

Summary Notes – WQA Mid-Year, Lexington, September 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.

Executive Director As of June this year, Dave Haataja, ex UL, has taken over from Pete Censky.

Septic tank Issue Investigation, in conjunction with NOWRA, into effect of M/D (monovalent/divalent, i.e Na/Ca) cation ratio on septic tank performance is ongoing through Virginia Tech. Results of column tests have indicated that very low softener salt efficiency (high M/D ratio) causes high (although not excessively) BoD and suspended solids in the septic (column) discharge. On the other extreme, with high brine efficiency, diverting the spent regenerant away from the columns, produced slightly higher BoD and suspended solids than keeping the regenerant in the column feed. Indeed, the blank test with hard water only going to the columns was slightly higher than keeping the spent regenerant with the column feed. These tests now need to be verified with on-site testing.

Final Barrier Ongoing (see previous reports). California is amending its legislation to increase the small system capacity acceptable for a larger number of dwellings (200 to 500). The EPA small systems report publication is imminent - primary interest is for As removal but Pb, Cu, NO₃ may follow.

Benefits of Softened Water Meeting with EWTA to progress cooperative activity possible within next 2 to 3 months.

Education & Certification WQA is revising their certification scheme over the next 3 years including internet accessibility. A meeting with EWTA to progress cooperative activity possible within next 2 to 3 months.

Environmental labelling ongoing (see previous reports). Objective is sustainability and driven by retail. The initial focus is POU activated carbon (Brita, Pure, Amway involved) but will extend to other technologies in time. Includes managements systems (eg. ISO 14001), packaging, etc. Estimated cost \$5k to \$8k.

Salinity Issues ongoing (see previous reports). Arizona now has a salinity committee with 27 stakeholders. Iowa has introduced a chloride standard which be monitored.

Physical Water Treatment Test Standard The standard being developed by with IAPMO has been reviewed by wider industry consultation and is virtually complete. The next step will be laboratory validation – expected by April/May 2013. The standard measures scale reduction and is 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.

International Section – The International Section (inc. International Standards and Regulations Section) has a wide agenda covering WQA activities outside USA and monitoring of, and contribution to, regulatory issues in a wide number of countries - particularly the Far East.

California Certification Although agreed in principle with the DoH, the proposal for California to accept NSF 53 certification by NSF WQA has not passed through yet due to objection by “the Clean Water Committee”. It is expected to pass next year. In the meantime, certification application delays continue as before.

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