

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Drinking Water Advisory Work Group
April 3, 2007
Building F, Room 2210
9:00-12:00 noon

Mike Lannen: Acting Section Manager

- Introduction
- Buck Henderson retired March 1,2007
- Interview process will begin soon for section manager position

Elston Johnson:

Field Operations focus investigation strategy will focus on the following drinking water issues:

- PWS Active Status determination
- PWS Cross Connection control program review
- PWS Bacteriological sampling and data review
- PWS Distribution system evaluation

Waiting on final sign-off to implement the focus investigation and risk-based investigation strategy in each media (air, water, & waste)

>Question -Attorney Mark Zeppa:
How will backflow process be evaluated?

>Answer:
Evaluated based on TCEQ rule

Judy Rogers:

- Homeland Securities issues

Working on project to pay labor or cost to pay electrician to build wiring harness for PWS serving populations <3,300. Utility pays for materials.

Also working on project to map infrastructure for PWS including:

- Lift stations
- Pumps
- Intakes

Map would assist emergency responders if buildings were blown away by a storm. Recommend PWS join REWAC or TXWARN, each organization provides assistance in an emergency.

>Question- Attorney Ken Peterson:

Proposed legislation (HB 927) recommends PWS join REWAC or TX WARN. Bill is a Mutual Aid Agreement. Bill was crafted by Capitol Area Council of Government (COG). Bill would solve problem of signing each document. Proposed bill is sitting in legislature and doesn't seem to have political support. There is still debate on who will manage PWS that have experienced a natural disaster. Present language addresses backhoes and clearing brush, more so than restoring service.

>Mike Lannen:

Drought-see map titled "Drought 2007 PWS Affected". There are still many PWS that are under water use restrictions. Expect more rain in the month of April.

- Mandatory water use restrictions (155)
- Voluntary (93)
- Resolved (38)

>Question-T. Bennett from Turner, Collin, and Braden (TCB):

Many PWS appear to use 'voluntary' restriction of water use, rather than mandatory water restrictions. PWS use conservation strategy because they know how to address drought issues.

Alicia Diehl

CCR (consumer Confidence Report) templates to go to TCEQ website by end of April 2007. Please provide comments to DWQ Team. CCR contains results (chemical and microbiological). TCEQ works with contractor who provides CCR template to PWS.

Comments: Mark Lowry (TCB):

Problem of providing chemical results when there is >1 wholesale provider. Difficult to get results to 'upstream' seller by April 1.

Comments: Difficult to know water content when four or five sources are blended before water goes to distribution.

>Answer- Alicia Diehl:

Samples are collected at each entry point. Analysis determines if water meets drinking water standards. PWS could analyze, in addition to compliance samples, for minerals and metals (~\$400.00)

If PWS blends, but monitoring plan is not up-to-date, please submit updated monitoring plan.

>Question-Mark Zappa:

Post CCR on website

>Answer:

PWS>100,000 population are to post on PWS website. TCEQ proposes posting of 'final' CCR on TCEQ website.

>Question:

Does CCR meet public notice requirement?

>Answer-Alicia Diehl:

TCEQ recommends PWS direct new customers to CCR on TCEQ website to see that water meets drinking water standards.

>Alicia Diehl:

DBP2-Letter recently sent to PWS serving <500 customers.

40/30 waiver letter recently sent to PWS serving <50,000 people.

UCMRZ:

- TCEQ signed partnership agreement with EPA.
- Delta Environmental will collect all UCMRZ samples.
- EPA recently sent letter to each PWS.
- TCEQ will soon create monitoring plan for UCMRZ.
- TCEQ UCMRZ website located at: goto UCMRZ

Greg Rogers

Drinking Water Protection (DWP)

Ground Water Rule:

DWP team will identify PWS that need to amend their monitoring plan to identify raw water bacteriological samples. Systems identified will be those that had previous coli form positive samples [coli form (+) & fecal coli form (+)]. Requests for proposal (RFP) DWP is looking to renew old contract or find new contractor. New contract will address 'sensitive' aquifers. DWP is looking to hire two new persons as natural resource specialists.

>Comments: Tony Bennett:

Implementation guide AWWA feels monitoring issues have been over-stepped. Important that one rule doesn't affect other rules.

>Comments: Alicia Diehl:

Important that EPA Bacteriological Team work with EPA Lead/Copper Team.

>Comment: Mark Lowry (TCB):

In nutrient rich, warm conditions, E. coli does not appear to be a good 'indicator' organisms, because populations increase greatly in these conditions. PDW should work with other TCEQ divisions.

>Comment: Brad Castleberry:
Standard is very low for some surface water bodies.

Doug Holcomb -Utilities & Districts (U & D)

U & D is tracking between 250 and 300 bills including District Creations and Groundwater Conservation District Bills.

