

Water Quality Advisory Work Group
Meeting Summary
October 9, 2007

Welcome and Introductions – Sherry Smith, Technical Support, Wastewater Permitting Section

Water Reclamation Facilities – Brad Castleberry – Lloyd Gosselink Blevins Rochelle & Townsend PC

- The City of Midland filed a petition for reclaimed water
- Tried to create a rule that is simple
- The ability to scalp raw sewage – would be much more cost effective
- In the process of getting stakeholder meeting together
- City of Midland has support from many cities in Texas. Including Fort Worth, SAWS, San Angelo, etc.
- Commissioner's did not adopt the rule, but instructed staff to go forward with initiatives
- The City of Midland has a POTW out of town, to treat it, The City of Midland would not have to build lines across town

Storm Water Permitting Updates – Cindy Hooper, Storm Water & Pretreatment Team

- The Storm Water Team has two new staff members
- On target with E-Permitting
- Encouraging electronic submittals
- All data entry is current and up to date
- Please see the **TPDES General Storm Water Permits** Handout for updates

Pretreatment Updates – Jill Russell, Storm Water & Pretreatment Team

- Thank you to stakeholders for participating in the Pretreatment Streamlining Rule revisions to the federal regulations that were published on October 14, 2005.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has now published several "Fact Sheets" to explain the Pretreatment Streamlining Rule, and Fact Sheet Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8 are now available on the epa.gov website.
- The required elements of the Pretreatment Streamlining Rule have now been incorporated into the TPDES permit language and fact sheet, along with annual report updates.
- The TPDES Pretreatment Program audit reports now have language that refers to the Pretreatment Streamlining Rule modifications that will be required with the next TPDES permitting action (or of the tracking plant for those control authorities with more than one wastewater treatment plant in their system).
- Checklists to streamline the Pretreatment Streamlining Rule modification submittals will soon be placed on the TCEQ website.

- The EPA has recently published a Fact Sheet for *Controlling Fats, Oils, and Grease Discharges from Food Service Establishments*, July 2007, that supports the TCEQ's House Bill 1979 Model Standards for a Grease Ordinance, available since October 2004.
- The EPA headquarters has issued a memorandum dated August 23, 2007, that informs the EPA regional offices of the recent approval of the analytical method for mercury, EPA Method 245.7.
- The EPA states that:
 - Only the most sensitive methods such as EPA Methods 1631E and 245.7 are appropriate in most circumstances for use in deciding whether to set permit limits for mercury [permit applications] *and* for sampling and analysis of mercury pursuant to the monitoring requirements within a permit [for determining compliance with a permit]
 - EPA Method 1631E has a quantitation level of 0.5 parts per trillion (ppt) and Method 245.7 has a quantitation level of 5.0 ppt.
- The TCEQ is currently revising the *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards*, January 2003 which may include the new mercury approved analytical method as well as other additional pollutants and their analytical methods and minimum analytical levels (MALs).

Chapter 217 Design Criteria Revision – Louis C. Herrin, Technical Support

- Two new staff members to help with Plans and Specs
- The Division is starting to track the Ch. 217 process
- More individual and full blown reviews are coming
- In the final stages of getting the Design Criteria finished, scheduled for Agenda on January 30, 2008, copies should be available by this date as well.
- Should be approved to be published in the Texas Register around February 8, 2008.
- 30 day comment period starts after it has been approved.
- Trenchless Technology has been added to the Design Criteria
- Checking to see how secure Chlorine is at the plants. There have been many cases of stolen chlorine cylinders.

Water Quality Standards Update – Sidne Tiemann, Water Quality Standards Team

- The November 5, 2007 workgroup session has been postponed until further notice. The agenda for that meeting was to follow up on:
 - Recreational Uses
 - Whole Effluent Toxicity testing
 - Based on workgroup comments, we are going to discuss final options with management
- Nutrients:
 - We are acting on comments from the workgroup
 - Adding more data for reservoirs with few data points
 - Looking into a surrogate for total nitrogen, such as ammonia or nitrate + nitrate
 - Assessment questions and comments
 - Number of years to use in the assessment

- Standards attainment and assessment. Working with TMDL and SWQM to resolve issues and comments from the workgroup.
 - Low flow exemptions
 - Representative sample definition
 - Use of surface samples vs. profile samples
 - Geomean for bacteria
- Toxics:
 - Mercury – TCEQ proposed 0.7 mg/kg
 - EPA's number is 0.3mg/kg
 - EPA has indicated that 0.7 is not acceptable

Other topics for discussion

- The Water Quality Seminar will be held on November 15-16, 2007 in Round Rock
- Reclamation Stakeholder meeting will be held on November 12th from 1pm – 5pm
- Ch. 217 Agenda is scheduled on January 30, 2008
- The next Water Quality Advisory Workgroup Meeting will be held on January 8, 2008