

Summary
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Drinking Water Advisory Work Group
September 9, 2003
TCEQ Complex, Building F, Room 2210
12015 Park 35 Circle (I-35 North between Braker and Yager)
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Welcome/Introduction - Buck Henderson

PDW Program Update - Tony Bennett

- S EPA has granted an extension to TCEQ for the Rad-Chem rule, Arsenic, and Backwash.
- S The Rad-Chem and Arsenic rules are in pre proposal at the TCEQ .
- S The comment period closed on Monday, September 8, 2003 for Backwash rule.
- S The TCEQ Arsenic and Backwash rules should become effective before the federal effective date.
- S LT1- Adoption due 1/04
- S EPA is projecting the GWR to be final by the end of the year.
- S Radon may be finalized by EPA Dec by 04
- S EPA proposed the DBP2 on August 11, 2003 and LT2 on August 18, 20003. Both were proposed with a 90 day comment period.*****(UPDATE - EPA has extended the comment period for an additional 60 days)*****
- S **New/Revised MCLs:**
 - Coliform Rule proposal maybe in 2004
 - Perchlorate and MTBE are possible new contaminants to be regulated.

LTI & FBRR Update - Jack Schulze

- S The Chapter 290 rules comment period have been closed as of September 8, 2003. The technical staff has not yet received copies of the official comments. TCEQ is hoping to make an October or early November agenda for adoption.
- S Staff is currently developing the Recycling Practices Report form which will probably end up being 2 – 3 pages long plus a plant schematic. The new form should be ready and in the hands of the plants by mid-November with a submission deadline of January 1, 2004.
- S Post-meeting information

Five individuals representing a variety of interests submitted comments submitted a total of 23 comments on the proposed language. Staff is currently reviewing the public comments and have prepared responses for internal review by September 16.
- S The “semi-official” tentative timeline for the adoption process extends to early/mid December and may need to be extended into early 2004.

Disinfection Guidance & Monitoring Plan-Alicia Diehl

The draft guidance document (RG-407: *Public Water System Distribution System Disinfection Guidance Manual*) for reporting disinfectant residuals that had been sent to the DWAWG members for comments in August was reviewed. Key comments from the DWAWG included:

- S Provide clarification on whether disinfectant residual samples must be collected by a licensed operator.
- S Provide clarification of applicability: monitoring applies to all systems, but reporting is only for community and nontransient noncommunity systems.
- S Make it clear that disinfectant residual collected at same time and place as coliform sample counts as disinfectant residual sample for purposes of this reporting.
- S Could make it clearer that there are no changes to the sample collection or analysis, just this additional quarterly report to send in.
- S Address the concept of entry point sampling versus distribution system sampling. Some systems may have the system’s only continuous chlorine monitor at the entry point sample site. Technically speaking this would have a potential negative impact on a system’s MRDL levels, but if it would make it easier for them to meet the sampling requirements, we could approve it on a case-by-case basis.

S A suggestion from a member not present was that the Ground Water Purchased Water Monthly Operating Report be submitted. Alicia's concern was that tracking the daily monitoring violations thus identified would be onerous, and would detract from the importance of the minimum residual issue.

Follow-up: Alicia will contact Operator Licensing for clarification, and add this to the Guidance, and will make the other revisions and send the revised document to the Disinfection Subcommittee by email.

Source Water Assessment & Protection Update - Greg Rogers

S The TCEQ Source Water Assessment & Protection (SWAP) program has completed 93% of the public water system assessments and is finishing the work on the Edwards Aquifer. This work is expected to be completed by December 2003. The SWAP team hosted a conference in August to cover the approach and methodology used in the assessments and covered the future application of the assessments in source water protection, alternative monitoring, and CCRs.

S The TCEQ is interested in soliciting broad stakeholder involvement in determining the assessment language to be used in the CCRs. The reports that were sent to the public water systems were much more detailed and specific than what will be included in the CCRs. The TCEQ will host a SWAP/CCR public forum in October to discuss this issue.

Perchlorate Update - Steve Walden, Special Projects manager

Reported on progress in the investigation on perchlorate occurrence in High Plains groundwater.

S TCEQ's research partner, Texas Tech University (TTU) is doing an outstanding job thus far. The study should be near completion by 12/31/03.

S Over 500 wells have been sampled and have yielded a regional understanding of perchlorate concentrations and distribution. Sampling is nearly complete.

S TTU has just completed the first exploratory monitor well in this area and is presently doing sediment extractions to locate the exact location of the perchlorate in the Earth's crust.

S A new publication by USGS (an "open-file report") was discussed which seems to link perchlorate to certain evaporate mineral deposits. This ties nicely to one of our hypotheses that perchlorate is naturally occurring in this region.

FOD Update- Bob Burrell

S The FOD did around 4,000 investigations of PWS facilities in the past fiscal year and our work plan for this year will be to do the same number.

