

Technical Expert Working Group Conference Call

Friday August 22, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

DRAFT CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

EPA Region 3 and contractors: Bob Smolski, Jennie Saxe, Kathy Martel, and Laura Dufresne

The Washington Aqueduct: Tom Jacobus and Mike Chicoine

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, William Slade

DC Department of Health: 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. Personnel Change in EPA Region 3

Bob Smolski is temporarily filling the position left by Rick Rogers who was recently promoted. Bob's background is in Clean Air Act and legal issues. Welcome Bob!

2. Aqueduct Pipe Loop Update

Mike Chicoine indicated that a small decrease in lead levels was observed from May 1st to the present, as compared to similar periods in 2006-2007. Additional testing is underway to evaluate the differences between total and dissolved lead levels. At the next meeting, WA will have more data to present.

3. WASA Pipe Loop Update

Rich Giani provided a graph of the DCWASA control pipe loop prior to the TEWG call. He noted that a small increase in lead as high as 10 ppb was observed following the conversion back to chloramines; however, peak lead levels are much lower as compared

to the same period last year (peak lead levels of 15 ppb were observed in July 2007). Peak lead levels lasted a month this year as compared to two months last year. The difference between 2007 and 2008 may be due to the pipe loop construction that occurred last year. Lead levels are generally between 5 and 9 parts per billion (ppb).

4. Flushing Program Update

Rich Giani provided an update on DCWASA's flushing activities. The goal for this year is to flush 45 percent of the distribution system mains. The crews are on schedule and have flushed 25 percent of mains to date. DCWASA also flushes areas of the distribution system in response to customer complaints and evaluates these areas for possible needs such as redesign or looping.

5. Phosphoric Acid Update

A conference call was held at the end of June to discuss recent drastic increases in the price of phosphoric acid, from \$700 per ton to \$5,500 per ton. Mike Chicoine said that WA has several months supply of phosphoric acid. The current contract runs out September 30th. Jennie Saxe will distribute two recent articles on the phosphoric acid pricing issue.

6. Region 3 Review of Hypochlorite and Caustic Implementation

Jennie Saxe notified the group that EPA Region 3 has initiated a review of data from WA regarding changes to hypochlorite and caustic usage. The Lead and Copper Rule Short Term revisions, promulgated last Fall, require agency review of any treatment changes that may affect corrosion control and lead and copper levels. Region 3 has arranged contractor support to conduct this review. The treatment changes are expected to be implemented in the year 2010. It was suggested that existing pipe loops at WA and/or DCWASA could be utilized to assist this review.

7. Large Water Users Workshop

Region 3 is planning a workshop for large water users such as universities and facilities managers to discuss water quality issues in buildings. The workshop will be held on October 28th (tentative date) at the George Washington University Marvin conference center. Jennie asked the group to send her names of large water users to invite. Jennie will distribute the agenda when available. This workshop will be limited to large water users in the DCWASA system. A regional workshop open to suburban systems may be considered for next Spring depending on the results of this workshop.

8. Update on Perchlorate Sampling Project

Jennie Saxe provided an update on the project based on data through June 2008. The purpose of the study is to determine the levels of perchlorate in the Potomac River. June data show a slight increases in perchlorate levels at all sample sites. Two of eight sites

had perchlorate levels slightly greater than 1 ppb. All other samples had perchlorate levels <1 ppb. For July sampling, system operators were asked to collect samples following July 4th to see if fireworks had any effect on perchlorate levels. Jennie will distribute results after the July data are available.

Attachment A: Call Agenda

- * Call for any additional agenda items
 - * Personnel change in EPA Region 3
 - * Washington Aqueduct pipe loop update
 - * DCWASA pipe loop update
 - * Flushing program update (DCWASA)
 - * Phosphoric acid supply update (WA)
 - * Hypochlorite and caustic implementation/review (WA and EPA)
 - * Large water users workshop (EPA)
 - * Update on Potomac perchlorate sampling project (EPA)
 - * Next call: Friday, December 5, 2008
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