Technical Expert Working Group Conference Call

Friday August 24, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 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 and contractors: Rich Giani, Maureen Donnelly, and John Civardi

George Washington University: Janet Phoenix

Arlington County: Dave Hundelt

DC Department of the Environment: William Slade, Collin Burrell

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. WA Pipe Loop Data/CH2MHill Pipe Loop Report.

Patty Gamby e-mailed the most recent pipe loop data for Rack 7 to the TEWG prior to the meeting. She reported a recent increase in lead concentration that tracked with temperature, but no lead spike following conversion back to chloramines after the chlorine burn. Patty noted that the final CH2MHill report for the pipe loops would be completed soon and distributed to the TEWG.

Rick Rogers noted that the particulate lead levels appeared high compared to dissolved lead. Patty responded that that WA has historically seen particulate lead spikes in Rack 7, but would check into this and make sure that this phenomenon is discussed in the final report.

2. WASA Pipe Loop Data

Rich Giani e-mailed the most recent pipe loop data for Loop 1 to the TEWG prior to the meeting. Rich reported that lead levels have risen slightly with recent increases in temperature, but that WASA did not see a spike following the conversion back to chloramine after the chlorine burn. Rich also reported that Loop 3 is stabilizing and

beginning to track well with Loop 1. WASA plans to use Loop 3 as a second control loop for the system.

Patty Gamby asked if WASA had observed temperature effects on lead release. Rich responded that because the loops are in a controlled environment, WASA does not see significant temperature fluctuations in the loops.

3. Lead Profiles Performed During CL2 Burn

Rich Giani reported on two homes that were profiled before, during, and after the chlorine burn. The first home, which has a lead service line and all copper plumbing, showed low lead levels before and during the burn, with a lead peak around 10 parts per billion (ppb). The profile after the burn showed a slight increase in the peak lead level to approximately 15 ppb. (*Rich later distributed all three profiles to the TEWG*). The second home has galvanized plumbing. Lead levels in these profile samples were highly variable and did not exhibit any trends.

Rich noted that he and Maureen Donnelly are reviewing water quality data collected this year as compared to last year to determine the effectiveness of the chlorine burn for the DCWASA system. Preliminary findings show that nitrite decreased this year compared to last year, but that HPC's are higher this year compared to last year beginning in late May. Maureen and Rich are investigating possible correlations between increased HPCs and other water quality parameters. One possible reason for the increase is that the fire department was operating many of their hydrants in May and June. After Maureen and Rich have consolidated the data, they are considering contacting Anne Camper to ask her opinion on the HPC increase.

4. Investigation of Galvanized Pipe and High Lead Levels

Rich reported progress on the new AWWARF project which is looking into effects of galvanized piping on lead corrosion. Based on preliminary monitoring, DCWASA has found that lead levels from homes with lead service line and galvanized pipe are up and down, with no discernable pattern. DCWASA is in the process of doing a partial lead service line replacement which will be followed by a 60 day sampling period. WASA will then replace the rest of the service line and sample for another 60 days.

5. Caustic/hypochlorite Conversion Status

Patty Gamby reported that WA and CH2MHill recently held their kickoff meeting for the design of the new caustic and hypochlorite systems. She noted that the project is on an expedited schedule, with final design expected within approximately 9 months and construction complete approximately 18 months thereafter.

6. Potomac Perchlorate Monitoring Study

EPA is working with states and water systems in the Potomac river basin to monitor for perchlorate in raw and finished water at a frequency of once per month for approximately 1 year. Historical perchlorate monitoring has revealed very low levels; however, EPA knows of occasional releases of perchlorate from upstream facilities into the Potomac. The purpose of the study is to collect enough data to show that perchlorate is truly not a concern in the Potomac.

Rick Rogers reported progress on the monitoring study. The study has been delayed because of additional review time needed by EPA headquarters to finalize draft outreach material (outreach material is being provided to water systems in the event that they detect perchlorate above 24 ppb). Rick noted that EPA Region 3 has already purchased sample bottles and kits and hopes to begin sampling by October 2007. He also noted that the results of the monitoring study will be shared with the TEWG.

7. Action Items, Agenda Items, and Other Issues

Rick Rogers reported that the Environmental Working Group (who published the recent report on high disinfection byproducts in DC water) is considering conducting additional monitoring for emerging contaminants such as endocrine disruptors, personal care products, etc. USGS is several months away from publishing their findings on emerging contaminants in the Potomac. USGS representatives told Rick that they would share findings with him and others in the TEWG before they officially release the report to the public.

Rick Rogers explained that EPA Region 3 has an opportunity to hire a student intern through the National Network for Environmental Management Studies Program (NNEMS). Rick offered that if WA or WASA has a need for a student intern, EPA Region 3 could hire one through this program provided that WA/WASA provide a brief description of the project by close of business.

Attachment A: Call Agenda

- WA pipe loop data/CH2M Hill pipe loop report (WA)
- WASA pipe loop data (WASA)
- Flushing status (WASA)
- Lead profiles performed during Cl2 burn (WASA)
- Investigation of galvanized pipes and high lead levels (WASA)
- Caustic/hypochlorite conversion status (WA)
- Perchlorate project update (EPA)