

**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Environmental Quality and
Sewerage Services Committee**

Thursday, October 20, 2011

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES



Committee Members Present

Robert Hoyt, Chairperson
Joseph Cotruvo
David Lake
James Patteson
Brenda Richardson

DC Water Staff Present

Leonard Benson, Chief Engineer
Randy Hayman, General Counsel
Aklile Tesfaye, Director WWT
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

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. Aklile Tesfaye, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that in September we experienced prolonged rain events. Precipitation totaled 8.84 inches and was considerably higher than the 12-month average of 3.73 inches for the month. As a result, 556 MG of excess flow were received, treated, and discharged through outfall 001 over a period of four days, September 5th through 8th. Biosolids production averaged 1172 wet tons per day, and all operations were considered normal. Despite the wet weather due to Hurricane Lee, the BNR process performed very well, with an average effluent total Nitrogen concentration of 3.1 mg/l. This was the best monthly performance achieved since the start of the full-scale BNR in 2000. The 12-month rolling average total nitrogen discharged through the end of the month is 4.01M lb/year, which is below the 2015 EPA permit limit.

Dr. Cutrovo asked why performance was still so high, despite the wet weather. Mr. Tesfaye responded that there are three major factors: 1) DC Water is seeing the full effect of the \$100M spent in facility upgrades, allowing flow and air to be distributed more effectively, for a more reliable and stable process overall, 2) even with high flows in September, the annual average flow is the lowest DC Water has experienced in 10 years, and 3) we have not been experiencing the historically low temperatures observed in past years, which helps in attaining a better performance. With regard to Dissolved Oxygen, Mr. Hoyt inquired about the planned air outage and its implications on

performance. Mr. Tesfaye described that this is associated with tie-ins for the new construction. He stated that the plant never drops below the minimum required level, and the EPA is notified appropriately of any shutdowns. Mr. Hoyt also noted that DC Water has moved from reporting Fecal Coliform to E.coli. Mr. Tesfaye stated that we are reporting the E.coli geometric mean per the EPA standard, and went on to explain that this was motivated by the fact that E.coli is considered a superior indicator of the presence of sewage related bacteria in water and has been included in the NPDES permit.

III. STATUS UPDATES

1. LTCP Easements Permits

Mr. Carlton Ray, Director, DC Clean Rivers program, reported that per last month's meeting request, a statement has been included in his report to reference the current status of all permits and easements with respect to schedule under Note 3. This month, that statement reports that DC Water is on schedule with obtaining all permits. However, DC Water continues to run into issues in obtaining long-term easements from DDOT. One other current issue is with obtaining the construction license from the US Navy – first to build the shaft for the Blue Plains Tunnel, and then the outfall structure on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB). DC Water continues to negotiate towards repaving the access road, rather than rebuilding the road to be used for construction access, as currently requested by the Navy. Construction is due to begin on the shaft for the Blue Plains Tunnel in 2012. However, installation of instrumentation along the Blue Plains Tunnel has already begun, as the Design Builder begins structural investigations of existing buildings. Mr. Ray commented that DC Water did have a well attended public ground-breaking ceremony for the Blue Plains Tunnel in September, and noted that the project does have upper-level support from JBAB, namely from Capt. Colandera, who assured Mr. Ray of such at the groundbreaking.

Mr. Randy Hayman, General Counsel, spoke on DC Water's discussions with DDOT and FHWA on the "hybrid" solution (easements for deep tunnels, permits for near surface structures). Per last month's discussion, a letter was drafted and transmitted to DDOT stating that DDOT is in agreement with the hybrid solution. Mr. Hayman followed up with FHWA OGC, who requested that DC Water send to DDOT a copy of the Cat-Ex (Categorical Exception) document and the letter that DDOT originally agreed to support DC Water. As recently as the evening prior to this meeting, Mr. Ray had been contacted by DDOT for clarification requested by FHWA on three items in the Cat-Ex document that had been previously submitted to FHWA. Reportedly, the FHWA administrator will sign off on the document when the revised Cat-Ex document is resubmitted by DDOT. DDOT will then be allowed to proceed to negotiate with DC Water for the requested easements. DC Water has been holding off on negotiating easements with DMPED until

DC Water first has the commitment with DDOT and FHWA. Once completed, DC Water will finalize MOUs and easements with both District agencies. Mr. Hoyt pointed out that per Note 1, permits were also received from NPS and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

IV. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR

1. Potomac Pump Station

Mr. Leonard Benson, Chief Engineer, reported that DC Water has been in discussions with the EPA regarding the alternate proposal over the past several months. During that time, the EPA has requested additional information to supplement our original submittal provided in July 2011. The most recent response was sent from DC Water in mid-October. EPA subsequently has requested a meeting in Washington, DC to include the DOJ and EarthJustice. EPA appears to be supportive of DC Water's proposed alternative, recognizing that an expenditure of up to \$30 million without benefits would be unreasonable. The DOJ appears to agree. In response to Mr. Hoyt's question, Mr. Benson stated that specific discussion of issues raised by EarthJustice may be best discussed in closed session. Scheduling of the meeting is somewhat complicated by the negotiations between EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson, and DC Water's GM, George Hawkins, regarding how green improvements may supplement hard engineering solutions in DC. The EPA's regional Water Division Director will be setting a meeting with Mr. Hawkins, and the EPA would like to combine the two meetings. The Committee agreed that it would likely be beneficial for us to do so.