The CCN mapping project ~85% complete. TRWA assisted PWS by getting CCN maps plus a written description and filled in county courthouse.

When a CCN area is amended, the CCN holder will be provided a certified copy to be filed in county courthouse.

After the CCN mapping project is complete we will concentrate on district maps. Our plan is to post CCN's as well as district boundaries for the TECEQ web page.

So far in the fiscal year 2007, TCEQ has received 1300 plan sets, 120 CCN apps, 55 rate applications, 200 major district applications and 320 minor district applications. Currently the biggest challenge for the Utilities and Districts has been plan review. Staff is working overtime and is also looking at other efficiencies to reduce this backlog. We are planning a stakeholders meeting this summer to get input in the plan review process.

Dorothy Young

Working on needs survey

Survey is required by EPA even though survey is voluntary. Applying for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) may provide funds for the following:

- Replace distribution pipe
- Capacity needs

TCB will be working with EPA and the CADMUS Group.
Texas gets ~67 million dollars each year through DWSRF.
Will have advisory workgroup meeting in Aug. 2007. Stakeholders are invited to attend and participate.

>Comments: Brad Castleberry:
Would like grant program for PWS in Enforcement.

>Comments: Alicia Diehl:
Plan Submittal and review immediately effects PWS customer if capacity is not adequate. Also, elevated silica concentration could affect proposed arsenic removal project.

>Comments: Attorney Ken Peterson:
TCEQ should ask EPA to reconsider primary issues because of financial burden on small PWS.

>Comments: Mike Cowan, Water Supply Division Manager:
Division is open for comments on how to streamline plan and spec review process.

>Comments: Tony Bennett:
Difficult to process plans and specs for innovative treatment such as membranes and absorption units.

>Comments: Mark Zeppa:
Each PWS feels their plans are top priority whether they address capacity to stay in compliance, treatment to meet standards, or a new PWS.

Dianna Tillerson - Operator Licensing

- Proposed rule revisions to Chapter 30 will be published in the Texas Register 4-13-2007 and will be open for comments until 5-14-2007.
- James Pope has been hired to assist with revising examinations.
- In the Texas Small Public Water System Training Program, RFPs for cluster training and IFBs for classroom training are under review and evaluation.
- Licensing staff will be attending TWUA's regional schools in Beaumont this month, Abilene and Arlington in May, and Killeen in June to distribute and review applications and to administer examinations for licensure.

Marlo Wanieliesta Berg

- Groundwater Rule
- LTZ Rule
- Public Notice Rule
- Definition of Process Control

There will be a 30-day comment period. Will have more information at July 10, 2007 DWAAG meeting.

>Question- Jay Fox:
Does PWS have to do 'boil water' notice for GUI under GW rule?

>Answer-Greg Rogers:
Eighteen month time period. Do have to provide public notice if fecal positive sample found in raw water micro particulate analysis. Is a tool for detecting groundwater under the influence (GUI) of surface water. Some wells may be classified as GUI based on geology.

>Comments: T. Bennett:
HSA Analysis

>Comments: Greg Rogers:

HSA (Hydrogeologic Sensitivity Analysis) Is assessment capability that is linked to the rule.

Upcoming Conferences:

Next Wednesday and Thursday
Ken Peterson and Mark Zeppa show
TRWA and IWSCOT

(TOFNT) Conference

Water Environment and TX AWWA- June 2007

Community Resource Group

Partnered with Bank of America, so can loan more than \$250, 000

City of Austin: Charles Maddox

Use of gas chlorine and security risk. Austin is looking at on-site generation of chlorine. Comments on process control and operator certification, definition of 'direct supervision' is different from definition of process control.

PDW Conference

August 15-16, 2007

Nominate PWS that deserve recognition.

Legislative Update

TRWA- Ken Peterson

Private Property rights are an issue. Proposed Bill will not allow utilities to do condemnation necessary to take land for infrastructure improvements.

Mark Zeppa

Proposed bill would require fire flow for each Texas PWS. Where would funds come from to pay for upgrade for fire flow? (HB 1391) Maybe cost-prohibitive.

Brad Castleberry

Water Environment

Proposed bill does not guarantee reservoirs will be constructed.

Charles Maddox

Liability protection for MTBE. This bill is not reviewed before Environmental Committee's. FATE, Transport, and Solubility were known before MTBE was approved for use. Liability of spill would move from manufacturer to trucker or gas station. 25 states have banned use of MTBE. PWS would have to bear cost of removing MTBE from drinking water. Cost would be incurred by each PWS customer that pays for drinking water. MTBE threshold is 15 ppb. Bill proposed by representative Chisolm. TX AWWA proposes the bill.

Tony Bennett

Senate Bill 1333

Underground injection well proposed for disposal of waste created from drinking water treatment.

PDW Conference

August 15-16 at Double Tree

Next DWA WG Meeting: [July 10, 2007](#)