

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Summary for Drinking Water Advisory Work Group
TCEQ Complex, Building F, Room 2210, September 13, 2005
12015 Park 35 Circle (I-35 North between Braker and Yager), 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Welcome/Introduction: Alicia Diehl, Team Leader, Drinking Water Quality Team, Water Supply Division (WSD).

- Drinking Water Advisory Work Group (DWA WG) members, guests, and attendees introduced themselves and their affiliation.

TCEQ Staff Updates: Federal Rules

Arsenic Implementation

- ~ **178** potential arsenic violators
- Mostly located in Ogallala & Gulf Coast Aquifers
- Two Alert Letters have been sent
- DWA WG members will be invited to Oct. 25th Arsenic Training at TCEQ, Bldg. F, Room 2210, 9AM - 4PM
- Arsenic is source water contaminant
- **No fines** are involved or paid to TCEQ
- Will begin calculating compliance beginning January 23, 2006
- Based on running annual average (RAA)
- Notice of Violation (NOVs) will be issued to systems if RAA exceeds MCL
- Notice of Enforcement (NOE) will be issued
- Compliance agreement will be issued by enforcement

Groundwater Rule:

- Groundwater rule was not promulgated but is expected soon
- Groundwater rule was proposed in year 2000

Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct (DBP2) rule

- TCEQ will send mailouts related to new Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule. Issues to be worked out with EPA because EPA has sent letters to some inactivated systems.
- Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct (DBP2) rule affects distribution systems, and is based on how many people are served
- EPA Region 6 Water Section Chief, Blake Atkins, has long history with surface water treatment systems so will be very good at implementing Long Term Stage 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule early implementation element of Crypto monitoring for large (over 10,000 population) systems.
- Painful thing for water systems under Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule is “combined” distribution systems. Only 38 Texas systems are actually over a 100,000 population, but 150 systems are included in the combined distribution system.
- First systems affected by Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule rule will be
 - systems serving > 100,000 people
 - &
 - systems that are considered combined systems - they buy from the same supplier that a system over 100,000 buys from IDSE is Initial Distribution System Evaluation under Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule
- We will send letter to systems to confirm system interconnections for the IDSE. The system will state yes, connected or no, not connected. Then return the letter to TCEQ. This will count for the IDSE Sample Plan
- Result is sampling plan will be modified so TCEQ’s contract sampler collects correct number of samples for IDSE
- We will send letter to system stating where sampler is to collect samples. System representatives will state yes, or no and return letter to TCEQ. That will count as the IDSE Report.

Technical Review & Oversight - Marlo Wanielista Berg: PDW 290 Rules & Technical Review & Oversight Team (TROT)

- ° Thanks to all who contributed to revision of 290 rules
- ° Rules will open for additional public comments in approximately one (1) year

HB 2230

- ° Rainwater treated then used for drinking water

Drinking Water Protection: Greg Rogers, Team Leader, Drinking Water Protection Team

- ° Ground water Rule/ Raw samples - anticipating the rule. Have begun developing new process for tracking raw samples and notifying systems of violations if samples not submitted. Reminder letter expected to go out in October to remind systems of their raw sample requirements.
- ° Source Water Assessments - Required to re-run all the assessments during FY 06. Have made some changes to improve the non-point source susceptibility results. We do not plan to have a mass mail out as we did in 2003. May consider providing electronic reports and may have some information available through the web.
- ° New Federal Measures - EPA requires us to report public water systems that have implemented “substantial” source water protection. We want to be able to include protection activities that water systems and their partners (river authorities, councils of governments) have undertaken independent from the TCEQ program. An example of this could be a comprehensive watershed protection strategy that takes drinking water into account but was not necessarily developed as a Source Water Protection project.
- ° First Source Water Protection project for FY 06 expected to be in North Central Texas and focusing on the systems using lake Tawakoni. We are looking forward to working with the Sabine River Authority.
- ° CCR - There was discussion that after the 2004 CCR the SWAP language would have to develop even further. This issue has not come up and from all communications with stakeholder groups and EPA, the 2004 language was a suitable compromise, and the same language may be pursued for the 2005 CCR.

Comments from audience:

- ° CCR is supposed to be about finished water, not source water
- ° Electronic version of maps showing capture zones could be posted on TCEQ web site.

