



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

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

Monday, June 30, 2008
8:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Board Members

Joseph Cotruvo, Chairman
Howard Gibbs
David J. Bardin
George Hawkins
Brenda Richardson

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

Presenter

Dr. Steve Reiber, Director of HDR's Water Research Program

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Cotruvo called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. LCR Compliance

Mr. Kiely provided an update on the status of the Lead and Copper Rule compliance testing activities. The 90th percentile for the samples analyzed to date in 2008 was seven (7) ppb; of 103 samples, and three (3) exceeded the action level (16 ppb, 19 ppb and 77ppb).

A committee member requested that future General Manager Reports include values of those samples that exceed the lead action level in addition to the 90th percentile values.

Dr. Cotruvo inquired if the samples were collected at areas where high lead levels are suspected. Mr. Kiely responded that all the samples meet EPA's Tier 1 sampling site requirements and that 75% of the samples were from sites with full lead service lines while 25% of the samples were taken from sites with partial lead service lines.

Since lead levels have been dropping since introduction of orthophosphate, Dr. Cotruvo asked what might be expected to be the likely maximum lead reduction effects. He requested a compilation of historical lead related water quality data collected from different cities with long term orthophosphate use, which might give some information in that regard.

A question was asked from the audience related to sampling protocols and use of 10 minute preflush. The question was noted and a response will be provided by WASA.

1. Coliform Testing:

Mr. Kiely reported that this month to date one site failed, which required upstream and downstream sampling to be performed and the results are pending. Other than the one exception noted, tests conducted at the other sites yielded results that were within EPA limits.

III. FOLLOW-UP ON MISCELLANEOUS WATER QUALITY ISSUES:

Dr. Steve Reiber, Director of HDR's Water Research Program, presented to the committee a comprehensive discussion of the results of studies on galvanic corrosion and particularly partial LSL Replacement. This is an issue that has been raised several times by commenters. His conclusions of the studies with relevance to the lead service line replacement program were:

- Impressed and Grounding current do not significantly affect internal corrosion of metal lines
- Galvanic coupling has little effect on passivated lead lines and occurs for only a short time in the presence of orthophosphate.
- Internal corrosion and metal release in passivated lead pipes is not significantly affected by the use of a dielectric coupling, which primarily benefits external corrosion rates..

A full version of the presentation will be made available to the members of the Board and also to the general public through the DCWASA website.

Dr. Reiber stated that while using a dielectric may be a good plumbing practice to protect plumbing from corrosion, interruption of electrical grounding through the use of a dielectric presented a potentially much greater risk to the public than that which may result from metal release through galvanic corrosion.

IV. LEAD TASK FORCE BLOOD LEVEL REPORT, 2007-2008

Mr. Hawkins presented the report on behalf of DDOE. A copy of the bi weekly report was distributed. Mr. Hawkins drew attention to the improved District Government response to reports of Elevated Blood Level (EBL) in children. Mr. Hawkins pointed out that DDOE and four city agencies were working closely to monitor EBL response and track status of each case. One change in the process of EBL related testing, according to Mr. Hawkins, is that DDOE regularly tests for lead in water as a possible causative factor. Dr. Cotruvo complimented Mr. Hawkins on the new program and the opportunity to achieve much

better oversight on blood lead in DC, as well as to conduct studies on the contributing factors.

He also asked if there was an explanation of why the average EBL in DC is somewhat above national average. Mr. Hawkins attributed that to various factors, probably associated with cities with older housing stock and lead paint.

V. WATER QUALITY STUDY STATUS

Mr. Hawkins noted that DDOE will be responsible for managing the independent WQ Study. He informed the Committee that funding for the preliminary (scoping) phase had been obtained from the Conference of Mayors, whereas the funds for the entire study are still pending. He advised that the scope of work would be peer reviewed and be completed this fall.

It was agreed that the water quality study would be comprehensive and that the lead portion of the study would be prioritized and the study peer reviewed.

VI. LSR PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Johnson began by informing the Chair that he had a significant recommendation to make to the board which would have an impact on budgetary and other considerations for DCWASA. He also reminded the Committee that all information and background material related to the public outreach meeting have been sent to the Board members and that the comment period for the public has closed.

Mr. McLaughlin began the presentation and provided background and a status of the current program. Mr. Kiely then provided an overview of water quality issues and results from a variety of testing and sampling programs.

Dr. Guidotti spoke on the health effects of lead. He noted that the effect of lead may be disproportionate at lower exposure levels and that while water is a minor source of intake, attention to all sources is warranted. Dr. Guidotti concluded that the lead in DC water did not appear to be associated with elevated BLL on a population or on an individual basis. He also stated that if exposures are very low or absent there are no public health implications to any of the options. He was asked about the representativeness of the plot of IQ vs EBL data provided on p 15 of his briefing, and what portion of the IQ effects could be attributed to lead vs other factors that are known to operate. He said that the data set might have been somewhat skewed. The issue of lead vs other factors is discussed by CDC in its reports.

As the meeting had already exceeded its allotted time, Dr. Cotruvo asked that the presentation be halted at that point, and the options were not formally presented. A discussion ensued between the committee chairman and the General Manager related to the timing of the Board decision on the program and its relationship to budget preparation.

A committee member requested further information on LSR Programs in other cities (eg: budgets and numbers of lead service lines being removed).

A committee member requested information on the cost of home (point- of-use) filtration systems.

A committee member inquired as to likely practical impacts if the service line replacement program was suspended pending completion of the independent water quality study. The General Manager replied that he believed the Board needed to make a determination on the future of the program now.

The Committee also asked the General Manager to consider what would be his position if the Board simply repealed the current policy, and left the future direction of the program to the General Manager.

The briefings will continue at the next committee meeting in July.

VII. EMERGING ISSUES /OTHER BUSINESS

None reported.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Cotruvo adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.