

SUMMARY

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Drinking Water Advisory Work Group
September 10, 2002
9:00 am - 12:00 noon**

! Welcome / Introduction - Buck Henderson

! PDW Update - Buck Henderson for Tony Bennett- (hand out)

The handout was information on the Public Water System Rule Schedule.

- LT2 and DBP2 are being delayed several months

! Source Water Assessment & Protection Update-Dave Terry

(1)September will be a transition month. We expect to install the SWAP software on TCEQ computers and begin running assessments. We will run a small batch, inspect the results for QA/QC, make and adjustments necessary, and begin full scale implementation by October.

(2)We expect and are required to complete all of the assessments by the federally mandated May 2003 deadline.

(3)Texas Rural Water Association, the TCEQ Source Water Protection contractor, completed its second year of the contract in the DFW area with all deliverables submitted on time and under budget.

! UCMR-Ken May

(1)UCMR monitoring scheduled for 2001 through 2003.

(2) 40% of PWSs completed during 2000 - 2001, leaving majority, @ 60 %, of participating PWSs to monitor in 2003.

(3)Texas has 11 large systems, >10,000 population served, participating in UCMR List II Aeromonas monitoring in 2003.

(4)by 2005 EPA is to report on at least 5 of the List I contaminants, with decision on whether to regulate or not at least 2 contaminants from List I.

(5)From the UCMR Lists I & II, we have had three hits, all for Perchlorate. One was at the Four Way WSC in Angelina County and this sample has been invalidated. The other two were the City of Midland and the City of Levelland.

S Perchlorate is an anion used in manufacture of rocket fuel, air bags, fireworks, pyrotechnics, geophysical exploration, matches, and some fertilizer.

S When ingested, perchlorate inhibits the uptake of iodine by the thyroid gland. The thyroid gland uses iodine to produce the thyroid hormones, triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4).

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Consequently, exposure to sufficient levels of perchlorate leads to decreased thyroid hormone levels, or hypothyroidism.

S Short-term hypothyroidism in the fetus or in children up to 3 years of age leads to permanent effects such as delayed development of reflexes, impaired fine motor skills, lower IQ, and learning disabilities. Short-term hypothyroidism in adults leads to a lowering of the basal metabolic rate, which in turn affects various organ systems throughout the body. However, these effects, such as hair loss, weight gain, fatigue and muscle cramps, are reversible. Long-term exposure to high levels of perchlorate can also cause thyroid tumors.

(6)There are currently 4 federal facilities monitored in Texas for perchlorate. These sites are monitored under our Remediation Programs. These sites are monitored due to a history of perchlorate use onsite or verified perchlorate contamination onsite. These sites are:

S Pantex, Amarillo

S Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant (LHAAP), Karnack (Caddo Lake)

S National Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP), McGregor (Lakes Belton & Waco)

S Red River Army Depot, Texarkana

(7)The TCEQ monitors all PWSs in the immediate vicinity of the NWIRP McGregor site. The NWIRP McGregor, and the LHAAP in Karnack are the only two sites with perchlorate releases off site.

(8)Twenty one states in the nation have had at least one perchlorate hit w/ UCMR monitoring.

(9)In 1998 the TNRCC received notice from EPA that there were two sites in Texas which had a history of perchlorate storage, transport, or use. The TNRCC investigated this report and found perchlorate contamination at both sites.

(10)Texas has a problem but not like other states.

(11)California has shut down 16 water wells due to perchlorate contamination.

(12)The Governor of California has challenged the state legislature to regulate perchlorate at 6 ppb, by 2004.

(13)Perchlorate can be removed from drinking water by RO & Anion Exchange.

! Drought-Mike Lannen (hand out)

Drought 2002:

(1) For the Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of September 1, 2002 in Texas:

S The total number of Community water systems affected: 77, Eight (8) total number of community water systems got resolved, 51 systems are under mandatory restrictions and 18 are asking customers to voluntarily reduce water usage.

S The total number of active Community water systems in Texas: 4,563

(2) Resolved

S A public water supply has completed necessary production capacity deficiencies, or drought conditions for mandatory water use restrictions have alleviated.

(3)Watch-Voluntary

S A public water supply that has reported problems with high usage and water production, but has

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not suffered a loss of distribution system pressure. Voluntary water use restrictions have been implemented.

(4) Watch-Mandatory

S A public water supply that has reported problems with high usage and water production, but has not suffered a loss of distribution system pressure. Mandatory water use restrictions have been implemented.

! Capacity Rule Update - Tom Napier

(1) The agency has completed its internal review.

