Technical Expert Working Group Conference Call

Friday May 30, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

DRAFT CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

EPA Region 3 and contractors: Rick Rogers, Jennie Saxe, Kathy Martel, and Laura Dufresne

The Washington Aqueduct: Tom Jacobus and Lloyd Stowe

DCWASA and contractors: Rich Giani, Maureen Donnelly, and John Civardi

George Washington University: Marina Moses

Falls Church City: Bob Etris

Arlington County: Dave Hundelt

DC Department of the Environment: Collin Burrell

DC Department of Health: V. Sreenivas, Pierre Erville

Agenda

There were no changes or additions to the agenda. The meeting agenda is included as Attachment A to this call summary.

Summary of Discussions by Topic Area

1. WASA Pipe Loop Update

Rich Giani provided a graph of the DCWASA control pipe loop prior to the TEWG call. He noted that the lead release in the loop continues to be stable, with levels generally between 5 and 9 parts per billion (ppb). Compared to last year, peak levels are lower and the variance is less. Lead release has not increased due to the switch to chloramines after the chlorine burn.

Rich reported on a conversation that he had with Mike Schock regarding the lead service lines. Based on Mike's analysis of the pipe sections, he believes that the scales are still changing and that there are multiple passivation layers. Rich has sent additional lead service line sections to Cincinnati for 3-D scale imaging.

2. Aqueduct Pipe Loop Update

Lloyd Stowe provided an update based on data available through May 1st. Data show continuation of same findings with no changes due to the recent chlorine burn. Lead

levels in the Aqueduct pipe loops are expected to increase slightly with increasing water temperature.

The Aqueduct continues to see higher particulate lead levels in the pipe loop as compared to the DC system. Vern Snoeyink has reviewed the data and believes that the high levels may be caused by particulate calcium in the feed to the pipe loop. The Aqueduct is still investigating this theory but hopes to provide more information within the next several months.

3. Observations from the Chlorine Burn

Bob Etris (Falls Church) reported few complaints of chlorine taste and odor. IDSE sampling conducted during the chlorine burn period showed no elevated levels of TTHM or HAA5. Rich Giani reported that DCWASA received daily customer complaints for chlorine taste and odor, but less complaints than last year. Rich had not received DBP monitoring results from chlorine burn period. The Aqueduct lab reported that 1 sample was high (near 100 ppb) and other samples <80 ppb. Rich also noted that HPC levels were very low during the chlorine burn period as compared to last year and that DCWASA observed a faster return to chloramines in the system after switching back from free chlorine.

4. WASA LCR Update

Rich Giani reported that DCWASA will finish collecting LCR samples this week. Laboratory results received to date show 2 of 79 samples exceed the 15 ppb action level. Outstanding results include one more batch of 15-20 samples that is being processed now, and the samples collected this week. Rich expects that the final result will show the 90^{th} percentile below the action level.

5. Student Fellowship Project Updates

Two graduate students are conducting projects for EPA Region 3 this summer. A graduate student from University of Kentucky is developing a source water monitoring strategy for emerging contaminants. A graduate student from Duke is conducting GIS modeling to identify undeveloped lands in the Potomac River basin that are a priority for source water protection. Her model is based on a similar model developed for the Schuylkill River basin near Philadelphia. The final product of this study will be a map that can be shared with local governments and agencies to help influence protection of open spaces.

6. Update on Perchlorate Sampling Project

Jennie Saxe provided an update on the project based on 7 months of available data. The purpose of the study is to determine the levels of perchlorate in the Potomac River. Perchlorate has been detected in every sample using Method 332.0, which has a detection limit of 0.01 ppb. The highest perchlorate level observed to date is 7.6 ppb in raw water

near Hagerstown, MD in October 2007. The highest perchlorate level observed in WA system is 3.7 ppb (raw) and 3.1 ppb (finished). All samples in 2008 have had perchlorate levels <1 ppb and most samples were < 0.5 ppb. Jennie will share data TEWG members but indicated that she would not be able to post data to the website at this time.

Rick Rogers noted that EPA Region 3 is working with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in aggressive NPDES permit negotiations to limit perchlorate discharge for a known perchlorate discharger on the Potomac River.

Attachment A: Call Agenda

- WASA pipe loop update
- Aqueduct pipe loop update
- Observations from chlorine burn
- WASA LCR update
- Student fellowship projects updates
- Update on Region III perchlorate sampling project
- NPDES permitting discussions
- Next scheduled call: Friday, August 22