

**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Environmental Quality and
Sewerage Services Committee**

Thursday, September 15, 2011

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES



Committee Members Present

Robert Hoyt, Chairperson
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
David Lake
James Patteson
Brenda Richardson
Samuel Wynkoop
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon

DC Water Staff Present

George Hawkins, General Manager
Leonard Benson, Chief Engineer
Randy Hayman, General Counsel
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

Other Board Members Present

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Robert Hoyt, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Walt Bailey, Assistant General Manager for Wastewater Treatment, reported that August was a dry month, as opposed to early September. While precipitation totaled 9.0 inches, the majority of precipitation occurred towards the end of the month. Consequently, flow was considered normal at 280 MGD with a 12-month average of 287 MGD. Nitrogen compliance was 4.1 mg/l for the month with an annual average of 4.8 mg/l. There were 214 MG of Excess Flow (Outfall 001) during the reporting period (August). Biosolids production was 1137 wet tons per day for a 12-month average of 1170 wet tons per day. All permit parameters were met. A number of weather events were noted, with the earthquake taking some equipment offline due to vibration. Thanks to the control system, staff were notified immediately and able to restore the equipment quickly, without performance impact. The tropical storm (early September) resulted in 7.0 inches of rain in five (5) days, resulting in an average flow of 541 MGD over those five days. Excess flow was 105 MGD over those five days. Mr. Hoyt asked about whether Blue Plains has an earthquake design limit; Mr. Bailey answered that bearing vibration detection equipment protects large rotating components by taking them off-line when subject to excessive vibration.

Mr. Hoyt then moved to the subject of biosolids metals and the fact that Blue Plains biosolids fall below even EU standards; Mr. Bailey attributed our clean biosolids to the lack of heavy industry in the DC metro area. Mr. Hoyt then requested a status update on the baseline carbon footprint audit certification. Mr. Bailey reported that we have measured the carbon footprint of the plant pre-construction of the ENR facility, and may potentially look to sell carbon credits as a result of further reductions from the digester projects. Mr. Hoyt asked about carbon footprint reduction as a potential source of revenue, and Mr. Bailey responded that its value is not significant financially but will promote a positive image of DC Water. The first step in realizing credits is to certify Blue Plain's carbon footprint. Dr. Cotruvo noted that we are tracking lead in biosolids and asked if it is worth looking back to 2001-2005 to see a trend in lead reduction as a result of lower inputs since the lead levels dropped in drinking water. Mr. Bailey indicated that we had the data to allow for such an analysis, and would review.

Mr. Hoyt then turned to a question on pretreatment in the report and the relatively large amount of monitoring remaining. Mr. Bailey stated that DC Water has until end of calendar year to do all of the inspections and samplings, and is on schedule. Mr. Hoyt asked whether the NOV to Amtrak has been resolved on Cadmium. Elaine Wilson, pretreatment supervisor, stated that Amtrak is back in compliance, and doing some additional follow-up monitoring.

III. STATUS UPDATES

1. LTCP Easements Permits

Mr. Carlton Ray, Director, Department of DC Clean Rivers, reported on the status of obtaining easements or permits for the proposed tunnel alignments. DC Water continues to meet with the US Navy on JBAB (Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling). His staff continues to work on getting both the construction license and the 50 year easement that has already been verbally committed to DC Water. Staff continues to work out an indemnity clause with DC Water counsel. Both a large shaft and an outfall structure are to be built on JBAB property using two separate contracts. On the issue of access to the proposed work site, DC Water continues to negotiate towards only repaving the access road, rather than rebuilding the road to be used for construction access, as requested by JBAB.

DDOT has agreed to push forward on permits. Mr. Randy Hayman, General Counsel, spoke on DC Water's discussions with FHWA on the "hybrid" solution (easements for deep tunnels, permits for near surface structures). FHWA indicated that although this had not been an approach taken before, it is a possibility. DC Water is to outline the procedure, and send to DDOT for forwarding to FHWA.

Ms. Richardson inquired as to the turnaround on obtaining permits, which is typically

estimated as 30 days. Mr. Ray stated that DC Water has hired a third party reviewer to expedite our permits through DCRA, as recommended by DCRA.

Mr. Patteson requested that action items included in the monthly report from Clean Rivers include whether those individual issues are on schedule or not, rather than status alone. Mr. Ray agreed to include this information, and noted that currently all permit activities are on schedule.

