

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Technical Expert Working Group Conference Call

Friday August 28, 2009
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

DRAFT CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

EPA Region 3 and contractors: George Rizzo, Laura Dufresne, Anne Jaffe Murray

EPA ORD: Darren Lytle

The Washington Aqueduct: Tom Jacobus, Anne Spiesman

DCWASA and contractors: Rich Giani, John Civardi

Center for Disease Control: Larry Franklin

HDR: Steve Reiber

Arlington County: Dave Hundelt

DC Department of the Environment: 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. DCWASA pipe loop update

Rich Giani provided an update to the DCWASA pipe loop study. He indicated that lead levels were at their lowest and averaged around 6 ppb. DCWASA are awaiting the results from 20 LCR compliance samples that were collected in July. Pierre questioned why the Washington Aqueduct (WA) pipe loop studies yielded higher lead results than those performed by DCWASA (see the next section for WA's response to this question). Rich indicated that the DCWASA pipe loop lead results correlate well with lead levels measured in LCR compliance samples.

2. Washington Aqueduct pipe loop update

Tom Jacobus distributed over 2 ½ years (March 2007 – September 2009) of lead monitoring data from the WA's pipe loop to the TEWG via email prior to the conference call.

In response to Pierre's questions, Anne Speisman indicated that WA's pipe loop results follow a seasonal pattern. WA is trying to eliminate variables associated with non-representative particulate lead. In addition, the DCWASA and WA pipe loop designs and operational procedures are different; therefore, the same results would not be expected. The former exposes water to lead pipes for 24 hours then removes the water for analysis. The WA pipe loops are continuous flow-through.

Pierre asked which of the pipe loop studies reflects real world data. As noted previously, Rich indicated that the DCWASA pipe loop data are consistent with LCR sample results. Tom indicated that the focus of the pipe loop study is to look for trends and not to try to compare absolute numbers. Anne added that the difference in sampling techniques used in the pipe loop studies versus compliance samples make comparison between the two data sets difficult. Darren Lytle confirmed that one should not expect good correlation between pipe loop and distribution sample results.

Pierre questioned whether there was a flaw in the design for one of the pipe loop studies if WA is finding particulate lead in their pipe loop results and DCWASA is not. Darren noted that ORD's pipe loop studies are yielding lead results of 100 – 200 ppb and reemphasized that these results are difficult to correlate with distribution system results. Rich also stated that scales are sensitive and that construction or other vibrations can disrupt lead scale from pipe loops. Steve Reiber added that pipe loops by design have larger lead surface areas than typical distribution system plumbing and therefore, water flowing through the pipe loops is exposed to more lead than in typical distribution system.

3. LCR sampling check-in (DCWASA)

This subject is covered under topic #1, *DCWASA pipe loop update*.

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

The EPA Region 3 draft approval letter is still undergoing review. Tom Jacobus stated that under the current schedule, the Dalecarlia plant will change over to hypochlorite in April 2010 and caustic soda in May 2010. Tom added that the physical project is coming along well and that WA is looking into issues as requested by EPA.

5. Update on DCWASA water quality outreach effort

Rich Giani provided an update on DCWASA's efforts to create 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 final draft for the water quality avatar is expected to be completed by September 30, 2009.

6. Washington Aqueduct PO₄ dosage study

WA has no plans to lower the PO₄ at this time. WA plans to conduct a year long study in which it will test higher and lower dosages using new pipe loop set ups and improved instrumentation.

The next TEWG call is scheduled for December 4, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.

Attachment A: Call Agenda

- * DCWASA pipe loop update
- * Washington Aqueduct pipe loop update
- * LCR sampling check-in (DCWASA)
- * Washington Aqueduct schedule for upcoming treatment changes (caustic soda and hypochlorite) and EPA review status
- * Update on DCWASA water quality outreach effort (DCWASA)
- * Washington Aqueduct PO₄ dosage study