

Summary
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Drinking Water Advisory Work Group
December 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

- S Buck introduced the new Team Leader for the Technical Review & Oversight Team of the Public Drinking Water Section, Ruben Alvarado.
- Ruben graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a B.S.C.E. in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Environmental Engineering. He began his state service in 1973 as an Engineering Assistant with the TDH El Paso Region Office and worked his way up the ranks with the Agency to the position of Chief of Surveillance and Technical Assistance at the TDH Austin Central Office. He left the TDH to assume a position with the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority as Director of Engineering.

PDW Program Update - Tony Bennett

1. A handout was provided on the Public Water System Rule Schedule.
S Four EPA rules have been finalized and are in process at TCEQ.
S EPA has granted an extension to TCEQ for the Radionuclide rule, Arsenic, and Backwash.
S LT1 and Backwash rules have been proposed and will go to the commission for adoption January 14, 2004.
S The Radionuclide and Arsenic rules are in pre proposal at the TCEQ .
S Arsenic and Radionuclide rules should be finalized by TCEQ by December 04.
S The projected EPA adoption date for the Ground Water Rule is Spring 04.
S DBP2 and LT2 rules are open for comment to EPA. EPA final adoption is projected for summer of 05.
2. An Arsenic & Radionuclides Stakeholder Meeting will be forming around the first part of January 04.

LTI & FBRR Update - Jack Schulze

Current 290 Rule Package

- S The Executive Director and two of the three Commissioners received briefings on the Chapter 290 rules in November.
- S Based on comments received during these briefings, staff made several changes to the rule package.
- S The proposed requirement to prepare "as built" plans for improvements that were constructed without plans has been removed. There was consensus that these plans can be required as part of the enforcement process that results when plans are not submitted prior to construction.
- S The agency will probably end up allowing small surface water treatment plants with only two filters to monitor Combined Filter Effluent (CFE) instead of monitoring individual filters under some situations.
- S there are 76 small plants with two filters
- S 57 of these plants already monitor Individual Filter Effluent (IFE)
- S of the 19 that remain, 9 indicate that they might elect to use the CFE alternative (and two of those are doing so because they plan to decommission their plant in 2005)
- S The stakeholder process for this rule package began November 2002.
- S The package will go to agenda on January 14, 2004 and, if adopted, should be effective by early February.

FBRR Implementation

- S Because the new rules were not effective by December 8, 2003, we are currently going to be implementing the federal Filter Backwash Recycle Rule (except that we're giving systems until December 31, 2003 to turn in their initial Recycling Practices Report).
- S We sent out a letter to all surface water treatment plants on November 14, 2003 informing them of the implementation schedule and we have posted the Recycling Practices Report form is on the PDWS web page along with an example of the completed form.

Disinfection Guidance & Monitoring Plan-Alicia Diehl

- S The changes that will impact systems serving 10,000 or fewer customers January 1, 2004 are ready for implementation: the Monitoring Plan Guidance (RG-384) and Disinfection Reporting Guidance (RG-407) have been mailed, and disinfection byproduct samples have been scheduled. We commend the members of the Drinking Water Advisory Work Group for the input they provided for these guidance manuals. Disinfection byproduct monitoring will be most difficult for small systems, where the \$300 cost of a sample set will be hardest to bear.
- S The Sample Cost Estimate letter will be mailed to all public water systems later in December. This letter will include more information about the specific schedule each system is on. For example, we will state whether the system has a vulnerability waiver because the water is not subject to contamination for some chemical. This letter (or a copy of it) should be kept with the system's Monitoring Plan.
- S Our current contract for chemical sample collection will expire August 31, 2004. We are currently working on the request for proposal that will initiate a new sample collection contract. We expect to request proposals in January.
- S Our data is "alive!" We strongly urge public water systems and their representatives to let us know immediately whenever they determine that TCEQ's data is inaccurate. Our goal is perfect data, and though we may never achieve that, we certainly will keep trying.
- S Larry Mitchell has retired from the Drinking Water Quality Team. Joaquin Montes has taken over his role of overseeing coliform and disinfection monitoring and compliance. Sally Paramo has joined the team, replacing Ted Johns.

Source Water Assessment & Protection Update - John Meyer for Greg Rogers

- S SWAP is working with our USGS partner in the completion of the SWAP code to assess public water supply systems using the Edwards aquifer. Testing continues to focus on the ground water and surface water capture zones and the attenuation of contaminants.
- S SWAP is also defining how to conduct an assessment for proposed wells. An assessment can be performed with only a few attributes, such as location, well screen placement, and well pumpage, SWAP can conduct an assessment to determine capture zone size and the potential sources of contamination that could impact the proposed well. SWAP feels that this is a nice application of the SWAP assessment tool for water system use in their efforts to plan new water sources.
- S SWAP has been assisting other sections within the agency with information from the assessment process. In the Georgetown perchlorate investigation, SWAP has used the capture zones from the affected wells to define the proposed project area for TCEQ investigation into potential sources of perchlorate in the Edwards.

Perchlorate Update - Ken May

A handout was provided on the Perchlorate and Physician Fact Sheet Perchlorate.

