

Utility Participation Experience

EPA Full Scale Exercise

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Portland, Maine

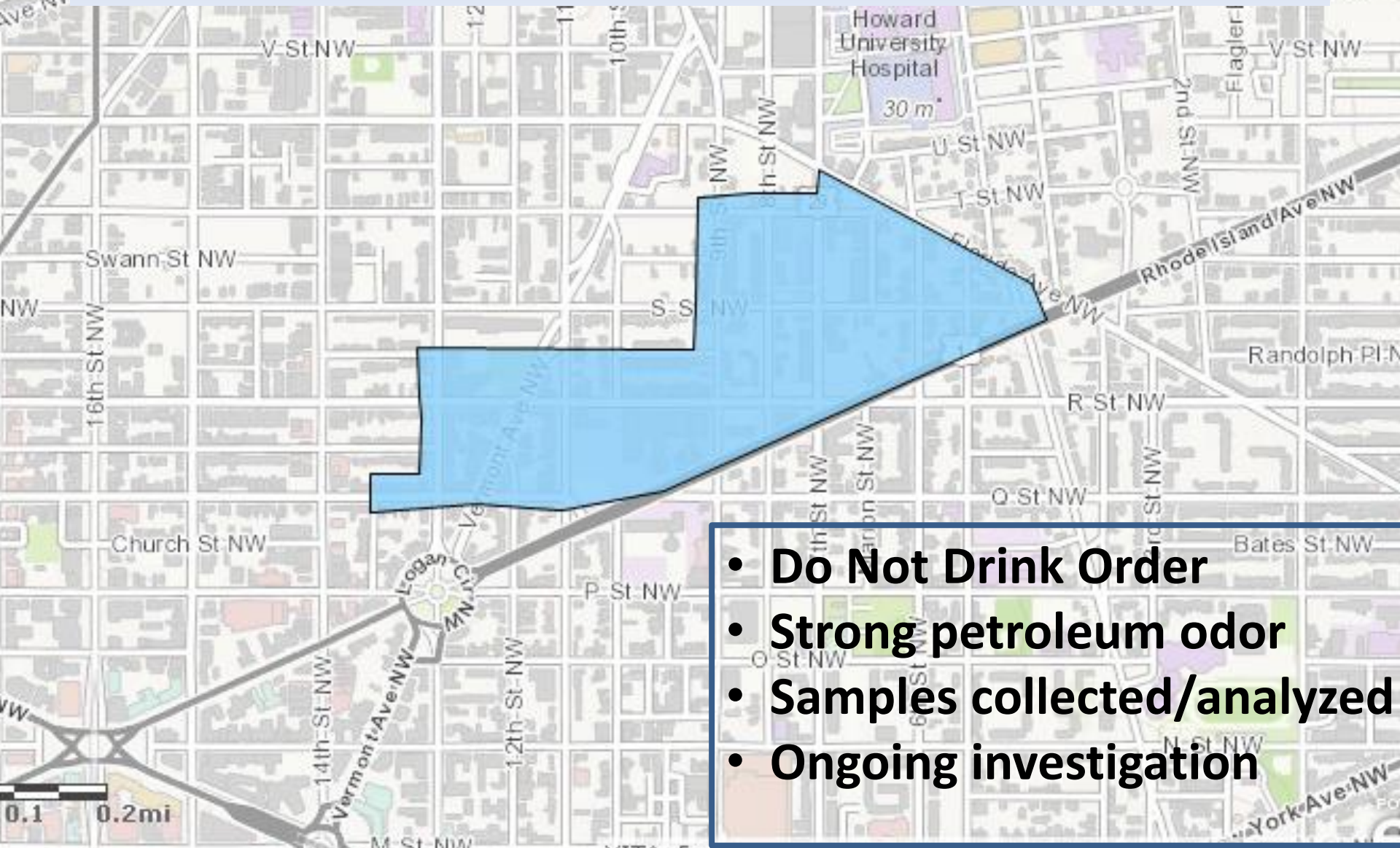


Portland Water District
FROM SEBAGO LAKE TO CASCO BAY

Portland Water District

Washington DC

December 2014



- **Do Not Drink Order**
- **Strong petroleum odor**
- **Samples collected/analyzed**
- **Ongoing investigation**

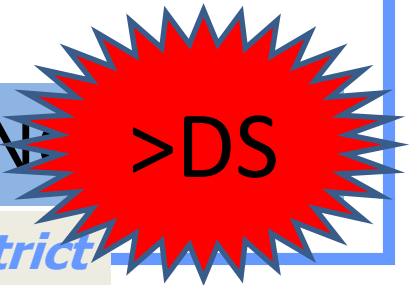
Should We Participate?