In the meantime, DC Water continues to develop the 1:4 scale model of the pump intakes, and will proceed toward procurement of the impellers, at a cost of \$300K apiece for three impellers. Aside from time spent, on the order of \$300K has been invested on the project to date. To date, the EPA/DOJ has still not agreed to allow a suspension of this work pending a review of the alternate approach submitted by DC Water in July.

2. Odor Abatement Project

Mr. Benson reported that the construction for the DC and MD sites continues on schedule. However, permanent power to these sites is required from PEPSCO, and PEPSCO is currently behind schedule on providing power to a number of sites requiring three-phase power. Therefore, a design change to single phase electric has been required at one of the sites. Nevertheless, PEPSCO is aware of their commitment, and Mr. Benson is optimistic that they will be prepared to provide power as soon as construction is completed.

On the status of the two Virginia sites – one in Loudon County and the other in Fairfax County- a single construction contract to build both has bid. At the Loudon County Site, DC Water is experiencing routine issues: pursuing an emergency access agreement for the County, entering into a License agreement, and obtaining a Building Permit. DC Water expects to issue the construction NTP and receive the Construction Permit at the same time for the Loudon County Site. As reported by Mr. McLaughlin last month, one recent issue at the Fairfax site is a discrepancy between the facility easement, the access road and the placement of the Odor Control building. In construction, the access 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 continues to work with NVRPA to determine whether the building or the easement must be shifted. Since DC Water is within 10 feet of the easement, however, there appears to be some precedent for overlooking a discrepancy of this magnitude. A meeting is to be held towards the end of October to discuss this deviation.

V. PRETREATMENT PROGRAM REGULATIONS UPDATE

Ms. Elaine Wilson, Pretreatment Supervisor, updated the Committee on the status of the proposed rulemaking on Wastewater Discharge Regulations, published May 20, 2011, and last reviewed in last month's meeting. Since then, the regulations have been updated to reflect clarifications on the handling of pharmacological and biological products by healthcare facilities, specifically located within DC. The definition of pharmacological products has been expanded to include veterinary clinics to reflect FDA language.

At this point in the meeting, Action Item No. 4 was covered by Ms. Wilson. Current regulation prohibits discharge of groundwater and stormwater to the sanitary sewer, while the revised regulation proposes to allow contaminated groundwater into the sanitary sewer or combined sewer. "Uncontaminated" is defined as that which is below pretreatment standards. It was noted that there is currently no mechanism to collect fees for the treatment of groundwater discharged in this manner.

VI. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

Following Ms. Wilson's discussion on Action Item 4, Ms. Rosalind Inge, Director of Procurement, presented Action Item 1 for Committee action, while Mr. Benson presented the remaining action items.

Joint Use:

1. Contract No. WAS-08-027-AA-RE, Ram Industrial Services
2. Contract No. DCFA-419, EMA Services

3. Contract No. 110010, Corinthian Contractors, Inc.
4. Proposed Rulemaking – Discharges to Wastewater System Revisions

Non-Joint Use

5. Contract No. 080140, Anchor Construction Corporation
6. Contract No. 110170 Capitol Paving of D.C. Inc.

Mr. Benson noted that the Supplemental Agreement (SA) for the EMA Services contract was a planned procurement approach as the 2008 budget supported only three years of the anticipated six year contract. The SA is to support services through 2015. Mr. Lake asked whether additional work beyond this SA will be bid or would constitute another SA. Mr. Benson explained that DC Water anticipates completing any additional work in house through the Wastewater Treatment Division as the volume of work is expected to decrease by 2015. Mr. Lake requested that the fact sheet note whether any future modifications to this contract are anticipated.

The Committee had no objections to the Action Items discussed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS/EMERGING ISSUES

1. Legal Limitations on Contractors Managing Contractors
2. Multi-jurisdictional Use Facilities (MJUF) Cost Allocation Study and Report: Status and Recommendation for BOD Resolution Concerning Interim Cost Sharing
3. WSSC Biosolids Study vis-à-vis BPAWTP
4. CSO Quarterly Report

The Committee discussed Item No. 1, concerning the legality of contractors managing other contractors. Mr. Hayman confirmed that this is legal and standard practice within the District of Columbia and elsewhere in the US.

Next, the Committee noted Item No. 2, which is to be returned to the Regional Committee for discussion next month.

On Item No. 3, Mr. Chris Peot, Biosolids Manager, reported on the current status of the biosolids study by WSSC which considered the feasibility of treating WSSC's non-Blue Plains biosolids at Blue Plains. A DOE grant was received by WSSC to look at the feasibility of building digesters for gas and energy production. After looking at their own facilities, attention was turned to potentially exporting the biosolids to Blue Plains and

the new digester facility. The volume imported from WSSC would amount to approximately 10% of Blue Plains' production. Mr. Peot pointed out that the regional treatment of biosolids is common practice in Europe. Design and construction are not currently funded beyond this feasibility study, and WSSC has yet to reach any conclusions (feasibility study); the report is due to DOE at the end of 2011. Mr. Lake requested this topic be placed on the EQ&SS Committee agenda to ensure the Committee continues to be informed on any projects involving Blue Plains that is being considered by the other jurisdictions. Mr. Lake also highlighted the article in *Engineering News Record* discussing DC Water's efforts in Enhanced Nitrogen Reduction, Biosolids Management and the Clean Rivers Project.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hoyt adjourned the Committee at 11:10 a.m.

Follow-up Items

1. Add a note to fact sheet for contract DCFA 419, identifying any additional anticipated changes to this contract.