(2) We will request approval from the commissioners on September 13, 2002, to publish the proposed rule in the Texas Register.

(3) If published as proposed the comment period will end November 4, 2002.

(4) The rule would be effective January 8, 2002.

! LT1ESWTR and FBRR Regulatory Development- Jack Schulze

(1) We will be convening a working group to begin drafting the state regulations needed to implement the federal LT1ESWTR (Stage 1 of the Long-Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule) and FBRR (Filter Backwash Recycle Rule) rules. The major issues involved are:

S LT1: whether to make the compliance date for individual filter monitoring (for small systems) match the implementation date for other federal rules (01/01/04) or to just adopt the federal date (01/01/05). The dates differ because the feds missed their anticipated LT1 promulgation date by 12 months.

S FBRR: whether to adopt the federal rule by reference (a one time report) or to incorporate some of the more useful components of the FBRR into the monthly reports that all surface water treatment plants must submit each month.

(2) Other issues the workgroup will need to address include:

S Plant Lab: drafting a requirement for minimum lab space/design

S Chemical feed: consider moving chemical feed to own section like chlorination

S Chlorination: revisiting the minimum requirements for housing chlorination facilities

S Certified Operators: consider requiring additional lab training for plant superintendent/operator-in-charge

S Workgroup will probably meet only once in November and do the rest of the work by correspondence.

(3) New publications:

S RG-211 (SWMOR instructions) being printed and a cc will be sent to each plant

S RG-195 (Rules & Regs for PWSs) being printed and will be available in 60-90 days

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- S RG-346 (Drinking Water Standards) being printed and will be available in 60-90 days
- S RG-384 (Monitoring Plan Guidance) is in final edits, final draft will be sent to printer and a copy mailed to all small surface water treatment plants within 30-45 days.

(4)A new Web page has been created to help PWSs find most of the reporting forms, instructions, etc that they use.

! Operator Certification-Juanita Lopez

(1)Check Your Renewal Hours On-line!

Water and Wastewater Operators - You can now access license information at the Agency's web site. Search by name and license type to find the expiration date and number of CEU's earned toward renewal. You can also get a listing of operators in a specific county or region by selecting specific search criteria.

Check it out! http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/enforcement/csd/ocs/ocs_search.shtml

(2)Automated Telephone System

We are also in the process of implementing an automated telephone system. The system will provide callers recorded information and direct you to the appropriate program and staff. You will always have the option to speak to one of our staff members directly. Please help us help you by utilizing the new web site and options on the telephone answering system whenever possible.

*The main number for Water Operator Licensing is (512) 239-6133 and the Wastewater Operator Licensing main number is (512) 239-0170.

(3)Examination Results

Due to recent rule changes and in an effort to provide a more timely review of applications and exams, we will no longer be providing examination results over the telephone. Applicants will receive their results in the mail within 4 - 6 weeks, if not before. However, you can periodically check the web site and if the license you tested for is shown, that means you passed the exam and the license was issued. If it is not listed, the exam either has not been processed, there is an application deficiency, or you did not pass the exam. Please be patient and keep checking the web site.

(4)Application Fees

As of January 1, 2003, the Water and Wastewater application and renewal fees will increase to \$70 for a 2-year license and \$105 for a 3-year license.

(5)Name Changes

S As of September 1, 2002, the TNRCC will change its name to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Your current license issued by the TNRCC will remain valid until it is renewed or replaced by a higher license.

S The Operator Certification Section is changing to the Operator Licensing Section, part of the Compliance Support Division.

(6)Surface Water Course Update

S The Surface Water I course is now available. The Surface Water II course is not yet available. Because the Surface Water II course is not available, applicants for a Surface Water license will need to complete Basic Water, Surface Water I, and one Elective course. Applicants are

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encouraged to take the Water Laboratory course as the Elective course when possible. If the old Surface Water Production course (Unit IV) has previously been completed, that will be accepted in lieu of the Surface Water I course requirement.

- S All surface water systems are required to employ one Class B Surface Water operator as of January 1, 2003.

(7)Web Site

You can quickly access useful information at the Operator Licensing web site, such as examination schedules, Need-to-Know Criteria, licensing requirements, rules, and program updates.

Please visit our web site at <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/enforcement/csd/ocs/>

*The expense reimbursement grant application and workplan had been sent to EPA and our understanding is that we would be receiving a grant before the end of September.

