



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors
Ad-hoc Committee on Drinking Water Quality
Meeting**

Thursday, April 17, 2008, 11:00 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Board Members

Joseph Cotruvo, Chairman
Howard Gibbs
David J. Bardin

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda Manley, Board Secretary
Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer
Michele Quander-Collins, Public Affairs Director
David McLaughlin, Acting Director, DETS
Charles Kiely, Asst GM, Consumer Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Cotruvo called the Ad-hoc Committee Meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

Dr. Cotruvo stated that he will discuss with Mr. Lake the coordination of the Ad-hoc Committee and the Environmental Quality and Operations Committee meetings. He summarized the items discussed in the first meeting (March 13, 2008), and then moved into the meeting agenda.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Coliform Testing

Mr. Kiely briefed the Committee on the status of the coliform testing – he confirmed that there were zero (0) hits last month; and none through the 15th of this month (April).

2. LCR Compliance Testing

Mr. Kiely briefed the Committee on the status of the lead compliance testing activities. Mr. Kiely noted that 70 samples have been collected and analyzed to date; the 90th percentile was five (5) ppb; there were two (2) exceedances (the highest of which was 16 ppb.). Dr. Cotruvo asked if all the samples collected/analyzed were from services that have lead or partial-lead service lines, and Mr. Kiely confirmed that they were.

Mr. Bardin requested that a breakdown of sample results by month sampled be provided.

III. TEMPORARY USE OF FREE CHLORINE AS A DISINFECTANT

1. Coordinated Public Communications Plan Report and Status Update

Dr. Cotruvo confirmed that on this type of activity, the Ad-hoc Committee will support the Customer and Community Services Committee – that Committee has the lead in public communication activities.

Ms. Quander-Collins briefed the Committee on this year's public outreach with respect to the temporary change in disinfectant:

- advertisements in daily and community newspapers
- discussions with the editorial boards of the Washington Post and Examiner
- coordinated efforts with other Washington Aqueduct (WAD) customers (e.g., Falls Church and Arlington County) to develop a press release
- distributed a media advisory announcing a media briefing

It was noted that during the media briefing it was apparent that some public misconceptions remain with respect to the responsibility for water treatment (WAD or WASA). The Committee made some recommendations on the outreach materials to better highlight WAD's responsibility.

2. Washington Aqueduct Pipe Loop Data

Dr. Cotruvo gave a brief introduction of the issue of the Pipe Loop Data, explaining that Board Member Alan Roth had asked in a previous meeting for a discussion of the related issues.

Mr. Kiely distributed graphs to the Committee that had originally been presented to Councilman Graham as part of hearing testimony by an advocacy group in an attempt to show that WASA does not sample during warmer months. Mr. Kiely stated that the graphs had been intentionally manipulated and that WASA does sample in the warmest months (July through September), using a protocol recommended by EPA in the Lead and Copper Rule.

Mr. Kiely gave a brief synopsis of WAD's Pipe Loop Sampling System (and specifically Pipe Loop 7); and explained that the anomalous results from Pipe Loop 7 are due to possible outside influences that result from the location and configuration of that pipe loop. Mr. Kiely noted that WAD graphs showed a trend - lead values were typically higher in samples collected during warmer months.

A subsequent discussion followed concerning whether or not the pipe loop set-up is a true representation of the distribution system in the District. It was generally agreed that there were significant differences between the pipe loops and actual conditions found in the distribution system.

IV. LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

1. Replacement Status, 1st Quarter 2008

Mr. McLaughlin summarized the statistics related to the first quarter of the Lead Service Replacement (LSR) Program.

- 508 public side replacements completed in the first quarter (14,620 replaced to date since the inception of the program), representing 17,418 feet of pipe replaced (449,556 feet of pipe replaced since the inception of the program)

- 223 private side replacements completed in the first quarter (2,128 replaced to date since the inception of the program)), representing 4,845 feet of pipe replaced (43,222 feet of pipe replaced since the inception of the program)
- total length of lead pipe removed since inception of program is 492,778 feet

The Committee noted the increase in private side replacements and linear feet of pipe replaced on the private side during the first quarter of 2008.

2. Cost of Private Service Line Replacement

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the rates for private side replacements were adopted in 2004; and reviewed in 2006 by WASA's rate consultant and left unchanged. A graphic was distributed to the Board indicating that construction costs between 2006 and 2008 have been rising steadily – generally four (4)% per year. In 2009, the rates are scheduled to be reviewed again. Current data and trends would support a slight increase in the rate. Mr. McLaughlin then clarified for the Committee that the private side cost is based on a flat rate of \$100 per foot of pipe + \$500 for penetration. Therefore, the more space between the property line and the physical structure/premise, the larger the cost to the homeowner.

Mr. Bardin then asked WASA to prepare a cost estimate for:

- WASA paying for all of the remaining private side replacements
- WASA paying for a home filtration system (only kitchen supply)
 - within all customer's homes
 - those premises with the highest lead levels

Mr. Johnson stated that WASA has not performed an evaluation of the potential cost for filtration systems. Mr. Johnson also reminded the Committee that the cost of the private side replacement is a fully-loaded cost and takes into account all construction management costs, equipment costs, etc.

