

# Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

## Drinking Water Advisory Work Group

July, 21st, 2009, Building E, Room 201S

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

### Summary

#### **Welcome, Introductions & TCEQ Staff Updates- Elston Johnson**

Elston opened with an announcement that the web cast is available for questions to be submitted throughout the meeting. Submissions were to be e-mailed to [mhowell@tcq.state.tx.us](mailto:mhowell@tcq.state.tx.us). There were also introductions by those that attended.

#### ***TCEQ Staff Updates:***

#### **Texas Small Public Water System Training Program Update- Sandi Mota**

- EPA awarded grant to TCEQ, and the TSPWSTP was implemented to administer the grant
- Program reimburses the cost of operating community or non-transient non-community systems serving 3300 persons or fewer
- TSPWSTP has enrolled 3,445 PWS, 6,993 operators, and approximately 1,000 systems of pending enrollment status
- Approximately 75% of eligible systems have been enrolled
- To date there have been 547 cluster I course events and 247 cluster II course events
- EPA requested that TSPWSTP focus it's efforts on counties impacted by hurricanes Ike and Gustav
- Program expires August of 2010, so program has until then to expend the remaining funds
- TSPWSTP constantly looks for ways to market the program...Contact Avery Castillo or call 1-877-822-5349 for events or meetings staff can attend

#### **Drinking Water Quality- Alicia Diehl**

##### Consumer Confidence Reports

- 4,605 community PWSs required to report
- As of July 20th 3,744 certified that they had sent CCR to customers
- 861 in non-compliance
- Overall 81% of PWS in compliance

### Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Report (DLQOR)

- Ground Water Systems
- Compliance is up
- Comprehensive review of 4th quarter
- 1st quarter of 2009, 344 violations, down from 1310 in 4th quarter of 2008
- Radionuclides Program
- 37 Violators
- 55 Systems being monitored (potential violators)
- Arsenic Monitoring
- 99 Violators
- 21 Potential violators
- Fluoride Monitoring
- 48 (primary) Violators
- Disinfection Byproducts
- 132 Violators
- 104 THM, 28 HAA, 22 Both
- Stage 2 Rule: Up to Date
- There will be a Texas Women of Water luncheon at the PDW Conference. All are welcome to attend - both men and women.

### **Utilities and Districts- Doug Holcomb**

#### Legislative Rules

- Effects CCN applications, notice will have to be given to GCDs and counties
- Apartments that submeter can add a 9% handling cost
- Going through Sunset review
- We are working on District Regulatory Guidance Documents
- UDS, with help from the FMT contractor, TRWA, completed a rates/management training seminar in McAllen
- Dan Eden is retiring and Richard Hyde is stepping up as deputy director of OPR
- Water Development Board is overseeing ARRA stimulus package for water systems
- 2008-9 Fiscal Year to date UDS application report
- 1300 Plan Sets
- 185 CCN's
- 100 Rate appeals
- 200 major district applications and
- 300 minor district application

## Technical Review and Oversight Team- Gary Chauvin

- Burnet SPE, San Marcos SPE, and Port Lavaca SPE (Special Performance Evaluations)
- Will be training senior investigators to perform SPE's
- Developed in 1997 to allow the collection of essential performance data from treatments plants without a prohibitively high commitment of resources
- SPE- A detailed assessment of the design, operation and performance, of a SWTP
- DBT PBT- Disinfection By-Product Performance Base Training pilot program
- In conjunction with the EPA, Begins in October with 7 systems across the state
- Training has site-specific implementation focus with trainers, facilitators, and participants held accountable by long term tracking of performance
- The PBT teaches priority setting/problem solving skills and impact is assessed based on performance improvements.

## Drinking Water Protection- Sean Ables

### [Updating the Total Coliform Rule web presence](#)

- Added standardized laboratory sample forms for water systems
- Ground Water Rule web page will be posted in August
- Participated in a web cast for the Ground Water Rule last week
- Viewed by over 700 people in Texas, Arkansas and California
- The presentation can be found on the Texas AWWA website
- Update on the Lab to State Contracts (electronic submission of TCR sampling)
- Visited 6 of 39 labs so far
- Reminder to water systems to insure the laboratory they use for TCR samples in accredited through NELAC

## Field Operations Division- Shawn Stewart

- Engaged in Recon, Follow-ups, and CCI's
- 35 Focus Investigations
- 86 CCR's
- 75 Follow ups
- 34 Recons
- 469 Complaints
- 1,831 CCI's
- Wanted to discuss issues dealing with the definition of Direct Supervision §290.46(E) ([See Attached Handout](#))
- Direct Supervision- Is accomplished, by an appropriately licensed individual, on-site or by remote means including but not limited to telephone or radio.
- If there's any issues with the definition then contact Shawn Stewart at 512-239-0431 or by email at [sstewart@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:sstewart@tceq.state.tx.us)

