

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Technical Expert Working Group Conference Call

Friday June 1, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

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

The Washington Aqueduct: Patty Gamby, Anne Spiesman

DCWASA: Rich Giani

George Washington University: Marina Moses

City of Falls Church: Bob Etris

Arlington County: Dave Hundelt

DC Department of the Environment: William Slade

DC Department of Health: V. Sreenivas

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 Data

Richard Giani e-mailed the most recent pipe loop data to the TEWG prior to the meeting. He reported a slight increase in lead levels directly following the conversion from free chlorine back to chloramines. Levels quickly decreased to below the action level in both pipe loops.

2. WA Pipe Loop Data

Patricia Gamby submitted results from the WA pipe loop study for the control racks to the TEWG. Both total and dissolved lead increased slightly near the end of the burn period. Patty attributed this to temperature effects. Total lead continued to remain significantly higher than dissolved lead in all three control loops. Patty reported that this was the case for the entire WA pipe loop study for these loops.

3. Observations from chlorine burn (WASA, VA utilities)

Rich Giani reported that WASA continued to receive 2 to 3 customer complaints per day of a strong chlorine odor through the entire chlorine burn. In all cases, either the customer was able to address the odor by running the tap or DCWASA crews were able to reduce the odor through spot flushing. Bob Etris and Dave Hundelt reported that Falls Church and Arlington received very few customer complaints. Neither DCWASA nor the Virginia utilities saw an increase in coliform positives or HPC during the burn period.

4. Update on Compliance Sampling

Rich Giani reported that his office has gotten results from almost all compliance samples collected for the first half of 2007. Lead levels are low, with only a handful of samples over 15 ppb. He believes that DCWASA will easily meet the LCR action level. Rich also reported that DCWASA is continuing to investigate to correlation between the presence of galvanized steel plumbing and elevated lead levels. All homes with lead results greater than 15 ppb had substantial amounts of galvanized plumbing.

5. Potomac Perchlorate Monitoring Study

Rick Rogers reported that the perchlorate study is progressing well. Region 3 is working with participating utilities to develop public information language in case elevated levels are observed during the study.

6. Action Items, Agenda Items, and Other Issues

Rick Rogers asked for input from the group on the frequency of TEWG calls. Several group members noted that although they believe that the calls are useful and should continue, they are not sure that the monthly frequency is necessary. Several participants suggested a quarterly schedule for TEWG calls, with the option of changing the frequency back to monthly if problems arise. Rick Rogers said that he generally agreed with the suggestion and would send out an e-mail to confirm the new schedule.

Attachment A: Call Agenda

- WASA pipe loop data
- WA pipe loop report
- Observations from chlorine burn (WASA, VA utilities)
- Update on compliance sampling (WASA)
- Potomac perchlorate study (EPA)