



*District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority*

**Board of Directors
Environmental Quality and Operations
Committee Meeting**

Friday, October 29, 2004 – 9:00 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members

James Caldwell, Chairman
David Lake
David J. Bardin, Chairman CSO Subcommittee
F. Alexis Roberson
Fariba Kassiri
Brenda Richardson

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
John Dunn, Interim Chief Engineer
Avis Marie Russell, General Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman James Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Mr. Caldwell thanked the staff for the informative tour of the CIP project sites. He indicated that the tour offered greater insight to the projects than the paperwork that the Committee usually deals with. Mr. Johnson offered to make additional tours available for additional Board members.

II. STATUS UPDATES

1. WAD – Residuals Disposal Feasibility Study

Mr. Tom Jacobus, of the Corps of Engineers made a presentation on the investigation of perchlorate in the groundwater near the Dalecarlia Reservoir. Perchlorate is both a naturally occurring chemical, and a by-product from the manufacture of fuels for rockets. It has traditionally been more of a problem in the West.

There has not been an MCL developed for perchlorate. The EPA considers a level of 4 to 16 ppb as a 'level of concern,' and some states have developed a level of 1 ppb as an action level.

A map was presented to the Committee to illustrate the presentation.

From testing at the Dalecarlia site and the surrounding area, the following are the results: No perchlorate has been detected in the Potomac; No perchlorate has been detected in the reservoir; No perchlorate has been detected in the sedimentation basin; 100 ppb was detected in the hydroelectric vault where the underdrain from below the reservoir drains to an outfall to the Potomac; and 58 ppb was detected in an elevator sump at Sibley Hospital, that is sited on ground higher than the reservoir, and just across the street from the WAD site.

The area around the reservoir is a Former Defense Site where munitions were developed during World War I. During an investigation by the EPA into the groundwater at the area, no munitions chemicals were discovered, but they had readings of approximately 8 ppb for perchlorate.

Tests of the drinking water show no detection of perchlorate. The instruments are accurate above 4 ppb, meaning that a reading in the range of 0 to 4 may indicate some value above. However, a value of zero generally indicates the lack of the presence of perchlorate.

The Aqueduct is conducting investigations, in addition to those being conducted by both the EPA and the COE. This investigation includes installation of monitoring wells and the installation of piezometers.

Mr. Jacobus had spent over 2 hours with the Washington Post prior to the publication of a recent article relating to perchlorate. At the meeting, he presented and explained the technical issues involved. The issues were subsequently misrepresented in the article, mainly by leaving out critical information.

After the presentation, there was a consensus of the Committee that WASA should undertake a public relations initiative on the topic, mainly to explain the role of the Aqueduct for the treatment and storage of the water, and WASA's role for the distribution, and to explain that the perchlorate was found in groundwater at the WTP site, but it likely came from somewhere off-site. It was not found in the drinking water delivered by WAD to its customers.

2. Plant Performance

Flows for September averaged 320 MGD. Nitrogen was at 6.4 mg/l, vs. a permit limit of 7.4 mg/l. All Blue Plains NPDES permit requirements are being met. A handout was provided showing all permit limits and plant readings.

Five of the new centrifuges are now online, and are improving the quality of the sludge cake.

WASA is participating with Howard University in a pilot study to provide separate treatment of spent wash water from the filters. With current recycling at approximately 30 MGD, a reduction could present considerable cost savings, and relieve hydraulic load on some plant facilities.

3. Environmental Management System Audit/National Biosolids Partnership

Blue Plains has been chosen as one of four plants nationwide for an Environmental Management System audit of biosolids management practices. WASA is the first on the East Coast to participate in the program, and is the largest participant. To date, WASA has had the best audit report from all of those participating.

4. AWTP NPDES Permit

Negotiations are continuing with EPA over the modification of the NPDES Permit to incorporate the LTCP.

5. Status of Washington Aqueduct Diversion EIS

The Aqueduct is developing an Environmental Impact Statement concerning handling and disposal of residuals from its treatment process. Three options are being studied:

1) Dewatering and storage at the site; 2) Dewatering and trucking off-site for disposal; And 3) liquefying and pumping to Blue Plains for dewatering and off-site disposal. WAD no longer considers option #3 to be feasible.

III. WATER SERVICES PROGRAM

1. LSR Performance Status Report

A handout was provided to the Committee for approval of the format of update reports. The Committee requested that the number, and length in feet, of private and of public replacements be added, and also the length in feet of private space not replaced.