Likelihood and Consequence...

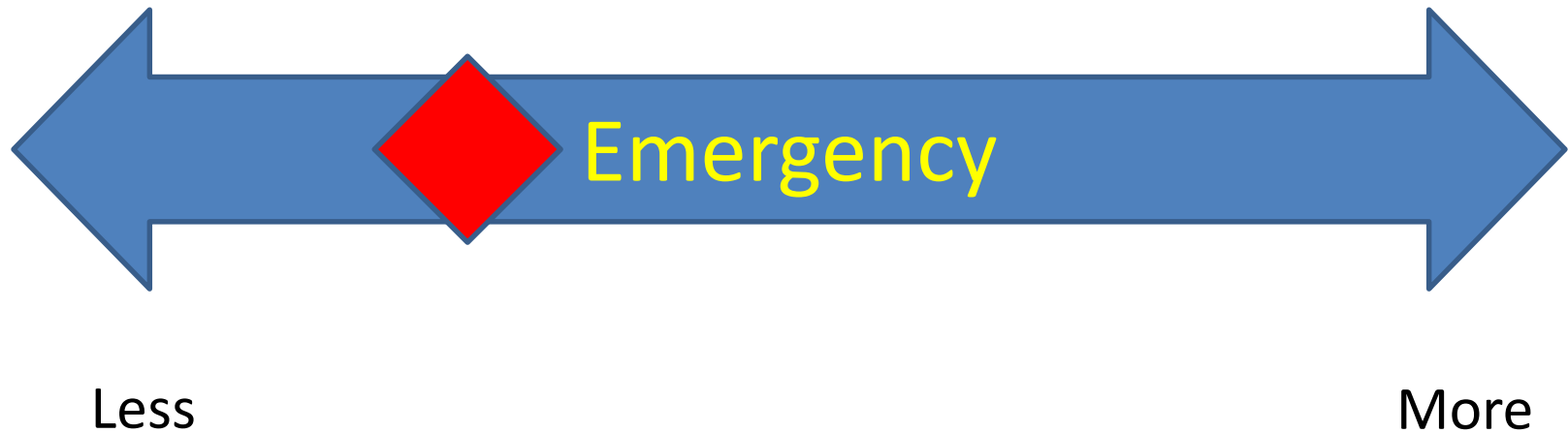
- Could it happen? Sure
- Impact? Customers

Distribution System – Last line of defense in a multiple barrier system.

BEST SOURCE > TREATMENT > MONITORING > DS



Preparedness Continuum



Where are we now?

Where do we think we should be?

“OK we’re in, now what...”

EPA/CSC planning/coordination was excellent, they...

- Held planning meeting in May
- Gave a point of contact
- Prepared exercise materials
- Gave suggestions to make exercise more valuable
- Conducted the exercise

June 17 -Exercise Day

Location: Sebago Lake WTF

- PWD Lab Staff
- Observer: Brunswick-Topsham
- Evaluator: MeCDC

Conference call kick-off

What Did We Learn?

EPA Tools are available and effective

Tools require account set up

Why wait, identify a PRL now

Participation is always a good thing

EPA Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) Resources for Enhanced Analytical Preparedness

Michael Goldberg, ORISE fellow
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Water Security Division
7/15/2015

Agenda

1. Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) Background

2. Key WLA resources for analytical preparedness
 - » Water Laboratory Alliance Response Plan (WLA-RP)
 - » Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT)
 - » Compendium of Environmental Testing Laboratories (Lab Compendium)
 - » New training demo: Accessing the WLA

What is Analytical Preparedness?

