



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

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

Thursday April 15, 2004, 2004– 9:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members

James Caldwell, Chairman
David J. Bardin
David Lake
Stephanie Nash
Larry Coffman
Alexis Roberson

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Michael Marcotte, Chief Engineer
Wendy Hartmann, Interim
General Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman James Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

II. STATUS UPDATES

Mr. Marcotte presented a brief update on plant performance and permit status. Flows for March averaged 353 MGD. Flows in mid-April have trended toward 450 MGD after heavy rainfall. All Blue Plains NPDES permit requirements are being met. Lead in the influent has tended to be stable or declining over the last several years. Currently, lead in the effluent is less than 1 ppb. The removed lead, disposed of with the biosolids, is approximately 10% of the biosolids limit for lead content.

EPA published a draft final NPDES permit for public comment last month, and the 30-day comment period ends Monday, April 19. The Blue Plains issues are minor, and appear to be resolved in WASA's favor. Other issues remaining relate to the Long Term Control Plan. The permit will be a Phase II Permit, issued to those with a Long Term Control Plan. Within the permit, EPA is establishing numerical limits on CSO discharges that would be enforced under all conditions, rather than establishing technology standards. WASA questions this approach.

The committee requested that management investigate to see if the numerical limits were comparable to other jurisdictions with Long Term Control Plans, or if WASA was being singled out for this approach.

Following receipt of final comments, EPA will develop and issue the permit. After the permit is issued, WASA will have 30 days to appeal issues.

Challenges to the Washington Aqueduct permit under the Endangered Species Act are being dismissed.

Within the next 30 days, the Washington Aqueduct will make final decisions on the addition of phosphate to the water supply. By June 1 the new treatment will be added to the Fourth High Area as a trial, and by September 1, presuming that the treatment functions as envisioned, the treatment will be used system-wide.

III. BLUE PLAINS FACILITIES PLANNING

Mr. Marcotte made a presentation on the facilities and strategic planning currently underway for the future requirements of the liquid treatment process stream at the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. The presentation emphasized the future requirements for reducing nitrogen discharges in light of the Chesapeake Bay Program goals, the Long Term Control Plan, and various treatment processes that require recycle of wastes. The planning will emphasize coordination and involvement with stakeholders, and an outreach program to the public.

A committee discussion followed the presentation. The committee recommended that the development of the plan follow the model that was developed for addressing the biosolids issues. It was also noted that it would be very important to project the timeframes where reductions of nitrogen discharges would be required. It will be extremely important to keep all stakeholder discussions and decisions open to the public. The results of the planning will be important input into the renegotiation of the Intermunicipal Agreement in the 2006 to 2007 timeframe. While the Department of Health and the Chesapeake Bay Program will develop the minimum requirements for nutrient removal, WASA may consider reduction beyond the minimums. Because of the economy-of-scale, WASA may be able to go beyond the minimum reductions and provide reduction credits to neighboring jurisdictions. A detailed description of the coordination of technical, stakeholder, and public inputs will be required. WASA will need to keep other stakeholders aware of affordability issues.

The committee requested that the staff address additional implementation issues at the next Committee Meeting.

IV. BLUE PLAINS FLOW AND WAD PURCHASES

A PowerPoint presentation was passed out to the Committee, and the floor was opened for discussion. It was noted that it would take some time to see the result from recent modifications to CSO outfalls, such as the installation of inflatable dams. The Blue Plains Technical Committee will report flows from all IMA users, including D.C., at approximately 6-month intervals. By June the Regional Committee should be prepared to make a presentation to this Committee.

V. DCWASA'S LEAD PROGRAM

Mr. Marcotte presented the Committee with information on the status of the WASA Lead Program. To date approximately 27,000 filters have been distributed to customers that have a lead, or a probable lead, service line. There is a current discussion of where, and to what extent, the filter distribution program should be extended. One proposal is to extend distribution to all that have recorded a high second draw reading. Discussion has focused on extending distribution to all who have an unknown service line type; this would be approximately an additional 21,000. WASA is currently asking all customers with an unknown service line type to request a water test kit.

WASA has added approximately 7,000 test results to the previous 6,000 results. There are currently an additional 10,000 tests in process.

WASA is in the process of reaching agreement on the prioritization criteria for the 500 High Priority replacements. The criteria for lead service line replacement endorsed by the Department of Health and EPA are as follows: First priority would be day care centers caring for five or more children (\approx 100); Second priority, homes where children have had high blood levels within the last three years (\approx 100); Third priority, would be those homes with the highest second draw readings where there are children younger than 6 or pregnant or nursing women. The third priority should round out the 500, and should allow replacements down to the 150 ppb range.

The Board of Directors is considering the establishment of a policy to remove all lead service lines by 2010. This work will be disruptive to neighborhoods and traffic, and must be closely coordinated with citizens, DDOT, and others. Wherever possible, the work will be coordinated with, and done in conjunction with, work required by the Long Term Control Plan.

The Committee pointed out that any proposals for deferral of existing CIP projects to fund the Lead Program must be presented to the Committee well in advance. The Committee requested that a complete funding plan for the Lead Program be presented as soon as it is developed.

At the last Committee Meeting, a proposal was presented that would have allowed individuals to take the responsibility for contracting the lead service removal, with a partial reimbursement from WASA for the public space removal. Some customers have pointed out that this proposal has limited benefits. While WASA, via contracting in mass, has received prices for full removals in the range of \$10,000 to \$12,000, individual owners have received estimates in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000. The staff has identified an approach of working within our contracts as a change order fully funded by the property owner. This approach will be tested during the current year, and will be considered as part of the complete plan for the full replacement of all lead services by 2010.

VI. EDF PROJECT PROCUREMENT PLAN

Mr. Marcotte made a presentation on the planned procurement method for the Egg Shaped Digester Facilities. The presentation addressed the separation of the construction into three contracts, and the pre-selection of the digester vessels and the draft tube mixers, critical and major equipment. The presentation also addressed Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE) participation in the various construction contracts.

The Committee had an extended discussion of the MBE/WBE participation goals, and how to possibly increase participation. The Committee requested that the staff readdress the MBE/WBE participation goals, and try to develop a method of analysis that would allow for a full EPA participation goals.

VII. CSO/STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Bardin presented the current status of the CSO and Stormwater Management Program. The following is the current status:

1. Stormwater NPDES Permit Status:

The public comment period on the permit has closed, but the permit has not yet been issued.

2. Update on litigation Status:

No new activity has occurred. When the judge's decision is received, the General Counsel's Office will email the decision to all Committee members.

3. Fort Stanton Sewershed Separation Project — coordination with lead service replacement efforts project status update:

Preliminary design has been completed for construction in the 2005/06 period. WASA staff will coordinate with DOT, DOH, the public, and the lead replacement program.

4. Rock Creek Sewershed Separation Project — This project, scheduled for a later period than the Fort Stanton project, will need to address the same concerns as were listed for the Fort Stanton project.

5. Three party consent decree project status update:

The inflatable dams were put into operation in March. Main and O Street Pumping Station is about a year ahead in the permitting process. Signs at the outfalls, other than those on National Park lands, have been installed. A program for tree planting has replaced the Visitor Center Project as the SEP. The National Park Service placed several restrictions on the construction of the Visitor Center, including relocation, which made the project impractical.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES

No emerging issues were presented.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Caldwell adjourned the Meeting at 11:44 a.m.