

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Drinking Water Advisory Work Group
January 08, 2008
SUMMARY

Welcome/Introductions: Mike Lannen for Elston Johnson

TCEQ Staff Updates:

Licensing Rule Updates: Terry Thompson

- Chapter 30 Rule Package is now in effect
- Modified RG 373 Outlines submittal for approval
- License that had two years span now lasts for three years
- Rule Chapter 290
- Validity for registration went from two years to three years
- See TCEQ website- operator certification
- Faq for “D License renewal
- Renewal within 30 day grace period two years
- Next renewal will be for three years
- Testing computer based testing

Texas Small Public Water System Training Program Cassandra Derrick for Sandi Mota

- The TSPWSTP is an EPA-funded program of the TCEQ. It provides free water classroom and cluster training to operators working as small public water systems (NTNC or community) serving less than 3,300 people. The program also pays for licensing fees.
- There are two types of training: Cluster and Classroom
- Program does pay for license renewal including license upgrade (ex D-C) must have voucher to attend classroom training.
- No vouchers needed for cluster training.
- Operators who attend cluster training will received 10 Continuing Educ. hour
- The program has issued many vouchers to date.
- Operation company can be registered along with each PWS

Q: Can transient –non community PWS get voucher?

A: No

Technical Review & Oversight - LT2: Marlo Wanielista Berg

LT2

- The purpose of LT2 is to increase the public protection from cryptosporidium
- Several large PWS have already completed LT2 early implementation program
- Large systems (over 10,000 people) monitor for cryptosporidium to in surface water
- Small systems (under 10,000 people - and not in a combined distribution system) monitor for E. Coli
- If the E. Coli levels found by the small systems are above the trigger levels set by EPA, then the small systems will have to monitor for cryptosporidium.
- Schedules 1, 2, & 3 are working directly with EPA
- Schedule 4 (small systems) will work with TCEQ
- Very little cryptosporidium to have been found in surface water analyzed so far.
- TCEQ will visit with EPA to determine who will send the Bin letter for the large systems.
- There was a short discussion of weather it would be helpful for the TCEQ contractors to collect the E. Coli samples. No clear consensus was obtained on this issue.
- The EPA sample collection schedule is quite ridged and may not allow for TCEQ contractors to collect the E. Coli samples.

Cross Connection Control Workgroup: Amanda Jigmond

Cross Connection Control

Dec 6- subcommittee meeting

Discussed possible revisions to RG-206 & RG-345, and revisions to landscape irrigation rules

Discussed potential new staff guidance's on Cross-Connection Control

Discussed color coding of non potable vs. "very" non-potable pipes

Discussed backflow prevention at RV parks that connect water line to wastewater tanks

For more information contact Joel Klump 512-23-4453

Charlie Maddox suggested an upcoming subcommittee topic be the proposal to use a cross-connection control program as a compliance method for the Groundwater Rule.

Tony Bennett can be contacted to discuss current status & language of federal rule if anyone has questions.

Drinking Water Quality: Marie Knipfer for Alicia Diehl

The Sample Cost Estimate letter is being prepared for mailing to all public water systems. It has the estimated sampling schedules and laboratory costs for most of Subchapter F monitoring.

Consumer Confidence Report – Notices of violation will be mailed soon for CCR2006. We are gearing up to produce the report template for the CCR2007 for 4700 community public water supplies.

Lead Copper Rule minor revisions will go to rule making this year.

The Disinfection Byproduct Rule State 2 rule implementation for the Initial Distribution Study Evaluation sampling is in progress.

- 345 Group 1 systems (>100K in population and their receiving customers) finished monitoring 2007. Only 2 notices of violation will be issued for no sampling plan.
- 89 Group 2 systems (50-100K in population) started sampling July of 2007 and will finish June of 2008. Only 3 notices of violation expected for no sampling plan.
- 382 Group 3 systems (10K-50K pop) all submitted sample site plans except 5 which will receive NOVs. Will sample CY2008.
- 3834 Group 4 systems (<10K) – site plans due April 1 for the 500 system that will sample in 2009. The rest received small system waivers or 40/30 waivers.

February 19 – Distribution Seminar scheduled. DWA WG membership is invited. We hope that it will be video conferenced in the Region offices. It is a highly technical seminar of EPA and research based information about the biology of distribution including nitrification.

Drinking Water Protection Update: Joaquin Montes for Sean Ables

- Drinking water Protection total coli form rule
- Ground water rule
- December 2009 all PWS must comply with the rule
- Effects 5,000 PWS plus ground water systems and wholesalers of ground water
- Rule will have a huge impact on ground water systems
- Questions were asked about the distribution system rule- Tony Bennet said he could be reached for questions about that rule since he has an active role on the committee.

