

Lime Feed System Improvement Project, RFP-680

Water Treatment Customer Advisory Committee

Minutes

Tuesday April 15, 2008 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Background

Brian Steglitz, project engineer for the City, welcomed the group. New members were introduced.

Janice Skadsen, Deputy Project Manager from CDM Michigan Inc., presented information on the health impacts of sodium concentrations and potential costs/benefits from reduced hardness. Results from a utility survey were presented for comparison with Ann Arbor on issues such as water hardness, sodium concentrations and public involvement. Fran Alexander of Alexander Resources facilitated the discussion of engaging the public, obtaining feedback on web site content and focus group presentations. An optional plant tour and softening chemistry discussion were offered by Larry Sanford, Assistant Water Treatment Plant Manager.

Discussion items from the Customer Advisory Committee included the following:

Hardness and Taste

- Water hardness (mineral content and iron content) both influence water taste. Within the range of water hardness being proposed, it is not expected that customers will be able to discern the difference in terms of taste.

Treatment Process

- Membrane treatment processes can reduce water hardness. However, this technology is expensive, creates a potential disposal issue with a high volume of waste discharge and has not performed well locally.
- Soda Ash is another chemical which can reduce certain types of water hardness. This was used in the past in Ann Arbor. It is difficult to work with and is not desirable from a plant operational viewpoint
- Goal is to stabilize the softening process and remove the peaks. Additional softening would be done primarily in the winter.
- Use of sodium hydroxide in a full scale test demonstrated a reduction in turbidity resulting from the softening process. This turbidity is currently higher than recommended as the treated water enters the sand filters. Reducing the turbidity may improve other plant operations, such filtration performance.

Review of Web Site Proposed Content

- *All CAC members to mark up the proposal and send to Fran at Fran@AlexanderResources.net*

Review of Health Provider Focus Group Presentation

- *Include information on contribution of sodium from the source waters (Janice Skadsen to provide to the CAC)*
- *Develop a slide on process control consistency and its impact on turbidity and other treatment processes (Janice Skadsen to develop)*
- *Find a cardiologist for the focus group (all CAC members consider their contacts and send a recommendation if possible)*
- *Minor corrections to slides were made.*

Review of Large User Focus Group Proposed Presentation

- *Add slide on process stability/consistency (Janice Skadsen)*
- *Develop scenarios of costs for different customers, break out cost by volume and/or meter (CDM & City)*
- *Ask question about the effect of hardness on the operation of their business (Janice Skadsen & Fran Alexander)*
- *Clarify project scope to reflect focus on hardness (Janice Skadsen & Fran Alexander)*

All CAC members; were requested to send Fran an email if you would like to observe the focus groups.

Future meetings:

All meetings will take place from 11:00 PM-1:00 PM on the following dates:

- *May 15*
- *June 5*
- *June 26*
- *and July 22*

Note: Action items shown above in italics.