WASA presented a workshop in conjunction with The George Washington University on case studies from the crisis, and lessons learned. There were approximately 70 participants from across the country. WASA will be following up with further studies on the modification of the Lead and Copper Rule.

DC Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control have developed a study including approximately 7,000 blood lead tests of District residents, including those living in houses with water lead level readings of above 300 ppb. There is no nexus of the elevated level of lead in the water and elevated blood lead levels. When these results were presented at the GWU workshop, the Washington Post did not cover the story, and only Channel 5 presented the story. The clip from Channel 5 was played for the Committee.

There was a consensus of the Committee that WASA must develop a public relations campaign to get this information more widely distributed.

2. Administrative Order Compliance

WASA is developing the first quarterly report that is due on December 1. All other A.O. requirements to date have been met timely, and EPA has approved all submissions.

3. Total Coliform Exceedance – September '04

Currently there is not a direct answer available for the cause of the coliform exceedance. With the immediate disclosure of the exceedance after coordination with EPA and the Aqueduct, there was little media coverage of the topic.

Currently, it appears that the problem is solved. WASA is investigating the development of a sampling protocol.

Flushing will continue with system-wide flushing, to be completed this year.

IV. CAPITAL BUDGET

A revised approval schedule was presented.

Next month, on November 18, the budget will be presented to a joint meeting of the Environmental Quality and Operations and the Budget and Finance Committees. During the week of November 1, CIP budget presentations will be made to each of the user jurisdictions. The full Board will then decide whether additional discussion is necessary, and with the Board to take final approval action in January.

V. CIP REPORT – 4TH QUARTER FY '04

WASA staff advised that the Committee members review Sections I, Overview, and II, Summary. WASA's current capital spending is at approximately \$800,000 per day.

VI. THE "HOLDER REPORT:" DCWASA'S RESPONSE

A handout was provided to the Committee with the General Manager's draft responses to each of the recommendations for action in the Holder Report. The Committee reviewed each of the responses and made numerous suggestions for revisions. Staff will incorporate the suggestions into a revised document for presentation to the Board of Directors.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

The following contracts were submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
DCFA #372-WSA	A/E (Non-Joint Use)	Baker/Killam Joint Venture	Supplemental Agreement	\$4,238,105
040170	Construction (Non-Joint Use)	Spiniello Companies	Construction Contract	\$5,000,000
DCFA #392-WSA	A/E (Non-Joint Use)	Bryant Associates, Inc.	Supplemental Agreement	\$4,100,000
DCFA #379-WSA	A/E (Joint Use)	Malcolm Pirnie Engineers, PLLC	Supplemental Agreement	\$725,000
WAS-01-041-AA-MB	Services (Joint Use)	M. C. Dean, Inc.	Execute third option year	\$893,300
WAS-01-044-AA-MB	Services (Joint Use)	Ideal Electrical Supply Corporation	Execute third option year	\$740,540
WAS-03-049-AA-MB	Services (Joint Use)	M. C. Dean, Inc.	Execute First option year	\$954,000
WAS-04-061-AA-MB	Services (Joint Use)	Electric Motor & Contracting Co., Inc.	Execute Contract	\$1,409,412
	Legal Services (Joint Use)	Greenberg and Traurig	Extend Contract	\$1,338,519
	Legal Services (Joint Use)	McGuireWoods LLP	Extend Contract	\$1,400,000
	Legal Services (Non-Joint Use)	O'Melveny & Myers LLP	Extend Contract	\$750,000

The Committee made recommendations for the revision of the Fact Sheets for DCFA #372-WSA and the three legal services contracts. The consensus of the Committee was to move all items forward with the incorporation of the requested modifications.

VIII. CSO/STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Combined Sewer System NMC & LTCP Projects Quarterly Report

A handout was presented to the Committee for approval of the format of reports. This format, if approved, will be used in future quarterly reports.

2. WASA Advocacy of LID

A presentation was made on WASA's advocacy of Low Impact Development (LID) projects. The Committee had a discussion on avenues to encourage additional LID projects. The Committee requested a presentation in the future on the costs associated in maintenance of LID projects.

3. Status MS4 Permit Appeal

The permit was issued last August. EPA is seeking to require a separate permit for each outfall. WASA has joined with the District Government in appealing this decision. Several organizations have joined with the EPA in support of separate permits for each outfall.

4. Status LTCP Litigation

No progress to be reported has been made on the litigation.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Caldwell adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.