Utilities & Districts Update: Kim Grona for Doug Holcomb

CCN & Rates 291

- The 291 Rules package is scheduled to come before the Commission on January 16, 2008 and will be posted online. Open for comments for 30 days. A public hearing will take place on February 12, 2008.
- The 293 Districts Rule package will come before the Commission for publication on February 13 2008. There will be a 30 day comment period. A public hearing will take place on March 27, 2008

New Staff:

- Vera Poe is the new team leader for the Utilities Technical Review Team replacing David Laughlin.
- Skip Ferris is the new District Review Team leader replacing Rob Cummins.
- There is no back log in plans.
- The receivership position has been posted. For questions on receiverships, contact Andy Luther at 512-239-6179
- The CCN mapping project- the majority of all CCN maps are in digital format and the Mylar has been retired.

· The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) intended to use forms to be submitted to the board by January 25, 2008. See the TWDB website at the following webpage (LINK TO: <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/home/index.asp>)
There is an updated application for water or sewer CCN's posted at the following TCEQ website that includes the addendum. (LINK TO: http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/ud/publist.html#ccn)

Field Operations Division: for Monica Harris

Contract with U.T Arlington to do field investigations.

Contract will last through fiscal year 2008 and can be renewed for four more years.

Contract is only for small non-community water systems.

Q. Steve Blackhurst

Inconsistency between different interpretations of Rule depending on each TCEQ region.

A. Field staff training could address the issue. Please provide specific comments to DWA WG

DWA WG Stakeholder Updates, Issues and Upcoming Training Events: Mike Lannen for Elston Johnson

Dean Robbins with Texas Water Conservation Assoc: Jan 31 Water Law Conference

Ken Peterson with Texas Rule Water Association:

- Water Law Conference
- New Employee: Celia: duties include circuit rider for colonials
- LINK TO: <http://www.trwa.org/> for the law conference.

San Antonio Water System: Presently working on GW Rule

Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): Annual School March 3-5, 2008

Correction for the Following Meeting:

The Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) and the Texas Section AWWA (TAWWA) invite you to make plans to attend Texas Water 2008, March 25-28, 2008 in San Antonio, information is available at the following website:
<http://www.texas-water.com/>

The TEXAS WATER 2008 Conference Program is available at the following website:
http://www.texas-water.com/images/TW_08_Conference_Program_web.pdf

(Subject to additional modifications)

Please see **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** available at the following website:
<http://www.texas-water.com/conferenceprogram.html>

Tony Bennett with Turner Collie & Braden suggests rule changes: example switch from Chloramines should be done by "Rule" not by exception. That would alleviate backlog.

Response: Management has historically been reluctant to modification for rule changes

Steve Blackhurst with Aqua Texas

- cost of business is going up costs passed onto consumers
- Proposal take plans and specs into independent licensed engineer for review
- 10% rule
- Backup generator requirements
- Number of visits to a PWS based on population served
- Example number of times to go to PWS is too often
- Notice of Violation
- Example: paint chip on GW storage tank even though not through the primer
- has issue with remote monitoring and items that wholesaler would rather not include in their contract.

Brad Castleberry with Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT):

- Bill is being processed proposing a simpler process for disposing of reverse osmosis waste.
- Feb 27, date of proposal HB 2654

Jack Schulze with TCEQ

- Chapter 290 will be reopened soon to address legislative mandates regarding
 - Fire flow
 - Rainwater
- Concept memo has already been prepared and scope of the rulemaking is limited to what is in that memo
- It may be this time next year before we can reopen Chapter 290 for other matters.
- Although rulemaking has recently been limited to addressing federal requirements or legislative mandates, the existing commissioners may be more open to non-mandated changes compared to past commissioners.
- You may submit a petition for the proposed rulemaking to the executive director.

Don Thompson with TCEQ

- Through the Needs survey TWDB allocated \$200 million dollars in low interest loans to water systems in the past year.
- Actual needs for water systems in the state of Texas is in the billions 16-17 billion range from the 2003 Drinking Water Needs Survey listed on last regional after plan.
- Drinking water needs survey for 2011. Please have information available so you do not have to scramble in the final hours.

Tony Bennett with Turner Collie & Braden says EPA's view on distribution system issues. Limits were place on the estimate of distribution system restoration. The number going to congress should not be low balled.

Don Thompson with TCEQ says PWS should gather the information yearly not rather than wait four years (year 2011)

Tony Bennett with Turner Collie & Braden says Capital Improvement Project (CIP) states how you will spend the funds.

Don Thompson with TCEQ says PDW recognition program nomination due by April 1, 2008

Link to: http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/pdw/recognition/index.html

Please note the “NEW DATE” for the next DWA WG Meeting to be held on April 22, 2008. The meeting room has all been changed to E201's to provide a Teleconferencing (VTC). For questions concerning the location, please contact Debbie Reyes Tamayo at 512-239-4683.