

LAKE MEAD WATER QUALITY FORUM
February 18, 2009
Meeting Summary

I. Introductions – Forum members and participating audience members introduced themselves.

II. Status Reports:

1. Perchlorate Update – Shannon Harbour (NDEP – Las Vegas)

Ms. Shannon Harbour reported the following updates for perchlorate:

LV Wash:

- The perchlorate mass loading passing Northshore Road for over the last year has been shown to range between ~50 to ~90 lbs/day (January through December 2008). The average perchlorate loading for 2008 is ~70 lbs/day.

Willow Beach:

- The perchlorate concentrations measured at Willow Beach in the Colorado River system continue to remain low and have been measured at < 4 parts per billion (ppb) since June 2004.

Colorado River:

- MWD has reported perchlorate concentrations <2.5 ppd for all samples collected between October 2005 and January 2009.

Tronox LLC (formerly Kerr-McGee):

- The Fluidized Bed Reactor (FBR) perchlorate treatment system continues to operate. Perchlorate concentrations in the treated water discharge are routinely < 18 ppb.
- Perchlorate removal rates for the Tronox remediation system now are typically reported between approximately 1,500 and 2,000 lbs per day Tronox reported ~ 1,600 lbs/day removal rate for December 2008.
- Tronox has declared bankruptcy but has continued to operate the remediation systems at their facility without interruption. NDEP has been in continual contact with Tronox about the status of their bankruptcy. NDEP stated that the Attorney General is preparing a petition for the bankruptcy court for priority for the Henderson environmental liability claims.
- Removal of perchlorate from the environment through December 31, 2008:
 - ~2,731 tons total: 401 tons from the seep area
 - 856 tons from Athens Road
 - 1,474 tons from the on-site system

AMPAC:

- The In-Situ Bioremediation (ISB) perchlorate treatment system continues to operate. Elevated concentrations of perchlorate were detected in the performance monitoring well field thought to be caused by the installation of the new large diameter re-injection well.
- NDEP (BCA and BWPC) have been meeting with AMPAC to discuss elevated perchlorate concentrations within the in-situ bioremediation monitoring well field as well as system optimization including the installation of additional large diameter re-injection wells, tracer tests, and additional monitoring wells.
- In-situ system averaging a mass reduction rate of ~39lbs/day.

SCOP:

- The NDEP and the Clean Water Coalition (CWC) continue to meet to discuss the deposition of water generated through extensive excavation dewatering that is impacted with perchlorate and other potential contaminants. NDEP is currently reviewing permit application for the management of the dewatering water generated from the SCOP pipeline and tunnel.

Nationally:

- In January 2009, EPA released an interim Drinking Water Health Advisory for Perchlorate of 15 ppb. EPA is seeking the advice of the National Academy of Science before making a final determination on perchlorate.

2. Quagga Mussels (NDOW)

Speaker was not available for discussion on quagga mussels.

Tom Porta suggested working with the Interagency Quagga Mussel group sponsored by the National Park Service and facilitated by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) on the quagga mussel issue. UNLV has drafted a Quagga Mussels Monitoring Plan which should be completed in June 2009. UNLV has been monitoring quagga mussel veligers (free floating form of quagga mussels) and has found that veliger concentrations have decreased from 2007.

3. Selenium Subcommittee

Speaker not available.

4. Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

Mr. Xiaoping Zhou discussed that the LVWCC held a quarterly meeting on January 27, 2009. The meeting received two presentations:

1. Selenium Management Plan for the Las Vegas Wash and its Tributaries by Dr. Khalil Abusaba of Brown and Caldwell.
2. Great Salt Lake Selenium Programs by Dr. William Moehllmer, Department of Environmental Quality, State of Utah.

Mr. Zhou also discussed the following updates on projects and study teams:

Clark County Wetland Park has completed the construction of wetland mitigation bank. Nature Preserve expansion continues and trailhead design is near completion.

Ducks Unlimited (DU 2) project is under construction.

The BOR working plan for construction of 4 new weirs was completed. The weirs will be built in 2009

Water quality monitoring continues in the Wash, in tributaries and in the constructed wetlands. Some of the study results were recently presented to the LMSS and NWRA conferences. The final report of 5-year (2003-2007) water quality monitoring in the mainstream Wash has been completed and posted in the member website.

The draft report of 5-year water quality monitoring in the urban tributaries to the Wash has been prepared and distributed for review.

Biological and cultural resource monitoring in the Wash continues.

A historic structure discovered near the Wash was relocated to museum.

The third bioassessment report is in preparation.

The Biology Team is preparing for field season for bird compliance monitoring.

The upcoming semi-annual Green-up event will be held on March 21, 2009.

The next upcoming LVWCC meeting will be April 28, 2009.

5. SCOP Update:

Design is almost complete and landscaping along the wash is in the last phase. It was discussed how they have been reviewing and trimming costs due to the economy. The CWC has been working closely with NDEP and have shared with the State of Arizona the work that has been done in Nevada. There was a presentation of Wastewater Workshops and studies regarding recycling water.

III. Presentations

1. Determining Health-Based Guidance Levels for Pharmaceuticals and Suspected EDCs in Drinking Water—
Shane Snyder, Ph.D., Southern Nevada Water Authority
2. Regional Water Quality Management Plan—
Peggy Roefer, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Lynn Orphan, Clean Water Coalition

These presentations are available on the NDEP website at ndep.nv.gov/forum

IV. Other Issues

V. Next Forum Meeting

The next Lake Mead Water Quality Forum meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2009.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am