

A Message from the Executive Director

By Carol Batterton, Executive Director



Water Environment Federations' Washington Briefing

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is hosting a Congressional luncheon on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 in the Rayburn House Office building in Washington, DC. The event will be held in cooperation with the New England WEA and will provide an opportunity for member associations to visit their Congressional delegations. It is an important time to be in Washington as Congress considers additional funding for water infrastructure as part of Jobs/Stimulus legislation, reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program, legislation to encourage green infrastructure, and potential changes to the jurisdiction of Clean Water Act.

In addition to the luncheon and Hill visit opportunity on March 16, the WEF Government Affairs Committee (GAC) will hold a briefing with EPA senior staff on March 15 from 3-5 PM. This briefing will be followed by an informal reception from 5-7 PM. It will be a great opportunity to visit with EPA staff and communicate on issues of concern to Texas. WEAT is planning to send several representatives to this event. If you or your utility would like to participate, please feel free to contact me.

TCEQ Pharmaceutical Advisory Group

SB1757 requires the TCEQ to study and make recommendations regarding the methods to be used by consumers, health care providers and others for disposing of unused pharmaceuticals so they do not enter a wastewater system. In response to this bill, TCEQ has formed a pharmaceutical advisory group to initiate the study required by the bill.

In conducting the study, the bill allows the agency to solicit input from a wide variety of sources including other state agencies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, hospitals, clinics, water utilities, local governments and many others. By soliciting input from this diverse group of stakeholders, the agency hopes to gain an understanding of:

- the methods currently used in Texas for pharmaceutical disposal;
- the factors driving current disposal practices;
- the types/quantities of pharmaceuticals currently being disposed of using various disposal methods;
- constraints and advantages that exist with current methods of disposal;
- alternative methods of disposal used or considered;
- the feasibility of implementing best practice disposal methods on a statewide basis;
- the relationships between various stakeholder groups involved in disposing of pharmaceuticals; and
- tools, programs, and resources that may be required to implement a statewide disposal program.

Several WEAT members are actively participating on this advisory committee. One of the next steps is to circulate a questionnaire seeking information from wastewater utilities on current pharmaceutical disposal practices.

Proposed Water Quality Standards and Implementation Procedures

On January 13, 2010, the TCEQ proposed new water quality standards and implementation procedures. WEAT and the coalition of other water organizations has worked actively with TCEQ on development of expanded categories for recreational uses and criteria, the development of numerical nutrient criteria and screening levels for reservoirs, and protocols for establishing reasonable potential and WET limits in permits.

Comments on the proposed rules are due on March 17, 2010. A public hearing is scheduled for March 11, 2010, and the target agenda date for adoption is July 14, 2010. WEAT's Watershed Management Committee, chaired by Michael Bloom, is currently reviewing the proposed rules in detail. If you have comments, please email Michael at mbfloom@pbsj.com.

Texas Water 2010 Corpus Christi Texas Water Environment Association of Texas Operations Challenge EVENT SCHEDULE							
Date/Time	Pre-Comp Meeting	Process Control Event	Laboratory Event	Safety Event	Maintenance Event	Collection's Event	Texas Shoot Out
	CC 225 C - Upper Level	CC 225 C - Upper Level	Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall
4/14/10							
10:00 AM	ALL						
11:00 AM		ALL					
1:00 PM			4				
1:30 AM			3				
2:00 AM			2				
2:30 AM			1				
3:30 PM					Demo		
4/15/10							
9:00 AM							
9:15 AM							
9:30 AM							
9:45 AM				All			
10:00 AM				4			
10:15 AM					3		
10:30 AM						2	
10:45 AM				1			
11:00 AM					4		
11:15 AM						3	
11:30 AM				2			
11:45 AM					1		
12:00 PM							
Lunch							
1:00 PM						4	
1:15 PM				3			
1:30 PM					2		
1:45 PM						1	
2:00 PM							Open Sign-up
2:15 PM							
2:30 PM							
3:15 PM							Competition Awards

Note: 3:15 pm - 3:45 pm ... Awards Ceremony - Exhibit Hall

Team 1: San Antonio Power SAWS

Team 2: TRA CRWSers

Team 3: City of Dallas, Aqua Techs

Team 4: City of Austin, Dillo Xpress