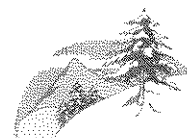


- ITLA Quarterly Meeting Notice
- Regulatory Update
- MWRA Update



ITLA

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Message from the President

By Kevin Braga

Greetings fellow ITLA members, There are many issues facing both the laboratory and the environmental community each and every day. Here at ITLA, we are attempting to help you face these issues by giving you the most current updates from the local, state and federal regulatory agencies. For this reason, I am extremely proud of the speakers planned for our annual meeting in March.

Kim Tisa, Regional PCB Coordinator for US EPA, will be presenting at the upcoming meeting. Hopefully Ms. Tisa will be able to provide us with insight into the agency's stance on Subpart Q and comparative studies for alternative extract methods.

Kim Castillon, CIH, CSP from the Occupational Safety & Health Specialist, Enforcement Programs

and Technical Service, will be providing an overview of OSHA Laboratory Standards, Compliance Assistance and Enforcement activities. She will also provide some insight into what we might expect when OSHA comes knocking on your door.

Damon Guterman of MA DEP will be providing an update on where the DEP stands on eDEP and our vendor presentation will be given by Restek Corporation. Jason Thomas will present "Analysis of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers using New Capillary Column Polymer Technology."

Please remember that the MA DEP is actively looking for public comment on the proposed new standards for MCP. The proposed new laboratory regulations have not made it to the public comment stage. I look forward to see all of you at the annual meeting on March 21, 2007 at the Crown Plaza in Worcester, MA.

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2007, Crowne Plaza in Worcester, MA

Feature Presentation: "MA DEP's Electronic Drinking Water Reporting Program Update"

Mr. Damon Guterman, MA DEP Drinking Water Division See page 4 for agenda

MWRA Items

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

History Channel Films at Deer Island Treatment Plant

The cameras were rolling as a film crew for the History Channel descended on Deer Island. The show's producer, Monte Markham (you may remember him from his many TV and movie roles) is putting together 13 episodes of a new series called "Boneyards." The Deer Island segment will describe how wastewater is processed and how methane and sludge are re-used. The film crew was led from the top of the digesters to the bowels of the facility - and just about every place in between. The show is expected to air in June.

MERCURY LEVELS IN TREATMENT PLANT SLUDGE DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY—Dental Amalgam Initiative Credited for Recent Reductions

Since January 2004, when the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Massachusetts Dental Society began promoting the installation of mercury amalgam separators in dental offices, mercury levels in wastewater sludge have dropped dramatically. At the MWRA treatment plant on Deer Island in Boston Harbor, mercury levels have been cut nearly in half during that time, and are down by as much as three-quarters from a decade ago. The current level of about 2 parts per million (ppm) is 500 percent better than the state requires and 800 percent below U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. DEP's Dental Amalgam Separator requirements have augmented MWRA's Toxic Reduction and Control section's enforcement of its mercury prohibition on permitted users of the sewer system. (Excerpted from MassDEP e-news. See <http://mass.gov/dep/public/publications/0107merc.htm>.)

MWRA Publishes 20th Industrial Waste Report
This Industrial Pretreatment Program Annual Report documents MWRA's ongoing efforts to

implement the requirements of 40 CFR Part 403, General Pretreatment Regulations. The number of facilities designated as Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) in MWRA's sewer service areas at any time during FY06 was 240. TRAC staff inspected all of the SIUs and sampled 196 SIUs. This year, the number of SIUs in Significant Noncompliance (SNC) was 50, down from 60 in FY05. TRAC issued a total of 366 early (Notices of Violations and Traps Warning Letters) and 70 higher-level (orders and penalty assessment notices) enforcement actions to industrial and commercial facilities.

MWRA Switches Ambient Water Microbiology to Defined Substrate Tests

As of January, MWRA has switched the microbiology methods for *Enterococcus* and *E. Coli*. bacteria in samples from Boston Harbor and its rivers from membrane filtration tests to enzyme defined substrate tests. Samples collected over several seasons were tested by each method to demonstrate the degree to which the methods gave comparable results.

Update on MWRA LIMS and TRAC.IS

Inflection Point Solutions has been awarded a contract from MWRA for a new Pretreatment Information Management System. The commercial, off-the-shelf system, which will be modified to address MWRA's unique needs, will provide enhanced data management capabilities to MWRA's Toxic Reduction and Control section. MWRA expects the new system to be fully operational in the Spring of 2008. 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. The new TRAC information system will continue to allow web-based submittal of self-monitoring reports but there are likely to be some changes. We will notify laboratories and permitted users well in advance of modifications that may affect them.

Labs currently 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

calendar

June 20, 2007

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

July 29 - 31, 2007

NY/PaAAEL Annual
Convention & Exposition
Syracuse, NY

September 19, 2007

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

December 12, 2007

TBD
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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 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 EOEPA 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 Guterma 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.

Next Meeting

March 21, 2007

Worcester, MA

ITLA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Crowne Plaza

10 Lincoln Sq., Worcester, MA 01608

Phone: (508) 791-1600

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

By Bob Bentley, Analytical Balance

9:45 a.m. PCB Issues for Environmental Laboratories - Q & A Session

By Kim Tisa, EPA Region I

11:00 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Analysis of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers using New Capillary Column Polymer Technology

Jason Thomas Restek Corporation

Due to their widespread use in industry and possible ill effects on human health and the environment, brominated flame retardants, (BFRs) have increasingly become a topic of concern and contention within the environmental community. Because of their lipophilic nature, BFRs have a high likelihood for bioaccumulation, which is a real concern when considering the potential toxicity associated with them. As the presence of these materials is being detected in both environmental and human samples, regulatory measures are being established for the monitoring of these components in the environment.

One of the most prevalent classes of compounds are the polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), of which there are three commercially prepared types, deca, octa, and penta diphenyl ethers, each of which

is a mixture of several different individual congeners. One of the problems, however, of analyzing this class of compounds is their thermal instability, which can be a concern when analyzing by GC using a standard heated injection port. This presentation examines the use of a temperature programmable injection port, along with a new capillary column using new polymer and deactivation technology to analyze for the most common PBDE's in commercial use. Other common BFR's which are likely to be found in the environment, such as the PBBs', polybrominated diphenyl ethanes, and hexabromocyclododecane, will also be examined.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Massachusetts DEP's Electronic Drinking Water Reporting Program Update

By Damon Guterman, MA DEP
Drinking Water Division

1:30 p.m. OSHA's Laboratory Standards

By Kim Castillon, CIH, CSP. OSHA

Ms. Castillon will be providing an overview of the OSHA Laboratory Standards, Compliance Assistance and Enforcement activities. She will also provide some insight into what we might expect when OSHA comes knocking on your door.

Elections

The following nominations will be submitted to the membership for 2007:

Secretary - Laurel Stoddard, ESS Laboratory
Treasurer - Steve Hartmann, STL

The ITLA is requesting additional nominations for these positions prior to the yearly meeting. Please contact Don Falcone at 617-416-4164 if you would like to be nominated for either of these Executive Committee Officer positions.