- S Perchlorate is a negatively charged ion, an anion, consisting of one chloride molecule with four oxygen molecules attached, ClO_4^- .
- S Perchlorate is used in the manufacturing of air bags, road flares, fireworks, fertilizer, and by the Department of Defense (DoD) as a rocket fuel additive.
- S Perchlorate is known to disrupt the uptake of iodine in the thyroid, decreasing production of the thyroid stimulating hormones, T3 and T4.
- S The TCEQ has been pursuing information on perchlorate through increased monitoring and participation in intra-agency and inter-state perchlorate working groups since late 1997.
- S To date, we have identified five sites through our Remediation and/or Superfund programs, are investigating two additional sites, and have identified a 30,000 square mile area comprising 44 counties in West Texas.
- S In Texas, 325 public water systems have participated in EPA's UCMR List I perchlorate monitoring. Sampling is 95% complete, ending December 31, 2003. Including the West Texas Study, approximately 500 public water systems have submitted samples for perchlorate analysis in Texas.
- S In Texas, we have 99 public water systems with detectable levels of perchlorate in their source water. 27 have perchlorate levels greater than the State Interim Action Level (IAL) of 4 parts per billion (ppb) in their finished water. 13 public water systems are able to remove the perchlorate prior to distribution by the use of reverse osmosis.
- S Under the UCMR monitoring program, the State of Texas has had nine detects for perchlorate. The City of Midland, the City of Levelland, City of Kingsville, Four Way WSC, City of Borger, West Cedar Creek MUD, City of Houston, City of Tyler, and the City of Georgetown. Three of these communities have confirmed levels of perchlorate, The City of Midland, the City of Kingsville, and the City of Georgetown. Follow-up sampling was all non-detect for perchlorate for the remainder.

- S Look for the Texas Tech University Water Resource Center to be presenting on their Phase II Summary of Results for the TCEQ contracted Perchlorate Investigation in the High Plains Aquifer of West Texas, throughout Texas in 2004. For information on current perchlorate research being conducted by TTU, and a copy of their Phase I Study Summary, go to: <http://www.tiehh.ttu.edu>.

Texas Water Development Board-Bruce Crawford

- S The Texas Water Development Board(TWDB), in partnership with the TCEQ announced the opportunity to seek funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended use Plan Solicitation for FY2005. The DWSRF provides low cost financing for publicly owned and some privately owned public drinking water systems. These loans are designed to bring existing public water systems into compliance with drinking water rules and regulations. In addition, special loan subsidies are available for entities that qualify as disadvantaged communities. Loans are also available for source water protection projects.
- S To participate in the DWSRF program each potential applicant must:
 - S Complete the applicable worksheets for the FY 2005 funding cycle, even if you sent in a response last year;
 - S Return completed information forms to the TWDB, postmarked no later than January 28, 2004; and
 - S Comply with good faith procurement requirements for Small, Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises to aspire to meet the fair share goals established by the U.S. EPA.
- S This information is available on the website at: www.twdb.state.tx.us

Utilities & Districts Program Update - Doug Holcomb

- S Districts Review Team is about to release the new District Financial Guide. The guide is a result of combining the District Audit Guide and The District Accounting Guide. Something driving this new guide is the release of GASB 34 which represents a significant change to traditional government financial reporting standards applicable to water districts
- S Chapter 291 & 293 rule package opened up with legislative implantations, the proposed rules will be published this spring. The Ch 281 rules are going through quad review at the agency.
- S The registrations for Submetered or Allocated Utility Services have increased from 300 registers in the mid 1990s to nearly 5000 registers this year.

Operator Certification Update -Juanita Lopez

- S The transfer into CCEDS (consolidated compliance enforcement database system) was successful
- S Operators now have unique numbers and for their licenses versus the social security numbers used previously
- S For the Compliance Support Division Tony Franco is the new Director
- S Lost Training staff - introduced Phil Clark who is a new training specialist
- S If submitting requests for training approval, please do it in advance with ample time as there may be a backlog
- S Expense reimbursement grant proposals are being reviewed and evaluated this week
- S Advisory Community-nominations have been received, but need a representative from the Panhandle
- S May need to get with the professional water related associations so that when reporting class or training hours, the license numbers can be used instead of the social security numbers

Public Drinking Water Section Manager-Buck Henderson

- S Funding for consultants to perform vulnerability assessments (VA) was available only for water systems serving over 100,000 population.
- S VA's due December 31, 2003 for Water Systems serving between 50,000 and 100,000 population.
- S VA's due June 30, 2004 for Water Systems serving between 3,300 and 50,000 population.
- S Emergency response plans (ERP's) are due 6 months after VA submittal.
- S ERP guidance for small and medium Water Systems will be published by EPA in January or February 2004.

Stakeholder Updates

Texas Rural Water Association-Tom Duck

- S Mr. Duck announced the training workshops held by TRWA to help smaller systems.
- S TWCA/TRWA Law Seminar to be held on January 22-23, 2004 in Austin, Texas at the Marriott at the Capitol, 701 E. 11th St.
- S Water Sources Conference and Exposition to be held on January 11-14, 2004 in Austin, Texas.

Austin Water Utility-Charles Maddox

S Long Term Stage II Rule comments to EPA

Community Resources Group-Barbra Monroe

S Working with small water systems to provide funding.

S A training seminar on security was held in September.

Independent Water & Sewer Companies of Texas-Mark Zeppa

S Mr. Zeppa announced the next annual meeting to be held on Friday, February 13, 2004, Embassy Suite North Austin, Texas.

Clean Water Action (CWA)-Sparky Anderson

S Concerned with information found in the bluebook regarding high levels of Prozac in Pecan Creek and other water ways.

Ground Control-John D Morton

S Mr. Morton had several handouts on information regarding Lawn Irrigation Systems and Backflow Prevention.

Other Issues- Tony Bennett

S Steve Walden will be retiring from State Service on December 31, 2003 after 29 years with the TCEQ and at least three predecessor agencies. Many of us have had the privilege of working with Steve. You are invited to an after hours celebration to honor Steve on the occasion of this milestone. Please join us at: Antonio's Restaurant, 7522 N IH 35, 5:00 pm, December 16, 2003.

Next Meeting:

March 9, 2004, TCEQ Complex, Building F, Room 2210
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9:00 am - 12:00 noon