

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WATER QUALITY AND WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015**

**Members Present**

Rachna Butani, Chair George Hawkins, General Manager

Howard Gibbs Randy Hayman, General Counsel

Matthew Brown Charles Sweeney, Dir. Dist.&Conveyance

Systems

Linda Manley, Board Secretary

1. **Call to Order**

Ms. Butani asked the Committee members for comments on whether the monthly meeting should move to another day so that the day can be shortened, since many of the members also sit on the Environmental Quality and Sewerage Services Committee which meets on the same day. The day is especially long when there is also a joint meeting of both committee. Members felt that it might be easier to leave it like it is instead of coming in different days for the two or three meetings.

**II. Water Quality Monitoring**

**A. Total Coliform Rule (TCR) Testing**

Charles Sweeney, Director of Distribution & Conveyance Systems, updated the Committee on TCR testing. There were zero positive TCRs reported in December and one positive so far in January. Jessica Brandt-Edwards, Manager of Water Quality, stated that the positive was at a fairly new site and has been monitored for about a year. They are still investigating to determine if there is any activity in the area that may have caused the positive. Mr. Gibbs asked for the regulatory target for TCRs. Ms. Brandt-Edwards stated that they are allowed 5 percent per month of the total 240 site samples requirement, or 12 positives per month.

**B.** **Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring**

It was reported that the next period of monitoring LCRs begins on January 26, 2015.

**III. Fire Hydrant Upgrade Program**

David Walls, Manager of the Distribution Branch, reported that of the approximately 9,400 public hydrants, approximately 120 were out of service.Of the 120 hydrants, 60 were due to some defect and 61 due to construction or some kind of temporary condition. D.C. Water has control over the 60 that are due to defect, for which the goal is no more than 1 percent and it was at .6 percent. The increase over last month’s total is because of water main breaks and different activities that occur in the winter months. These out of service hydrants have been addressed and the number is now back down to the mid-50s again. The numbers represent a snapshot and the report date was as of January 5, 2015.

Ms. Butani asked if there crews that repair hydrants are the same crews that do water main repairs and everything else. Mr. Walls stated that generally they are the same, but they do have fire hydrant repair crews that do the maintenance as one of their priority. As a call comes in and they are made aware of a location, they respond, check it out, and perform a repair.

Mr. Walls stated that on the hydrant map there are no new areas of concentration.

**V. Do Not Drink Advisory Update**

Jason Hughes, Director of Water Distribution, provided an update on the incident concerning the petroleum-based smell in the R Street area. He stated that he invited some of the team members who participated in addressing the problem. They included Jessica Brandt-Edwards, David Walls, Maureen Schmelling, Jonathan Reeves, Constant Pierre, and Nicole Condon.

Mr. Hughes used a slide presentation to summarize the incident and he talked about what was learned and what actions they took. The Fire Department’s Hazmat Team responded to the report of a petroleum smell in the area. They believe that there was a gas leak or break nearby the evening before, as well as the issue with the gas smell within a school. The Fire Department contacted the District’s Department of Environment (DDOE) who also responded. DDOE followed their procedures and contacted the 33rd National Guard Civil Support Team to provide localized sampling. Those initial tests identified something but they could not figure what it was or the concentration. They thought it could potentially cause an issue and they contacted D.C. Water. It was not initially a water concern, so according to DDOE’s procedures, they contacted the National Guard. D.C. Water dispatched crews to the area and began collecting and testing samples. The Emergency Management Team was activated and the Incident Command Post was established at Bryant Street. The Command Van was deployed to 8th and R to provide a presence in the middle of the event. Along with EPA and others, a decision was made to issue a “Do Not Drink” Advisory was issued. Sampling continued and a plan for flushing out the system developed. Samples were taken to EPA’s Laboratory at Fort Meade by police escort. There was great support from all the agencies that participated.

Ms. Butani asked if the National Guard charges someone for their time and services to recoup the costs. Mr. Hughes responded that at the beginning they were there on behalf of DDOE. There is a limit on the time they can be there in that capacity and they were approaching that limit which would have required another declaration. Jonathan Reeves stated that the first 12 hours are free and then a bill would be issued.

Mr. Hughes reported that some of the initial results indicated a petroleum-based compound having a thick, motor oil consistency. The analysis is now complete but no final conclusions have been reached. This was not a quick process as it may seem on television. They determined that the Aqueduct’s analysis was okay. The notice continued because they had not received enough to lift it. When the incident approached the 72 hour mark, D.C. Water’s team began to evaluate transferring this responsibility to the City for operational reasons. Mr. Hughes stated that they started to receive calls from some senior facilities saying that they needed water. In their call to the City, they asked that water be distributed to residents. Good results were received that indicated that they could notify the public of the termination of the “Do Not Drink” Advisory. They are still waiting for the final reports from EPA’s laboratory and the other laboratory.

No conclusions have been made on this incident but actions continue. Additional details of the operation can be found on D.C. Water’s website in the meeting materials.

Ms. Butani asked for comments from the Committee members on the one action item presented. There being no questions or concerns, Ms. Butani stated that the contract would be recommended for Board approval.

There being no further business, Ms. Butani adjourned the meeting.