IV. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR

1. Potomac Pump Station

Mr. David McLaughlin, Director, Engineering and Technical Services, reported that DC Water submitted the alternate proposal on pump capacity as previously discussed to EPA, DOJ, and Earthjustice at the end of July. DC Water's hydraulic model currently shows that the pump station at a current capacity of 425 MGD results in no significant variance in water quality when compared to the Consent Decree capacity of 460 MGD. DC Water proposed to the parties to the Consent Decree that DC Water proceed to "post construction monitoring", a requirement of the permit following completion of the improvements, as DC Water staff believes that the WWPS is currently achieving the intended objectives of the improvements. DC Water proposed that any further improvements be put on hold subject to completion of that testing (except for the design work for possible new impellers). If the results reflect that the present operations have met the objectives of the Consent Decree, the Consent Decree would be modified to reflect Potomac Pump Station as a 425 MGD facility. EPA has responded by requesting additional information, which was provided in mid August.

In the meantime, DC Water is proceeding with the design of new impellers for the existing pumps. The pump manufacturer has recommended constructing a model of the system, including the pumps, since the modifications to install the new impeller would require some fairly significant changes to the pump itself. This modeling could take 4-5 months. DC Water continues to work on this schedule with the manufacturer.

2. Odor Abatement Project

Mr. McLaughlin reported that the construction contract for the Virginia sites is one of the action items on today's agenda for review by the Committee. Construction of the Maryland and DC sites continues; construction is approximately 60% complete at these sites.

One recent issue at the Fairfax site is an apparent discrepancy between the access easement, the access road and the placement of the Odor Control building. It appears that during construction, the road was jogged to avoid large trees and so the legal description no longer matches the actual location of the road, which in turn impacts the location of the building. DC Water is working with NVRPA to determine whether the building or the easement must be shifted.

V. PRETREATMENT PROGRAM REGULATIONS UPDATE

Mrs. Elaine Wilson, Pretreatment Supervisor, updated the Committee on the status of the proposed rulemaking on Wastewater Discharge Regulations, published May 20, 2011. The public comment period was extended to July 20th, and the Pretreatment Section has spent the period since then reviewing comments received from the public and DC and Federal Government Agencies (ex.; EPA Region III, PhRMA, DDOE, and the DC Building Industry Assoc.) Comments received were significant enough to warrant changes to the proposed regulations that will necessitate a new public comment period. An action item on today's agenda asks the Committee to recommend to the Board the revised regulations, including a new 30 day posting for public comment. Ms. Wilson confirmed that the Committee would have another opportunity to review the final regulations prior to adoption by the Board. The Committee raised an issue with the use of the phrase "known or suspected of being toxic", as being too vague. Mr. Hayman agreed that the OGC should review alternate language. The Committee discussed the impact of the regulations on health care facilities, and specifically whether health care facilities outside the District would be required to comply with District requirements. Ms. Wilson confirmed that facilities outside the District that discharge to Blue Plains must comply with the pretreatment regulations, but noted that the District Department of Health specifically regulates discharges from health care facilities in the District, and she was not in a position to advise whether DOH regulations would apply to facilities outside the District that discharge to Blue Plains. This question requires further review. It was also noted by Ms. Wilson, in response to a question from a Committee member that veterinary facilities are not specifically listed in the DOH regulations.

VI. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

Mr. Hoyt noted that the Committee agreed to forward the proposed (revised) Pretreatment Regulations (Discharges to Wastewater System) to the full Board, including an identified additional 30 day comment period; with the caveat that questions raised in the presentation be addressed by staff. Mr. Benson then presented action items 1 through 6, and Ms. Rosalind Inge, Director of the Department of Procurement, presented action items 7 through 9 for Committee review.

Joint Use:

1. Contract No. DCFA-412-WSA, CH2M Hill, Inc.
2. Contract No. DCFA-438-WSA, Hazen & Sawyer, P.C.
3. Contract No. 060090, Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC
4. Contract No. 090190, Corinthian Contractors
5. Contract No. 100110, Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC
6. Contract No. 100120, PC/CDM Joint Venture
7. Contract No. WAS-10-074-AA-MB, Tie Bridge, Inc.
8. Contract No. WAS-09-032-AA-GA, C&E Services, Inc. of Washington
9. Contract No. WAS-10-052-AA-RE, Maryland Environmental Services
10. Proposed Rulemaking – Discharges to Wastewater System Revisions

Mr. Benson noted that the fact sheet for contract DCFA-438-WSA included an attachment describing the selection criteria, as requested by the Board. Some discussion of the criteria followed, and it was noted that since some of the criteria used are vestiges of Federal procurement requirements, it might be useful to revise and update the criteria and weighting applied.

