead Action Level. Results from lead and copper samples collected in Sept. 2005 show that 90.5% of the targeted high-risk homes had lead levels equal to or below the Lead Action Level (AL) of 15 parts per billion (ppb), meeting the re-requirement of at least 90%. In September, 2005, the 90th percent value was 13.8 ppb. MWRA, as a system, has met four straight rounds and 7 of the last 9 sampling rounds.

“A Healthy Environment Starts at Home”

MWRA's guide to reducing our use of hazardous household products is now available online at www.mwra.com as a 25-page, full-color downloadable “PDF” file. Publication of this booklet was required by the MWRA's wastewater discharge permit from EPA and MA DEP.

TRAC “eSMART”: We continue to receive lab 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 Update

By Bob Bentley, Regulatory Affairs Chair

Regulation Revisions

As we stated in December's Special Alert, the Laboratory Certification regulations (310CMR42.00) have been rewritten. The draft form of these changes has been released. The Laboratory Certification Office specifically asked ITLA to review and comment on this version. Please note that ITLA is the **only** organization who was asked for input!! ITLA formed a Committee to review the changes, and submitted our 10 pages of comments. We thank the Committee members for their input. We will provide additional information more at our upcoming meeting.

eDEP

As most of you know, in mid-January eDEP was formally rolled out to the entire lab community. Initially, this has been aimed at labs who submit drinking water data. Although DEP seems very excited about this program, it is clear that most labs are taking a wait and see approach to the implementation. Most forms are being changed, and although ITLA has consistently asked to have input prior to their roll out, our requests have been ignored.

Perchlorate

By now, everyone should have received the policy memorandum from the Lab Certification Office about the acceptance of the LC/MS/MS and IC/MS methods. This was brought about through the continual prodding of ITLA.

Regulatory News

Provided by Jerry Parr, Editor of Calibrate

OSW Issues Guidance for Perchlorate Contamination

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response has issued new guidance for cleaning up perchlorate contamination, recommending a preliminary clean-up goal for perchlorate of 24.5 ppb in water. <http://epa.gov/newsroom/perchlorate.pdf>

EPA Issues New Guidance for Perchlorate

EPA issued new protective guidance for perchlorate contamination, recommending a clean-up goal of 24.5 ug/L in water. EPA's guidance is derived from the agency's reference dose for perchlorate, and the preliminary goal is a starting point for an evaluation of site-specific conditions.

<http://epa.gov/newsroom/perchlorate.pdf>

Two-hour Test for Indicators of Swimming-Associated Gastrointestinal Illness

Standard methods to measure recreational water quality require at least 24 hours. Water samples for *Enterococcus* and *Bacteroides* species were tested using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method. *Environ Health Perspect* 114:24-28 (2006). <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/members/2005/8273/8273.pdf>

Enhancements to EPA Document Website

The EPA portal for document retrieval has a new search engine making it easier to find and download EPA publications. <http://nepis.epa.gov/>

Drinking Water Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule Finalized

EPA has published a rule to reduce illness linked with *Cryptosporidium* and other microorganisms. The rule contains provisions to reduce risks from uncovered finished water reservoirs and to ensure that systems maintain microbial protection when they take steps to decrease the formation of disinfection byproducts that result from chemical water treatment. (1/5/06; 71 FR 653) (See **Regulatory** on page 4)

ITLA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 1, 2006
Crowne Plaza Hotel
10 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA
(508) 791-1600

8:30 a.m. Registration

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

Proposed MA Lab Certification Regulations MA EDEP status & update

9:40 a.m. "The 5975 – New Generation of Agilent GC/MS" & "Markes Thermal Desorption"

Mr. John Dwan, Quantum Analytics

10:40 a.m. Break

10:50 a.m. "GC/MS Environmental Analysis Comparison: Single Quadrupole vs. Ion Trap Technology"

Mr. Terry Jeffers, Thermo Electron

11:30 a.m. Elections

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Featured Speaker

"Status Report on the Connecticut RCP" & "New Soil Preservation Requirements for VOC Samples"

Mr. Jeffrey Curran, Supervising Environmental Laboratory Consultant Connecticut Department of Public Health

1:30 p.m. Meeting Adjourns

NYAAEL Seminar

The New York Association of Environmental Laboratories has invited Dr. Barry Gump from CA State University to present "**The Interpretation of Mass Spectra - Basic Interpretation Skills**" on March 20, 2006, in Syracuse, NY. This seminar was presented by ITLA in 2003 and received rave reviews. On March 21, we have invited PerkinElmer to speak on "**ICP/MS Spectral Interferences and Sensitivity Corrections for Inorganics**" & "**Elemental and Chemical Speciation.**" If anyone is interested in either of these meetings, you may visit the NYAAEL website at www.nyaael.org to view the flyers. All ITLA members will be given membership rates for these classes.

Regulatory From Page 3

Drinking Water Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Rule Finalized

EPA has published the Stage 2 DBP rule. This rule tightens compliance monitoring requirements for trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. (1/4/06; 71 FR 387)

calendar

**Upcoming Meeting Dates
June 7, September 13 & December 6**