

# Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

## Drinking Water Advisory Work Group

February 02, 2010, Building E, Room 201S, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

### SUMMARY

#### **Welcome – Elston Johnson**

- To participate from your computer, please email [Mike Howell](#).
- Introductions
- TCEQ staff updates

#### **Utilities & Districts – Doug Holcomb**

##### *f* Rule updates

- HB 1295 – CCN notice added for counties and groundwater conservation districts
- SB 2126 – allows apartment complexes to add a 9% service charge for submeter's
  - Hearing is February 22
  - Rule update information can be located on the [website](#).
- SB 2306 – depreciation bill. It is going back to the Commission for consideration on March 10<sup>th</sup>, no date yet for hearing
- Districts regulatory guidance's (RGs). Five have been drafted and should go
  - out this week for review and input.
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) – TWDB mailed out Intended
- Use Plan (IUP) solicitations, 200 responses, TCEQ will rank them and TWDB will publish the IUP in late May or June.
- Sunset – TCEQ is going thru sunset review.

#### **Licensing update – Allan Vargas**

- 1,545 new applications received
- 1,252 renewed
- There is a 33% difference between license applications received and those issued. Due to deficiencies, no payments, not passing exams or other reasons.
- Computer Based Testing (CBT) = The next rollout of exams will be Water and
- Wastewater D, C and B exams. The estimated date of completion is August 31,
- 2010. Currently the TCEQ has 13 test sites that are ready to provide proctoring services. The TCEQ plans to have another 25 available by the end of March, 2010. You can see the complete list at the following [website](#).

- A survey is being conducted for a job task analysis for surface water. If your staff is asked to participate please encourage your staff to assist the TCEQ in participating with the survey.
- If you have any questions please feel and contact [Allan Vargas](#) or 512-239-6139.

### **Texas Small System Training Program – Joy Schultz**

- Provides free cluster training to operators of systems under 3,300.
- It is funded by EPA and ends August 31<sup>st</sup> or when the funds run out.
- Please invite Joy/Small Business to any events where they can market and promote this program. You can call them at 1-877-822-5349 toll free.
- 3,506 systems enrolled with 7,082 operators.
- 993 on-site training events and over 1,000 classroom events have been held.
- See the [Small Business website](#) for Assistance and more information.

### **Drinking Water Quality – Alicia Diehl & staff**

- Inorganic contaminants – Kristi Krieg
  - 109 arsenic violators
  - 46 fluoride (primary) violators
  - 41 radionuclide violators
- Disinfection by-products - Jessica Huybregts
  - 83 THM violators
  - 23 HAA violators
  - 13 both
  - Some of those public water systems have come back into compliance through treatment changes and flushing their distribution more effectively.
  - Group 3 & 4 letters are going out
- Inorganics – Debra Cerda
  - 53 nitrate violators – are there more because of drought? Treatment?
  - CCR update – 160 community systems are significantly noncompliant.
- TCEQ is using the University of Texas Arlington contractors to do outreach for new systems.
- Carbon tetrachloride – Gary Regner
  - Detections went from 3 unexplained in 2008 to 49 in 2009. This was unusually high so there was an investigation. It appears what the systems with detects had in common may have been compressed liquid chlorine. However there wasn't much data available on lot numbers, etc. The systems with detects will require quarterly monitoring and notice in their CCRs. The take home message is please track chemical usage by lot number to help provide data for any future investigations.
- EPA has asked all the states to look at their compliance data for schools, daycares and nurseries.

- The New York Times has been running a series of articles on drinking water.

### **Technical Review Oversight Team – Reyna Holmes**

- LT2 implementation – the trigger levels for e. Coli for crypto testing are being evaluated by EPA so please wait and we'll let you know what the levels are when EPA notifies TCEQ.
- SB 361 – the “generator bill” applies only to Harris County at this time. There is a template under “hot topics” at the following [website](#). New information will be posted there.

### **Cross connection control subcommittee – Joel Klumpp**

- This is a subgroup of DWAAG and meets quarterly. At the last DWAAG meeting there were three rule petitions submitted on cross connection control and backflow prevention. The Commission considered them at the December 9, 2009, agenda and denied the petitions. One suggestion that was taken was to qualify backflow incidents as accidents so they will require TCEQ notification.

### **Drinking water protection – John Schwildwacher**

- Ground water rule (GWR): 120 CT studies submitted, 2 denied & 10 pending.
- 50 plans submitted, 8 approved, 6 denied.
- Issue with ongoing positives at small systems. The GUI program is working with GWR folks. Staff is developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) on significant noncompliers (SNCs).
- Please check out the groundwater rule [website](#) and let us know if you have any suggestions or comments on making it more useful.
- You can still see the GWR presentations on the AWWA YouTube site.

### **Field Operations – Tracy Miller and June Ella Martinez**

- New folks as the public drinking water liaison and water team leader
- Working on the impact of the GWR on field operations staff
- Will post a draft handout for PWSs on the GWR for comments. Please make comments to June Ella by February 19, 2010.

### **Drought – Mike Lannen**

- Drought has not been “undeclared” yet.
- We still have dry areas of the state.
- Drought maps are updated weekly at TCEQ and monthly on the DPS website.
- There is a discrepancy in the dots on the map and the numbers as a result of purchased water & the variety of sources.
- PWSs are using drought contingency plans to manager drought.
- 2009's total of 342 ended in third place since records have been kept since
- 1996 for the number of public water supplies asking customers to limit outside water usage see map.
- A copy of the drought map is attached.

## **Update on SB 1757 & pharmaceuticals study – Jessica Huybregts**

(Attached Presentation)

- This bill required that a study be submitted to the legislature by December 2010 on unused pharmaceutical disposal.
- The focus is on prevention, not treatment.
- First advisory group meeting was Tuesday, January 26, 2010. There was a good turnout. There are lots of stakeholders and the group will be meeting monthly. It is an open forum stakeholder meeting.
- They are working on a questionnaire to get data on pharmaceutical disposal in Texas.

## **Source Water Protection presentation – Camille Sowell & Tina Petersen of CDM**

(See Attached Presentation)

### ***Announcements***

- AWWA & WEAT hosting Texas Water in Corpus Christi April 13 – 16, 2010
- PWSs can join TXWarn at the following [website](#).
- Independent Water and Sewer Companies of Texas (IWSCOT) are meeting Friday, February 12, 2010. For more information contact Mark Zeppa.
- South Central Membrane Association is meeting at the same time as Texas Water Utilities Association February 22 – 24, 2010 in Corpus Christi.
- The survey on how to improve the DWAAG has some suggestions on how to make the meetings more interactive and of what you want to hear about of which we received good feedback. We want to start responding to some of your requests to help serve your needs.
- The next DWAAG meeting is **April 20, 2010**.