Technical Expert Working Group Conference Call

Friday June 5, 2009
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

EPA Region 3 and contractors: Jennie Saxe, Jeffrey Kempic, George Rizzo, Laura Dufresne, Meredith Irwin

The Washington Aqueduct: Lloyd Stowe, Anne Spiesman

DCWASA: Rich Giani, John Civardi

DC Department of the Environment: Maureen McGowan

Center for Disease Control: Larry Franklin

HDR: Steve Reiber

City of Falls Church: Matthew Jacobi

Virginia Department of Health: Hugh Eggborn

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. DCWASA pipe loop update

Rich Giani distributed over 2 years (January 2007 – January 2009) of lead monitoring data from DCWASA's pipe loop to the TEWG via email prior to the conference call. The data do not show spikes for the switch to and from chlorine treatment during the months of April and May.

2. Washington Aqueduct pipe loop update

Mike Chicoine distributed updated lead monitoring data from the Aqueduct's control pipe loop to the TEWG via email prior to the conference call. Lloyd Stowe reported that lead concentrations continue to decline, although total lead is still slightly greater than dissolved lead in the summer.

Jennie Saxe relayed comments from Mike Schock to the TEWG. Mike suggested that the Aqueduct install a granular activated carbon (GAC) column before the pipe loops system. The GAC column would remove organics which may be contributing to higher total lead values compared to dissolved lead values.

3. Post-chlorine burn check-in

The chlorine burn was conducted in the Aqueduct's service area from April 6 to May 4, 2009. Rich Giani noted that a similar number of customers as last year complained of taste and odor changes in their drinking water during the chlorine burn. Based on water quality sampling, Rich believes that the burn was effective.

Rich added that DCWASA completed their monthly disinfection byproduct (DBP) monitoring around the fourth week of the chlorine burn. Total trihalomethanes (TTHM) results were below 80 ppb and haloacetic acids (HAA5) results were below 60 ppb.

4. LCR sampling check-in

Rich Giani reported that the lead levels for the most recent Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) monitoring round are the lowest DCWASA has seen; the 90^{th} percentile is at 6 ppb. Rich added that of the 102 homes that were sampled, only 3 exceeded the action level. Two were close to the action level and one sample was approximately 85 ppb. Two of the three homes sampled also had galvanized pipe and samples from these homes had high iron concentrations. Jennie Saxe asked if DCWASA tracks the lead levels of individual homes over time. Rich responded that among the homes that monitor for lead frequently (about every 6 months), DCWASA has not seen an overall pattern of decreasing lead levels.

Matthew Jacobi stated that the City of Falls Church is on reduced monitoring for the LCR; the next monitoring round for the system is this summer. Falls Church has conducted a few lead evaluations at the request of customers, however, over the last year and the levels remain low.

5. Washington Aqueduct schedule for upcoming treatment changes (caustic soda and hypochlorite) and EPA review process

Lloyd Stowe stated that under the current schedule, the hypochlorite will go online on or before November 30, 2009 and caustic soda on April 1, 2010 at the McMillan Plant. The

Dalecarlia plant will change over to hypochlorite in April 2010 and caustic soda in May 2010.

Jennie Saxe noted that, as the primacy agency, EPA Region 3 is required to review the treatment changes under the LCR and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). The LCR requires the primacy agency to review and approve long term treatment changes to ensure that they do not cause corrosion problems in the distribution system. Under LT2, if a system changes disinfection practices after the first round of *Cryptosporidium* monitoring, the PWS must recalculate the *Giardia* and virus disinfection profiles and benchmarks based on the new treatment change.

HDR performed an engineering review of the potential impacts of the treatment change for EPA. Mike Schock also reviewed the proposed changes. Mike's biggest concern is that a minimum orthophosphate concentration of 0.5 mg/L may be too low. EPA Region 3 will take Mike's concern into consideration during their review of these treatment changes.

John Civardi asked if the Aqueduct has evaluated the potential impacts of using caustic soda on lead corrosion. Lloyd Stowe noted that caustic and hypochlorite were used for pH control and disinfection in the Aqueduct's original pipe loop studies. Jennie added that the Aqueduct and DCWASA will continue to look closely at the distribution system data for early indicators to ensure that the water quality does not change significantly.

6. Update on DCWASA water quality outreach effort

Rich Giani noted that the Water Quality Division at DCWASA recently hired a risk communications specialist to assist in its public outreach campaign. DCWASA is in the process of creating an avatar for the water quality website, similar to the avatar "Trish" who is on the billing section of DCWASA's website (**www.dcwasa.com**). If a user clicks on an area of the water bill on the website, Trish will talk to the user about the bill. DCWASA is creating a virtual presentation about water in the home and at the treatment plant. The presentation will focus on actions customers can take in their home (e.g., overview of water treatment process, maintaining water quality in homes, how to dispose of pharmaceuticals) and what these actions mean for their water quality.

The next TEWG call will be held on August 28th; unless an earlier meeting is requested.

Attachment A: Call Agenda

* DCWASA pipe loop update
* Washington Aqueduct pipe loop update
* post-chlorine burn check-in (Aqueduct, DCWASA, Arlington Co., Falls Church)
* LCR sampling check-in (DCWASA)
* Washington Aqueduct schedule for upcoming treatment changes (caustic soda and hypochlorite) and EPA review process
* Update on DCWASA water quality outreach effort (DCWASA)
* next call (August 28)