* There was recommendation from the Sunset Commission to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation that 5 occupational licensing programs be transferred from the TCEQ to that agency. BPAT (Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers), CSI (Customer Service Inspectors), Water Treatment Specialist (WTS), Landscape Irrigators, and Underground Storage Tank Installers.

! Utilities Districts Program Update - Doug Holcomb

(1) Chapter 291 Rules were approved several weeks ago

(2)Chapter 293 Rules coming before Commissioners Friday Sept 24

(3)Capacity Development Governor's Report due at the end of the month. This is a requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act

(4)followup:

S Utility Rates Seminar

S 150 attended, some were cities, districts, WSCs, IOUs

(5)using our web page the CCN county maps are now available and downloadable

(6)Water Conservation Workshops are available on the TCEQ web page

(7)Jeff Saitas wants all permit backlogs to be reduced to zero by the end of this year.

(8) GASB34 for water districts have been released by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board designed to improve the fiscal and operational accountability of governments and will enhance the audit report's understandability and usefulness impacting water districts.

! TRWA-Ken Petersen

(1)Rules revisions need more stakeholder input, example is the easement and solid waste billing issues.

(2)TRWA would like:

S Field Opps to interpret the rules consistently, some are not clear to them

S more dialog on "unwritten policy" and how they are implemented.

S develop regulatory guidance with use of stakeholder input, need more dialog.

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- S to encourage more outreach training.
- S UCMR samples guidelines.
- S to be included on all mail outs to utilities so that they are informed through mail outs instead of just through the web for advisor work groups as well.
- S for CCN applications, more input on the need to have service request.

! TWCA-Dean Robbins

- (1) Reiterated comments previously made that Associations should receive courtesy copies of general mail-outs, and that regulatory guidance documents should be developed with as much public input as possible.
- (2) Complimented the drinking water program as one of the best at the agency, due significantly to maintaining a stable and qualified staff.
- (3) Thanked Doug Holcomb and his staff for participation in a meeting in Houston to discuss changes in accounting procedures (GASB 34) for water districts,
- (4) Mentioned two other significant issues TWCA is currently involved in- the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee interim charge for oversight of special districts, and 5 environmental issues related to surface water permitting.

! AWWA Texas Chapter-Mike Howe

- (1) Security Issues: large utilities received \$115 thousand dollars of federal money to conduct venerable availabilities.
 - (2) working with the White House and Congress to get the security Grant money restored
 - (3) Research foundation to have two (2) day work shop here in Texas to train small utilities
 - (4) some of the concerns are no funding available for small water systems.
 - (5) Working on legislation to protect attacks on systems.
- S Can we come in to an agreement on this? Forms were sent out for water systems to request free video of security telecast.

! Mark Zeppa-IW&SCOT

- (1) What current formal TCEQ policies are in place for CCN, and what is standard for meeting those policies? The policies are a shifting Pendulum that keep changing over time. Municipalities are consistently treated differently than other utilities.
- (2) Mark has formally requested that the 8/3/99 regulatory guidance adopted from the three commissioners to have the DRAFT be taken off, even though the rules have undergone minor changes with little substantive impact.
- (3) IWSCOT is now available on the web site at: www.iwscot.org.

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! Charles Maddox-City of Austin

- (1) issue on subject LT1 and filter back wash water watchers
- (2) to cut the large group to a smaller group
- (3) vulnerable of assessments protected by EPA from FOIA

! Security Issues - Buck Henderson

- (1) December 31, 2003 large water supply vulnerable assessments through EPA grants due.
 - S After vulnerable assessments emergency response plans are due six (6) months.
 - S 3,300-49,999 population vulnerable assessments are due June 30, 2004.
 - S 50,000-99,999 population vulnerable assessments are due December 31, 2003
 - S 100,000 or greater population vulnerable assessments are due March 31, 2003
- (2) Large water system grant funding in Texas
 - S 32 Water systems approved for funding
 - S 36 Water systems eligible for funding
 - S 33 water systems applied
- (3) James Fisher Acting Executive Director of TWUA
- (4) Developing a work plan for EPA security grant of \$1.167 million.
- (5) Public issues and education so people will understand
 - S educational outreach/training
 - S development of security training modules for operator certification

! Upcoming Training, Conferences, Meetings & Public Forums

- S IWSCOT Friday September 13, 2002
- S Criminal Environmental Law Enforcement - Training Conference October 15, 2002
- S Tele Conference November 7, 2002
- S ASDWA Annual Conference September 29-October 3- Salt Lake City, Utah

! Next Meeting Date/Location/Topics

December 10th, Bldg F 2210 from 9-12

Noon Adjourn