Homeland Security Mike Lannen for Judy Rogers, Ph.D., TCEQ PDW Homeland Security Coordinator

- ° TCEQ has purchased “eclox” test kits to detect drinking water contamination in the event of a potential threat. Plans are to issue a test kit to each regional office.
- ° Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) will do lab analysis of drinking water as part of a contract with TCEX to collect background data on selected water systems in their area. This data will be loaded into a data base for future use of the eclox test kits. It is hoped that background data can be collected for all community public water systems.
- ° TCEQ has contracted with TCEX to develop a 6-hour class for public water system representatives
- ° Modules will have Four (4) sections
- ° TCEX will also create a brochure for systems listing suspicious things public should look for. This will be called “water watchers” and will be patterned after existing neighborhood watch programs. Geared toward water system facilities.
- ° Audience suggestion: Place information on homeland security on TCEQ web site

Field OPS Division (FOD)-Elston Johnson

- ° Field operations
 - ° PDAs have been issued for inspectors to do investigations
 - ° The investigators will continue to issue exit interviews before inspector leaves the site
 - ° “areas of concern”
 - The violation considered areas of concern must fall into Category C of the Enforcement Initiation Criteria.
 - The violation does not involve a potential harm/impact
 - The violation was not documented in the prior 12 months.
 - The violation considered “areas of concern” must be resolved in 14 days or they will appear in the Notice of Violations
- Public access to complaints on TCEQ home page (see hotlinks)
- 24 staff on-site in Baton Rouge, LA assisting with floodwater sampling and hazardous materials assessments.
- Staff are also assisting with assessments of public water systems

Robert Cummins, Utilities and District Section:

- ° Applications ask more information from applicants, which should allow staff to process high application workload quicker than in the past.
- ° Reviewing §293 rule package from last leg. session.
- ° Road power rules (review bond debt along with water, wastewater, and drainage debt).
- ° Stakeholder meeting tentatively scheduled for October or November.
- ° PAR has been dissolved and duties moved back to program area..
- ° Vacancies
 - ° Plan Review has an Engineer V posting, closes this Friday
 - ° Districts Review has 3 vacancies: 1 Engineer III, 2 entry levels.

Operator Certification Update: Alexander Hinz (Handout)

- ° introduced internal policy for surface water courses for operator licensing
- ° Chapter 30 rule package delayed due to Legislative session.
- ° Operator Licensing Section is developing a new registration program for maintenance of aerobic on-site sewage facility systems.
- ° have cycled members off of water utility advisory group. Do have 5 vacancies on advisory team
- ° exam results will be posted on TCEQ website within the next month. Will pose directly from CCEDS database
- ° 1,900 systems involved in EPA grant program for small public water systems
- ° ~ 280 cluster trainings have taken place
- ° cluster trainings have not been advertised. Do take place according to regions. Kind of a grassroots get together.
- ° 373 regulatory guidance is pending

SURFACE WATER I AND II TRAINING COURSE REQUIREMENT POLICY

1. For individuals applying for the Class C Surface Water Treatment Operator License, we will accept the following TCEQ-approved 20-hour water operator training courses to meet the 60 hour training requirement: Basic Water, Surface Water I (or the old Unit IV Surface Water), and Surface Water II (or an elective - Water Laboratory, Water Distribution, Water Utility Safety, Water Utility Calculations, Chlorinator Maintenance, Pump & Motor Maintenance, or Valve & Hydrant Maintenance).
2. For individuals applying for the Class B Surface Water Treatment Operator License, we will accept the following TCEQ-approved 20-hour water operator training courses to meet the 120 hour training requirement: Surface Water I (or the old Surface Water Unit IV), Surface Water II (or an elective - Basic Water, Water Utility Calculations, Chlorinator Maintenance, Pump & Motor Maintenance, or Valve & Hydrant Maintenance), Water Distribution, Water Laboratory, Water Utility Safety, and Water Utility Management.
3. For individuals applying for the Class A Water Treatment Operator License, we will accept the following TCEQ-approved 20-hour water operator training courses to meet the 160 hour training requirement: Groundwater Production, Water Distribution, Water Laboratory, Water Utility Safety, Water Utility Management, Surface Water I (or the old Surface Water Unit IV), and 40 hours from the following water courses (Surface Water II, Basic Water, Water Utility Calculations, Chlorinator Maintenance, Pump & Motor Maintenance, Valve & Hydrant Maintenance, and Water Technology),
4. Beginning March 1, 2006, individuals applying for the Class C Surface Water Treatment Operator License will be required to complete the following TCEQ-approved 20-hour water operator training courses to meet the 60 hour training requirement: Basic Water, Surface Water I, and Surface Water II.
5. Beginning March 1, 2006, individuals applying for the Class B Surface Water Treatment Operator License will be required to complete the following TCEQ-approved 20-hour water operator training courses to meet the 120 hour training requirement: Surface Water I, Surface Water II, Water Distribution, Water Laboratory, Water Utility Safety, and Water Utility Management.
6. Beginning March 1, 2006, individuals applying for the Class A Water Treatment Operator License will be required to complete the following TCEQ-approved 20-hour water operator training courses to meet the 160 hour training requirement: Groundwater Production, Surface Water I, Surface Water II, Water Distribution, Water Laboratory, Water Utility Safety, and Water Utility Management.
7. Beginning January 1, 2007, in addition to meeting all other personnel staffing requirements, surface water systems with less than 1,000 connections and groundwater systems under the influence of surface water that utilize coagulant addition and direct filtration with less than 1,000 connections must employ at least one licensed operator who has completed both the Surface Water I and Surface Water II training courses.
8. Beginning January 1, 2007, in addition to meeting all other personnel staffing requirements, surface water systems with 1,000 or more connections and groundwater systems under the influence of surface water that utilize coagulant addition and direct filtration with 1,000 or more connections must employ at least two licensed operators who have completed both the Surface Water I and Surface Water II training courses.