Dr. Cotruvo cited the example of Hamilton, Ontario that is recommending homeowners purchase filters (and/or may be subsidizing the purchase of filters for its residents) as it continues in its program of replacing lead service lines. Dr. Cotruvo stated that it would be worth it to do a preliminary costing exercise for filtration devices. Mr. Johnson agreed to provide a budget level cost estimate within 30 days, or sooner if possible.

3. Discussion of Guidance Regarding Flushing and Impact of Non-Replacement of Private Lines

Dr. Cotruvo stated that this issue was raised by advocacy groups at the April 3rd Council Hearing. The main points made at the hearing were: 1) that the language should be made more forceful and 2) by doing so it encourage increased participation in the private side replacement program.

Mr. Johnson noted that experts in risk communication participated in the development of the documents and their conclusion was that the text was appropriate for such a broad audience. Also, the EPA reviewed the documentation and felt the final documentation was appropriate.

Dr. Cotruvo then asked if the literature was to highlight more of the potential health-risk issues associated with lead in the water supply, would that increase the participation from the homeowners to have their private side replaced? Mr. Johnson recommended that this question be addressed after the Hearing on May 1st. The Committee concurred with this recommendation.

4. May 1, 2008 BOD Hearing on LSR Program

Mr. Johnson confirmed that the public hearing will be held on May 1, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the LSR Program. The hearing will be held at the Council of Governments (COG) Office – 777 North Capitol Street, N.E. WASA staff will give a brief presentation at the start of the meeting, prior to public testimony. Staff will prepare a report and recommendations to the Board approximately 30 days after the hearing.

Dr. Cotruvo asked Mr. Johnson if there has been any assessment made from the various meetings (neighborhood meetings, quadrant meetings, etc.) that have been held earlier this year throughout the District. Mr. Johnson then gave a brief synopsis of the highlights from the meetings.

V. INDEPENDENT WATER QUALITY STUDY

1. Plan Development Status

Mr. Johnson noted that several meetings have taken place internally within WASA to discuss the Independent Water Quality Study. He also noted that meetings have taken place between WASA and the DC Department of the Environment (DDOE) in regard to the study. Mr. Brendan Shane spoke on behalf of DDOE Director Hawkins, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Shane briefed the Board on the developments to date with respect to the study.

- DDOE remains very willing to lead a multi-party process (task force approach: stakeholders – DOH, DDOE, WAD, EPA, WASA)
- DDOE feels it may be necessary to address the lead level evaluation first
- DDOE sees its role as a decision maker and arbiter, not as the conductor of the study
- Funding remains an unclear issue
- DDOE believes the task force process could be completed in three (3) to four (4) meetings
 - complete study design
 - identifying 3rd party contractor(s)
 - issuance of Request for Proposals (RFPs)

The Committee discussed procurement activities, funding and the possibility of staff approaching EPA to assist in the funding the study. Mr. Johnson advised that WASA has already approached EPA with respect to funding.

VI. WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WASA AND WAD-DISCUSSION

1. Water Sales Agreement

Dr. Cotruvo gave a brief synopsis of this issue. He touched upon WASA's role, i.e., the level of responsibility and leverage WASA currently has, and asked whether or not the agreement needed to be strengthened – certain guarantees of water quantity and quality provided by WAD to WASA. Dr. Cotruvo also noted that since WASA was the largest member of the group, he wanted to ensure WASA could not be out-voted on matters that would be detrimental to their best interests.

2. Customer MOU

Mr. Johnson provided a recap on the relationship with WAD, and noted that there are several legal issues to work out before moving toward making any modifications to the MOU.

The Committee concurred on the need to map out a path toward modifying the agreement and the MOU.

VII. CLARIFICATION OF AD-HOC COMMITTEE ROLE

1. Role of Customer and Community Services Committee regarding communications

Dr. Cotruvo stated that he has clarified this issue with the Chairman of the Customer and Community Services Committee. The Ad-hoc Committee will play a supporting role and deal with the technical issues that arise; and the Customer and Community Services Committee will retain the lead role for public communications and information.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES

None

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Kiely and Mr. Johnson reported that FEMS has recently and aggressively commenced their hydrant inspection program for this year and has reported approximately 300 hydrants out of service. A review of the reports indicated problems with duplicate entries and inconsistency in standards used to determine serviceability. A number of hydrants appear to have been damaged during the inspection process. WASA has had to apply all resources at its disposal to timely address the sudden increase in FEMS reporting. Mr. Kiely reported that WASA currently has 9 crews replacing approximately 60 hydrants per week. An additional 40 hydrants are repaired daily. WASA is introducing a more automated data collection method which is expected to reduce data errors. The equipment will be provided to FEMS by the end of the month.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Cotruvo adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.