



*District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority*

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

Thursday, May 15, 2008, 10:45 a.m.  
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

**Board Members**

Joseph Cotruvo, Chairman  
Howard Gibbs  
David J. Bardin

**Staff Members**

Avis Russell, General Counsel  
Linda Manley, Secretary to the Board  
Charles Kiely, Asst GM for Consumer  
Services

David McLaughlin, Acting Director, DETS

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Cotruvo called the Ad-hoc Committee Meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.; and moved directly 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 that there were no issues to report since last December/January.

2. Temporary Use of Free Chlorine - Results

Mr. Kiely reported to the Committee that as of the 12<sup>th</sup> of May the distribution system is back on chloramines. Although chlorine taste and odor was readily detectable in at least some locations, Mr. Kiely noted that very few issues were noted during this year's use of free chlorine.

3. LCR Compliance Testing

Mr. Kiely provided an update to the Committee on the status of the lead compliance testing activities. Mr. Kiely noted that the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for the samples analyzed to date during the April 7<sup>th</sup> to May 7<sup>th</sup> time period was five (5) ppb; and that two samples exceeded the action level (the highest of which was 16 ppb.).

Mr. Bardin requested that future reports include the actual values for those samples that exceed the lead action level.

#### 4. Fire Hydrant Program Update

Mr. Kiely updated the Committee on the current status of the fire hydrant replacement/repair program. Mr. Kiely reported the following:

- Work breakdown by crews
  - 75% of replacements performed by contractor crews
  - 25% of replacements performed by WASA crews
  - 100% of repair and maintenance work performed by WASA crews
  - 6,200 inspections completed by FEMS to date (67% of system)
    - 225 hydrants replaced
    - 534 hydrants repaired
    - 301 (3.2% of system) hydrants currently out of service
  - Private hydrant inspections began this week
- Additional resources have been committed
  - WASA repair crews increasing from four to eight crews
  - Contractor replacement crews increased from six to nine
  - Contractor valve crews increased by five
  - Additional support staff – planners, inspectors, clerical, etc.

Mr. Bardin requested that WASA report (within the next two meetings): 1) the percentage of hydrants damaged during the inspection process and 2) an update of the status of the private hydrant inspections.

Mr. Bardin was impressed with the hydrant report and requested that the PowerPoint presentation be shared with the entire Board.

#### 5. Compliance Samples / Full and Partial Lead Services

Mr. Kiely presented the Committee with information derived from WASA's various sampling and testing programs, including compliance sampling and recently completed follow up sampling of locations originally tested in 2006. Mr. Kiely summarized the results of this analysis as follows:

- Water treatment process is effective in controlling leaching from lead service lines
- 'Galvanic effect' is short-lived, if at all
- Flushing instructions appear to be correct/accurate – there were no exceedances in 3<sup>rd</sup> draw samples

Mr. Kiely noted that one observation to draw from the data is that homes with higher initial lead levels will see a statistically significant lowering of lead levels following a partial replacement. Mr. Bardin requested that the final column of the chart be re-named to "First Draw Comparison After Partial Lead Service Line Replacement".

### *Galvanized Plumbing and Lead Service Lines*

Mr. Kiely briefed the Committee on the relationship between galvanized plumbing and lead service lines. Initial results indicated that out of 11 homes surveyed (with over 15 ppb of lead), 10 were also found to have galvanized internal plumbing.

After some discussion, Mr. Kiely then summarized the overall conclusions from all of the studies reported on:

- The most effective method for reducing lead at the tap is to replace the entire lead service line
- Impact of partial lead service line replacements varies by home
- Galvanized plumbing may be a contributory factor to elevated lead levels in tap samples

Mr. Bardin noted for the Committee that we have all learned a great deal since the inception of the LSR Program; and that WASA is currently going beyond federal standards as far as LCR Compliance is concerned. He questioned the overall effectiveness of the Program, in general, and has concerns about the continuation of the Program. Ms. Russell replied that WASA will respond in June to the Board with its recommendations for the Program.

Mr. Kiely concluded his presentation by assuring the Committee that the reservoir at Ft. Reno is not affected by the recent discovery of high levels of arsenic in soils in the area. The reservoir is encased in concrete. WAD tested the water in the reservoir for arsenic a few weeks back and the results were just barely above detection level (0.3 ppb.). WASA has just re-sampled the water and the results should be available within the next day or so.