Note: The Surface Water I course is a pre-requisite to taking the Surface Water II course. However, due to availability constraints, operators may take the Surface Water II course before the Surface Water I course **with training provider Pre-Approval**. Students who have already completed the Surface Water I course will be given priority over other students when enrolling for a Surface Water II course.

USGS Technician Presentation: George Ozuna, Supervisory Hydrologist, USGS TX Water Science Center

- ° USGS has several national programs
- ° USGS does long-term programs
- ° studies look at status of source water quality and trends
- ° urbanization in Edwards Aquifer area is affecting aquifer.
- ° the USGS looks at PAHs which looks at road sealant types on parking lots
- ° look at PAH in the simulated runoff

Study 2

San Antonio

- ° study on recharge zone water quality study
- ° model is complete so now predictions can be made to estimate the load an urban area could contribute

Study 3

- ° saline zone encroachment in San Antonio area
- ° study is to determine if pumping water wells allows salt water zone to encroach toward aquifers
- ° study developed real-time data

Study 4

- ° monitoring inflow to Lake Houston for clean rivers program
- ° do biological assessment, habitat quality assessment

Project Goals

- ° Look at dissolved oxygen content in Big Bear Creek after de-icing solution was used on aircraft in Dallas/Fort Worth airport area.

USGS looks at emerging contaminants such as food additives, pharmaceuticals, hormones, detergents, steroids, household and industrial compounds

This information is important because water is treated from surface waters, used by consumers, treated effluent is discharged into river then reused by other water systems

Audience Comments:

- ° Sample contractor will collect sample, based on sites selected by system, then system reviews TCEQ Sampling Plan, then sends letters to TCEQ stating they agree or why they disagree.
- ° Similar to UCMR sampling
- ° Combined system is system that gets water from neighboring system > 60 days per year
- ° based on population of the largest system within all the interconnected water systems
- ° TCEQ will continue to use Gant Chart
- ° UCMR II sampling will be same as UCMR I

List of Upcoming Training Conferences, Meetings, Public Forums

- ° Public Drinking Water conference in June was big success. Conference was at Hyatt Hotel in Austin.
- ° October 25th, arsenic training in room 2210 of Building F.

Stakeholder Updates, Issues & Upcoming Training Events- Alicia Diehl

upcoming events (see each association's website)

- ° **American Water Works Association:** AWWA Teleconference
- ° **Texas Rural Water Association:** TRWA Regional Conference
- ° **Independent Water and Sewer Companies of Texas:** IWSCOT meeting last Friday 9/9/2005
- ° **Water Environment Federation:** September 20th in Amarillo
- ° **Association of Water Board Directors**
- ° **Community Resource Group:** next meeting, December 6, 2005.

ALICIA DIEHL

- ° Interview systems ~ every 4 years to determine infrastructure needs
- ° TCEQ received larger amount of money for State Revolving Fund (SRF) of all states in the U.S. (~ \$60 million)
- ° website is in state of transition. Architecture of website should be fixed soon.

Next Meeting: December 6, 2005, Building F, Room 2210, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

The Water Quality Advisory Work Group will meet that afternoon at 1:15 pm.