S We lost 2 people to retirement last fiscal year, but that should not affect our workload performance for this fiscal year. We have a few vacancies that we anticipate filling this year. We did not have any major complaints.

Utilities & Districts Program Update - Joe Strouse

S U&D organizational changes

S GASB 34 Financial Management Guide that is available on the web

S Districts Creations that have legislative interest

S Capacity Development Stakeholder's Meeting in November at the Pickle Center

S Dorothy talked about the State Revolving Fund and changes we're anticipating.

Expense Reimbursement Grant (ERG) - Noreen Helmle

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT GRANT:

S Section 1419 (d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes the EPA to reimburse the costs of training and licensing fees for persons operating community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer and or 1,100 connections.

S TCEQ submitted a Grant Application to EPA for an Operator Certification Expense Reimbursement

Grant (ERG) that was approved in FY03.

S EPA awarded a \$7,532,800 grant to TCEQ with no state matching funds required.

S CSD has established a three year period for completion of this work.

S A Request For Proposal was posted in August 2003.

S RFP is for a CONTRACTOR who will act as Training Administrator.

S CONTRACTOR will:

develop, implement and oversee comprehensive training program including on-site CLUSTER Training and MULTI-MEDIA Training.

locate multiple APPROVED TRAINING PROVIDERS (3-10) through the RFP process.

Train TRAINING PROVIDERS, coordinate CLUSTER training and oversee the reimbursement for additional training to Operators.

S TCEQ has final approval authority of all CONTRACTOR tasks.

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT GRANT TRAINING:

S This grant allows for CLUSTER training of up to two operators per small water system.

S On-site CLUSTER training will provide hands-on training for operators on their systems.

S Grant also provides reimbursement for additional classroom training for eligible operators.

S Operator Licensing fees are paid for through this grant.

S No travel or per diem expenses will be paid. Training will be provided locally.

S DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS AND OPERATORS:

Statewide there are 5,500 small water systems serving less than 3,300 in population.

Statewide there are 11,303 small water system operators.

HANDOUT ATTACHED:

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF SMALL WATER SYSTEMS IN TEXAS
SERVING 3,300 OR FEWER POPULATION**

TCEQ Region	Type of Water System										Total # of Opers	Total # of WS	Avg # Opers
	Community					Nontransient / Noncommunity							
	GW	SW	PGW	PSW	GWUI	GW	SW	PGW	PSW	GWUI			
1	87	1	3	13		38					268	142	1.9
2	103	1		5		38		1	3		193	151	1.3
3	35	22	6	62		11	3		7		379	146	2.6
4	582	16	5	75	3	58	1		2		1504	742	2.0
5	323	21	5	46		41	2		3		1003	441	2.3
6	54		2	1		20	1		2	1	106	81	1.3
7	70	2	9	3	2	44	1	4			154	135	1.1
8	36	2	3	2		16	1				126	60	2.1
9	270	9	6	17		25	2		1	1	685	331	2.1
10	349	11	3	11		37	3		6		823	420	2.0
11	193	28	6	17	8	33	3				555	288	1.9
12	1151	6	52	14	2	622	12	9	22		3423	1890	1.8
13	336	5	3		2	96					1570	442	3.6
14	82	3	2	18		38	3	1	8		334	155	2.2
15	12	11		17		9	2		6		104	57	1.8
16	37	5	1	2		9		1			76	55	1.4
Totals	3720	143	106	303	17	1135	34	16	60	2	11303	5536	2.0

Stakeholder Updates:

Mike Howe with the Texas American Water Works Association

- S September 19, 2003 TAWWA will have a new rule Teleconference: 14 downlink sites locations.
- S Ultraviolet and Membrane Technologies
September 22, 2003 - September 23, 2003
Arlington Water Utility Service Center
Training Room
1100 SW Green Oaks Blvd.
Arlington, Texas 76017
- S Teleconference - Utility Case Studies: Facing Everyday Challenges
Location Name: Austin Address: Joe C. Thompson Conference Center
Dean Keaton (26th) & Red River
Austin, Texas 78701, 10:30 AM until 2:30 PM CST, November 6, 2003, 12 noon-3:30 p.m.
EST
- S AWWA/WEF Water Sources Conference and Exposition- January 11-15, 2004, Austin, Texas

Charles Maddox with the City of Austin:

- S Interested in Filter Backwash and CCR's
- S Major Issue: On line monitoring equipment

Community Resource Group:

- S Security training for small systems
September 12, 2003

Mark Zeppa-IW&SCOT

- S Fall Seminar September 12, 2003
Embassy Suite North at 8:30-3:30

Brian Sassaman - US Air Force

- S Concerns on Military population count estimates

Next Meeting:

December 9, 2003, TCEQ Complex, Building F, Room 2210
12015 Park 35 Circle (I-35 North between Braker and Yager)
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