## **Comments from Stakeholders:**

- Need to adjust the definition of Process Control Duties
- Stakeholders: Taking samples should not constitute a control duty
- Analysis of samples and how to adjust procedure should fall under this definition
- Answer by Elston: We would have to change the rules to adjust the definition of Process Control Duties
- Elston indicated the only way to change rule at this point is to form a sub-committee to explore the development of a petition for a rule change
- Stakeholders: They should add a portion related to Process Control into the definition of Direct Supervision
- Comment by Alicia, EX: Process control is a short list of activities which includes taking samples after a ditch is dug, but not actually digging the ditch
- Stakeholders: Until you turn on the water it's not part of the water system yet
- Should you have to have a license to change a pump?
- Is the operation the same as maintenance?
- Operating is different than instillation
- Should maintenance workers need a license to do non-operation work?
- How does the maintenance worker know if the pipeline is disinfected before water is released into the pipe?

## **Occupational Licensing Update- Allan Vargas**

- For Fiscal Year 2009
- 3230 New Apps
- 3292 Renewals
- 6522 Total applications
- 4872 Test Administered
- 2099 New Licenses
- 3299 Renewal licenses issued
- 15067 Total Water Licenses out of 51,000 Occupational Licenses=
- 30% of the total occupation population
- 81st Legislation- 60 day grace period for payments (Bill died)
- New Phone number for "License and Renewal" -512-239-6133
- Trying to reduce abandoned phone calls (Goal under 1%)
- Contact via email at [licenses@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:licenses@tceq.state.tx.us)
- Launched the CBT (Computer Based Training) program on April 2nd
- CBT Program –Susan Heir, Project Lead
- The goal is to have 50 Test Centers by 12-31-2009
- Estimated cost for exams \$15-\$50 depending on provider
- Currently we have 16 locations
- Currently soliciting for commercial testing centers

## **DWAAG updates- Celia Aguirre TRWA**

### Survey to improve effectiveness of DWAAG meetings

- NO change in frequency of the meetings
- Most attendees liked morning meetings
- Some suggested alternating times (morning, afternoon)
- The length of the meetings from 9am-12pm was viewed as adequate time
- Most said they would like to receive handouts prior to the meeting to be better prepared
- Some viewed the DWAAG meetings as having gone off course- they said that the meetings should have less TCEQ updates, so discussion could focus on larger issues
- Increase dialog/discussion
- Need smaller discussion groups
- Forming subcommittees would be more efficient...then bring the small groups back into the larger discussion
- It was suggested to change the room in which the meeting is held
- Most do not use the web cast (About 1/3 use it because of travel restrictions)
- It was suggested to use webcams during the meeting

## **Generator Bill Update-Elston Johnson**

- SB 361- Requires rules by December 1st
- Summary of rules will be posted by July 24th
- Agenda for proposal on August 12th
- There will be a meeting in Harris County September 21st and 22nd
- August 28-September 28th will be the comment period

## **Texas AWWA Operator Workforce Issue Initiative- Glenda Dunn**

- AWWA- Wants to address the issues of a retiring, aging workforce and how to approach new recruitment ([See Attached Presentation](#))
- Goals include: Analyze current workforce strategies and coordinate information into a format that is useful for members
- Identifying gaps and acting as a clearinghouse for ideas
- Promotion of programs
- Recommendations: Enhance the image of water jobs to appeal to current and future labor pools
- Create a “clearinghouse “ to share workforce best practices
- Improve the definition of a water sector pathway
- Improve outreach programs to educational programs
- Trying to get the City of Irving to serve as a model of the program to get other schools on board ([See Attached Presentation](#))

## **Drought Update-Mike Lannen**

- The Drought Data Base has been kept since 1996. Since that time the current number of systems restricting usage for 2009 is in fifth place. ([See attached](#)).
- Recently added 70 systems
- Texas ranks 4th place for worst drought right now
- Some systems have been in drought status since 2007
- Drought contingency plans have helped sustain water supplies
- The State Climatologist predicts that El Nino may bring rains to the state beginning in October or November.
- The drought information is gathered from the 16 regional offices  
any questions or comments contact Mike Lannen at 512-239-6054
- Upcoming TCEQ, Conferences, Meetings and Public Forums
- PDW Conference, August 11 to12, 2009

## **Next DWA WG Meeting: October 20, 2009, Building E 201S**

- Available by web cats by clicking on “Advisory, Stakeholder Group and Special Meetings, the time of the meeting
- The following e-mail address will be available for questions or comments during the time of the meeting by sending comments to [mhowell@tcq.state.tx.us](mailto:mhowell@tcq.state.tx.us)