

LAKE MEAD WATER QUALITY FORUM

December 3, 2008

Meeting Summary

I. **Introductions – Forum members and participating audience members introduced themselves.**
See attached sign-in sheet.

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 flux passing Northshore Road for over the last year has been shown to range between ~50 to ~90 lbs./day (July thru September 2008). The 12-month average 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 (currently 3.5 ppb).

Colorado River:

- Perchlorate concentrations have been reported at <4 ppb by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California water quality laboratory for all samples collected between June 2004 and October 2008. The October 2008 perchlorate concentration was 1.3 ppb.

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 ~ 1500 lbs/day removal rate for October 2008.
- Removal of perchlorate from the environment through August 31, 2008:

~2,638 tons total: 399 tons from the seep area;

836 tons from Athens Road; and

1,449 tons from the on-site system.

AMPAC:

- The In-Situ Bioremediation System (ISB) perchlorate treatment system continues to operate.
- AMPAC currently investigating increased concentrations of perchlorate within the performance monitoring well field.

SCOP:

- NDEP is continuing to work with CWC for the management of their dewatering water.

Nationally:

- October 10, 2008: U.S. EPA determined that they will not move forward with creating a national primary drinking water regulation for perchlorate. U.S. EPA will publish a final determination for perchlorate regulation after the 30-day comment period. The final determination will also include a health advisory for perchlorate to help State and local public health officials with technical information to address local contamination.
- The NDEP will continue to use the Provisional Action Level of 18 ppb for the foreseeable future. The 19 ppb Provisional Action Level is incorporated into both the Tronox NPDES permit and the AMPAC UIC permit.

2. Quagga Mussels (NDOW)

Mr. Tom Porta stated he did not know who was available from NDOW for a quagga mussel update since Jon Sjoberg was not in attendance. He went on to discuss the efforts at Lake Tahoe being very strict in preventing quagga mussels from entering there. There are officers with dogs to monitor the boat ramps. The boat ramps close if the officers are not available

Mr. Porta mentioned reports covered by the media regarding Utah having a lake which is seriously infested with mussels. Also, The High Alpine Lake in Colorado has an infestation. Because of the media reports, this is probably why the authorities at Lake Tahoe are taking such an aggressive stance.

Ms. Peggy Roefer mentioned a regional quagga mussel meeting the next day, December 4th in the same meeting room at three o'clock, if anyone was interested in learning more about the problem.

Mr. Ron Zegers, SNWA, discussed that one of their intake inlets was 50 percent plugged up with mussels. It was cleaned last year but now they are in the process of contracting with divers to go in and clean it up again.

3. Selenium Subcommittee

Tom Porta reported that the subcommittee has not met since the last Forum. The next meeting is scheduled for mid-January. Mr. Porta informed members that they will be receiving an e-mail in regard to the next meeting.

4. Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

Ms. Debbie Van Doormolen reported on the recent celebration on November 17, 2008 for the 10-year anniversary of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee. She stated the celebration included a lunch at the Las Vegas Wash. After lunch, there were 4 speakers including a representative from Senator Harry Reid's office who presented the LVWCC with a certificate of commendation. There was also a tour of the Wash.

On September 27th they had the 13th semi-annual Wash Green-Up. Around 600 volunteers showed up; the largest amount to date. The volunteers planted up to 4,700 plants over a 12 ½ acre area.

The next upcoming weir is the DU-2 project. This project is moving forward fairly quickly. That weir is expected to be completed by December of 2009.

Ms. Van Doormolen mentioned the bioassessment analysis for 2007 and that they were hoping to move forward with the contract for analysis of the 2007 data soon. The data will include comparison with the previous years of bioassessment.

The Wetlands Characterization Study is being done in partnership with the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in collecting the data. Currently, they are halfway through the study which will take about one year to complete. Two abstracts for the upcoming NWRA Conference have been submitted.

The Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee had their last meeting on October 14th with a busy agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, December 9th at 3:00pm at the Clark County Regional Flood Control District. There is a full agenda discussing many issues regarding the watershed.

The next LVWCC and study team meeting will be held on their regular scheduled dates and times in January 2009.

5. SCOP Update:

Mr. Doug Karafa of the Clean Water Coalition (CWC) mentioned that many of the elements of the SCOP project are in final design and are ready to for bidding. There is three or four-hundred million dollars worth of work that is ready to be bid. Some smaller pieces of the project will most likely get pushed back but the larger projects will be considered first.

Mr. Karafa mentioned the Re-Use Study where the SNWA and CWC are working on a draft policy statement that discusses gray water and re-use water, recycling, etc. and how that all works for Southern Nevada. This draft policy will be taken to the CWC Board for adoption at the December 16th meeting.

The Boulder Basin Adaptive Management Plan coming up on Monday will have a discussion of the Selenium Management Plan. There is a deadline to get that completed by June 2009. The SNWA has provided water data identifying a few of the major source areas mainly from Flamingo Wash and Duck Creek. It will be decided what types of treatment or diversion will make substantial reductions in selenium along the Wash.

III. Presentations

1. BMI Common Areas Remediation Project – Status Update
-Brian Rakvika, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection – Las Vegas
2. Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee Regional Water Quality 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 February 18, 2009.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.