During discussion of the action item for contract 060090, a construction change order, Mr. Hawkins noted that this was a relatively small change order that was being brought to the Board in keeping with a past practice to bring change orders for Board approval when the cumulative amount of changes on a contract exceeded \$500,000 increments. Mr. Hawkins noted his feeling that these contract action items did not rise to the level of importance that would require Board approval, and plans to submit an alternate approach for discussion by the Board.

Regarding the change order for the PI Odor Control project, Contract 090190, Mr. Lake noted that the change order percentage is over 16%; indicating that this is not common, and requested that in such cases the fact sheet include a list of previous change orders.

Mr. Benson noted that the change order for contract 100120 (Cambi) was unusual in that it resulted from a provision of the Biosolids Main Process Train contract that allows a one-time price adjustment due to changes in the exchange rate between US Dollars and Euros. The previous change order on this contract, noted on the fact sheet, allowed for an increase in the Davis-Bacon wage rate fluctuation between receipt of proposals and contract award.

In response to a question, Mr. Bailey provided additional information on the scope of contract WAS-10-052-AA-RE, which provides monitoring/inspection services (sole source) related to land application of biosolids.

Following the discussions, the Committee agreed to forward all action items to the Board for approval.

VII. QUARTERLY CIP REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin summarized the contents of the CIP Quarterly Report for the period from April 1st through June 30th. Overall disbursements for the fiscal year are projected to exceed the baseline estimate of \$294,693,000 by approximately 3%, with a current projection of \$304,875,000. All Priority I projects are on schedule and within budget. Overall, 80% of key performance indicators (KPI) have been achieved, and 100% of mandated KPIs have been met. Mr. McLaughlin described the variances in KPI achievement for the third quarter, and noted that the report has been modified at the request of the Committee to include a year-to-date running total on KPI performance.

Mr. Patteson asked whether DC Water inspected critical infrastructure following events such as the tropical storm that was recently experienced. Mr. McLaughlin responded that staff does so, but also noted that DC Water has an extensive system of critical infrastructure, such as sewers in stream valleys, and that in practice most reports of damage come from the public or other agencies.

VIII. DEMON – A NEW NITROGEN REMOVAL PROCESS AT BPAWWTP

Mr. Bailey gave a presentation on the basics of a new nitrogen removal process to be implemented at Blue Plains. The process of deammonification shows potential for significant savings in both energy and chemical use. This process will be implemented to treat the side stream flow from the new biosolids dewatering facilities, and studies are underway to determine its practicality for the main nitrogen removal process at Blue Plains in the future.

IX. MAIN PS LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Maureen McGowan, Special Assistant to the General Manager, presented on the proposed designation of Main (Sewer) Pumping Station as a District landmark and the recommendation for its being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. McGowan discussed the implications for DC Water operations and capital improvements. Ms. McGowan also noted that the District's State Historical Preservation Officer has suggested that DC Water may want to conduct pre-determination reviews of a number of other potentially historically significant structures. This recommendation is under review by staff.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/EMERGING ISSUES

1. CSO Quarterly Report
2. Cost of DMPED Clean Rivers Projects Easements
3. Legal Limitations on Contractors Managing Contractors

The above topics were deferred until the October Committee meeting due to time constraints at this meeting.

Ms. Richardson asked staff to investigate reports of heavy truck traffic emanating from the East Campus of the St. Elizabeth's complex, and whether the traffic resulted from a DC Water project. Staff will investigate.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hoyt adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Follow-up Items

1. Review data for lead levels to determine whether a correlation exists with lead in drinking water during periods when levels were elevated
2. Update the Clean Rivers Permits/Easements Status Report to include a statement on whether action items are on schedule.
3. Review/Incorporate Committee comments on draft Wastewater Discharge (Pretreatment) Regulations – provide alternate language to the “known or suspected” phrase currently used; clarify applicability of DOH regulations to health care facilities located outside of the District that discharge to Blue Plains, and the impact on pretreatment regulations
4. Review criteria used for selection of Architecture/Engineering services
5. Provide an alternate approach regarding change order approval authority for Board review
6. Include a list of previously executed change orders with fact sheets when change percentage exceeds benchmarks
7. Mrs. Richardson inquired as to the cause of heavy DC Water-related truck traffic on Alabama Rd SE. DC Water staff is to report back on the cause and whether it is related to DC Water work at St Elizabeths.