Mr. Gibbs questioned the recent water main breaks in the Southeast area, and Mr. Kiely responded that they were due to water hammer effects, and that everything has been repaired - the system is back up-and-running correctly.

### **III. LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

#### 1. Replacement Status, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008

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

#### 2. List of options for LSR Program

At the Committee's request, Mr. McLaughlin reiterated three possible options for the LSR Program that had been previously presented to the Committee:

- a.) Continue Program "As-Is"
- b.) Modify the Program to follow DDOTs work locations
- c.) Replace lead lines as part of 'other' infrastructure projects

Dr. Cotruvo mentioned that there could be a fourth option of suspending the Program entirely. Mr. McLaughlin and Ms. Russell responded that there would always be lead replacements as part of routine infrastructure work and this option would be covered in c.) above. Whether this would be done as partial or complete replacements should be directly addressed. Ms. Russell informed the Committee that other options (as well as elaboration on those options already presented) may be added in the General Manager's Report after the Hearing comment period has ended. Mr. Bardin requested that the GM Report include a recommendation that the Program be virtually suspended until a comprehensive scientific study/evaluation is completed. Dr. Cotruvo stated that the options and supporting report must be comprehensive, and we must always consider that the goal is that the drinking water should not be a significant contributor to increased blood lead levels.

3. Cost Estimates for Point of Use Filter Systems

- The Committee briefly discussed the point of use (POU) and points of entry (POE) filtration systems. Mr. Bardin asked that staff identify which (if any) District agency should be providing information to consumers on filtration systems.

**IV. MAY 1, 2008 BOD HEARING ON LSR PROGRAM**

Dr. Cotruvo briefly summarized the testimony from the Hearing.

- The most critical question raised during the LSR Hearing concerning data and quality of the data (analyzing the correct data, looking at the correct timeframes, etc.) was answered by EPA's Region III representative. She responded unequivocally that WASA is accurately presenting their data and following the LCR statute.
- Mr. Jacobus testified that the pipe loop data was not intended to replicate what is happening in the distribution system, but rather to monitor changes in water treatment.
- There was a 2006 EPA report distributed at the hearing that the presence of dielectrics did not have a significant effect on the extent of lead leaching due to galvanic corrosion in the pipe.

Dr. Cotruvo also briefly described the difference between a corrosion screening standard and a health standard, and particularly that the screening first draw monitoring of stagnant water was more stringent than other guidelines (e.g., WHO) and standards that allow random draw samples on running water.

Mr. Bardin stated that the criticism leveled at the General Manager related to the decision to continue a lead service line program beyond that which is required by federal regulation was unwarranted. The Board should have come to the defense of Mr. Johnson and let the public know that he was simply following the mandate of the Board, and was not acting of his own discretion.

**V. WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT PIPE LOOP DATA**

Dr. Cotruvo reiterated Mr. Jacobus' statement that pipe loop data was not intended to replicate what is happening in the distribution system, but rather to monitor changes in water treatment in the loops. Pipe loops are simulations that do not specifically match the temperature conditions of water in pipe buried in the ground.

**VI. EXTERNAL COMMENTS ON EPA 2006 GALVANIC ANALYSIS**

Dr. Cotruvo asked if staff is aware of a rebuttal of the report. This was requested by the chair at the May 1 public hearing. Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Kiely responded that they are not yet aware of any such rebuttal.

**VII. LEAD TASK FORCE BLOOD LEVEL REPORT, 2007-2008**

Mr. Shane from DDOE apologized for not having a full report for the Committee with respect to the Blood Lead Level Report, 2007-2008. He said that by the next meeting, he will have a one or two page summary of the report and how those results correlate to water. Mr. Shane also mentioned that his colleagues (DDOE and DOH) can be made available to present their findings at the next meeting.

Mr. Shane also reported to the Board that the Water Quality Study is still in its infancy. No real progress made on issues relating to funding or bringing a task force together. Dr. Cotruvo stated that this item will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

**VIII. EMERGING ISSUES**

None were reported.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Cause of High Lead Readings in School Buildings - WASA Activities

Mr. McLaughlin stated that WASA's role is very limited. Mr. Kiely confirmed that currently WASA is in a support role and will provide technical assistance as required. A discussion followed concerning to what extent WASA should become involved. Ms. Russell contended that any involvement beyond the current level would be a policy decision and would require Board direction.

2. Mr. Bardin commented that the LSR staff recommendation that will be distributed next month should contain:
  - What the Program has been able to accomplish
  - What legislation has been introduced, but not yet acted upon

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Cotruvo adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.