



**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors**

**Retail Services Committee**

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

*11:00 a.m.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present**

Joseph Cotruvo, Chairman  
Howard Gibbs  
David J. Bardin

**WASA Staff Present**

Avis M. Russell, Interim General Manager  
Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager  
Meena Gowda, Acting General Counsel  
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Cotruvo called the Retail Services Committee Meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

**II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

**1. Coliform Testing:**

Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager, reported that zero samples tested positive for coliform in the month of September. As of the meeting date, one sample tested positive for coliform in the month of October.

**2. LCR Compliance Testing:**

Mr. Kiely provided an update on the status of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) compliance testing activities. He reported that 41 samples have been collected and analyzed to date. Zero 1<sup>st</sup> draw samples have exceeded the EPA Action Level of 15 ppb; and five 2<sup>nd</sup> draw samples exceeded 15 ppb. The 2<sup>nd</sup> draw results for these sample were 16 ppb, 17 ppb, 18 ppb, 21 ppb, and 26 ppb. Mr. Kiely noted that four of the five samples also showed high iron levels. A Committee Member requested that WASA staff continue to track lead results over time for samples collected for LCR compliance testing from homes that have received a partial lead service replacement.

### III. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM

#### 1. Service Status:

Mr. Kiely reported that the number of public hydrants in the District is 9,048. The current “out-of-service” list for fire hydrants stands at 153. Of these, 41 are categorized “inaccessible” and 110 are scheduled for replacement. Two (2) hydrants are part of watermain replacement projects, having been replaced with new hydrants as part of the project, and are labeled “out-of-service” because no water remains in the old main. WASA is working with the Fire Department on how these hydrants should be reported. Ms. Russell reported that if hydrants requiring repair/replacement are grouped together, these hydrants are given priority over other hydrants requiring repair/replacement.

The Committee discussed: the most appropriate means for reporting: the locations of the “out-of-service” hydrants (i.e., list of addresses, hard-copy map, or website); the color-banding of hydrants; and how WASA deals with the various situations (elevation changes, lack of side streets, etc.) present in the District. Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to discuss these issues further at a subsequent meeting.

### IV. GALVANIZED PIPE STUDY

Dr. Steve Reiber of HDR Engineering gave a presentation on the *Correlation between Lead Released from Galvanized Iron Piping and the Contents of Lead in Drinking Water*. Dr. Reiber briefed the Committee on the background and objectives of the study. He noted that the study was undertaken because WASA, as part of its LCR Compliance Monitoring Program, observed that approximately 75% of the homes that exceeded the action level (15 ppb) for lead also had elevated (> 79 ppb) iron levels in the same sample. Subsequent investigations revealed that many of these homes had galvanized iron pipe in their interior plumbing. Therefore, a study was proposed to evaluate the potential relationship between lead and galvanized pipe.

He summarized the results from the three (3) parts of the study: a.) Residential Profiles, b.) Laboratory Investigations, and c.) Pipe Loop Studies. He also reviewed the study’s conclusions, including: galvanized iron plumbing can serve as a sink/source for lead due to capture of lead released from upstream service lines; lead can be mobilized from iron corrosion scales; and particulate lead release can be increased due to hydraulic disturbances such as water hammer or increased flow velocity.

Dr. Reiber concluded his presentation by offering some potential remediation suggestions, including: replacement of in-home galvanized plumbing, use of NSF certified filters at the tap, and use of water hammer dampers. The study will be submitted as a journal article for peer review to the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

Ms. Russell reported that WASA advised EPA, DDOE, and DDOH of the presentation that was made to the Committee. Representatives from EPA were present. She also informed the Committee that the report detailing the study will be made available on WASA’s website. Ms. Russell also noted that WASA has invited stakeholders (industry

representatives, concerned citizens, etc.) to a forum on October 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the study and its results.

## **V. CDC LEAD STUDY LETTER FOLLOW UP**

Ms. Russell reported that WASA staff is currently in the process of determining whether changes are needed to the public outreach information concerning lead service line replacement that is sent to customers prior to a WASA project (e.g., watermain replacement). This had been part of earlier recommendations from this committee. The information WASA staff is taking into consideration includes: the recent adoption of BOD Resolution #09-102, the recent CDC recommendations, and revised mitigation strategies. A Committee Member requested that the recent findings from the Galvanized Pipe Study be considered in any potential changes to the outreach material. Ms. Russell confirmed that this would be done.

## **VI. LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to move the Low Impact Development Plan Presentation to the next meeting in November. A Committee Member requested that a copy of the presentation be given to the Committee Members prior to the next meeting in November.

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE**

### **1. Contract No. 090170 – Fort Myer Construction Corporation**

The Committee agreed to recommend approval.

## **VIII. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. LSR Customer Request Update**

Dave McLaughlin, DETS Director (Acting), briefed the Committee on the current status of the customer request portion of the LSR Program. Mr. McLaughlin noted that 34 demand replacements (Element 3) of LSR Program were performed in FY2009. Also, he noted that there are currently 96 open service orders (SOs) associated with mailings that were signed and sent back by homeowners earlier this year under the DDOT portion (Element 2) of LSR Program. Of these 96, historical data indicates that approximately 47 are expected to result in an actual replacement. The others would be cancelled because the homeowner changes his/her mind, the private side material type turns out to be non-lead, etc. Using these numbers, WASA estimates that there would be 81 (34+47) customer request replacements performed in FY2010. The cost associated with these requests was estimated to be approximately \$820,000 - \$850,000. This projected cost exceeds the \$500,000 limit established in the latest BOD Resolution (#09-102). The committee

reiterated that requests from consumers who will provide private side LSR should be honored by WASA.

The Committee discussed the current LSR Program and summarized the changes that have taken place with the adoption of BOD Resolution #09-102, which resulted in the elimination of potential full lead service replacements working ahead of DDOT paving projects (Element 2). The Committee also discussed the fact that the number of LSRs may potentially increase with increased spending on WASA watermain/infrastructure projects (Element 1 of LSR Program).

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 01:30 p.m.