

## Summary Notes – WQA Convention, Las Vegas, March 2012

The following is a list of items covered at the above Convention that are perceived to be of possible interest to EWTA members. More details can be made available on request.

**Final Barrier** The project has an increasingly strong focus on the WQA agenda and the principle is gaining recognition with support being indicated by the EPA and ACWA. California is amending its legislation to increase the system capacity acceptable for a larger number of dwellings. The EPA has commissioned a small systems report for urgent completion by June. Primary interest is for As removal but Pb and Cu may follow.

**Benefits of Softened Water** Following the joint EWTA/WQA meeting at Aquatech last November, it has been proposed to set up a joint task group to explore the possibility of producing a concise and impactful statement on the benefits of softened water. The proposal was raised at the Las Vegas Convention and is being considered before setting up a communication initially by email and conference call.

**Education & Certification** WQA is planning to put their certification scheme on the internet to make it more accessible to USA members. The possibility of EWTA extending or adapting the scheme to European industry members was raised and being considered by the WQA. The WQA certification ultimately available is intended to be international and open to non-members.

**Environmental labelling** This process of evaluating the environmental impact of a product is ongoing with consultant (Four Winds), but the initial products will now be activated carbon based POU devices and the carbon itself rather than just jug filters. It will then be extended to RO, UV, softeners, etc.

**Salinity Issues** continue to emerge. Inland Empire, a utility company in California, has prosecuted a private home owner for failing to remove their softener. The existence of the softener was traced by sampling the domestic effluent. The penalty is jail and fine. Alternative technology is becoming increasingly supported.

**Septic tank Issue** Investigation into effect of M/D (monovalent/divalent) cation ratio on dispersion, preventing sedimentation in primary settlement and plugging system and drainage is ongoing through Virginia Tech. Results are expected in May.

**Physical Water Treatment Test Standard** The standard being developed by with IAPMO is still being reviewed following wider industry consultation. The next step will be laboratory validation. The basis of the standard is DVGW W512 and will therefore measure scale reduction and be applicable to all devices which reduce scale.

**Physical Water Treatment Study** - the study conducted by Prof. Peter Fox of the Arizona State University on alternatives to cation exchange water softeners is expected to be completed by the Autumn.

**New Filter Test Method** – NSF has produced a new test method (244-3) for supplemental purification by mechanical filtration for microorganisms. Validation is expected to be completed in a few weeks.

**Retirement of Executive Director** – Recruitment for replacement for Pete Censky is expected to be complete by July. He will continue in the role till then and will be available to assist handover.

**Attendance** – was up by 26% on last year and exhibitors up by 5%.