- The readiness of a utility to efficiently and effectively manage the component of emergency response involving laboratory services during a water contamination incident.

Why is it important?

- Labs provide critical data that aids emergency response
- Utility labs may have instrumentation or personnel limitations
- “Samples in, data out” misconception
- Quicker data turnaround and more effective response

How does EPA's Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) Enhance Analytical Preparedness?

- ✓ Connects utilities to a network of water laboratories
- ✓ Provides free tools, resources, and training opportunities to bolster analytical preparedness
- ✓ Promotes the importance of analytical preparedness to the Water Sector

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/wla/>



Key EPA Analytical Preparedness Resources

- Water Laboratory Alliance Response Plan (WLA-RP)
- Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT)
- Compendium of Environmental Testing Laboratories (Lab Compendium)
- “Accessing the WLA” training (coming soon!)



WLA Response Plan (WLA-RP)

Establishes guidelines to coordinate laboratory response to water utility contamination incidents



- **Useful:** provides guidance on communication, sample analyses, data reporting, and more
- **Scalable:** can be used for multi-regional and smaller scale incidents
- **Versatile:** can be used in emergency or routine situations

http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/wla/upload/WLAResponsPlan_November2010.pdf

Compendium of Environmental Testing Laboratories (Laboratory Compendium)

An online database of environmental laboratories nationwide- allows users to quickly find a support laboratory

Contains searchable information about laboratory...

- Capability
- Capacity
- Location
- Contact information

www.epa.gov/compendium





Basic Search

BASIC SEARCH PARAMETERS

Specifying parameters define the search based on selected capabilities. [Example: To search for laboratories in Alabama with the capability to analyze Aroclors, you would select Alabama (Location) AND Aroclors (Analytical Capabilities), then click "Submit"].

To expand search capabilities, select or include any of the selected values in the search. [Example: To search for laboratories in Alabama or a laboratory with the capability to analyze water samples, Aroclors, or accept samples 24 hours a day/7 days a week, you would select Alabama (Location), and select the OR option for each of the following: water (Matrix), Aroclors (Analytical Capabilities), or accepts samples 24 hours a day/7 days a week (Special Sample Handling), then click "Submit"].

Lab Name:	<input type="text"/>
Lab Type:	Industrial Laboratories International Laboratories Local/Municipal Laboratories Other Federal Laboratories Public Utility Laboratories
Region:	--All-- Region 1 Region 2 Region 3 Region 4
Location (State): (select one or more)	--All-- Alabama Alaska American Samoa Arizona
ERLN Member: Or <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
WLA Member: Or <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Mobile: Or <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Matrix: (select one or more) Or <input type="checkbox"/>	Clinical (Human) Drinking Water Food Oil and/or Liquid Waste Other
Analytical Capabilities: (select one or more) Or <input type="checkbox"/>	Organo-metals Organochlorine Pesticides Organophosphorus Pesticides Particulate Matter PCB Congeners
Support Services: (select one or more) Or <input type="checkbox"/>	--All-- Exchange data using a broadband internet connection (e.g., DSL, cable, T1, etc.) Perform data review and assessment Pickup samples Provide electronic data deliverables
Special Sampling Handling: (select one or more) Or <input type="checkbox"/>	--All-- Ability to "screen out" unknown samples Accept samples 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Analyze radioactive samples (Add'l info req'd see comments) Handle samples containing an unknown contaminant

What is WCIT?

The Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT): *a secure, web-based database of information on priority contaminants of concern in drinking water and wastewater systems*

- Allows for rapid identification of information about a water contaminant
- Peer-reviewed and regularly updated data
- Data specific to the needs of drinking water and wastewater systems
- Has been used in tabletop exercises and national exercises

WCIT access available through WaterISAC website (Pro members)





WCIT Contents

Select Categories

- General Information
- Contaminant Summary
- Other Names/Forms
- Physical Properties
- Availability
- Fate and Transport
- Medical Information
- Toxicity Information
- Field and Laboratory Methods
- Drinking Water Treatment
- Water Quality Indicators
- Environmental Indicators
- Wastewater Treatment
- Infrastructure Decontamination

- ✓ 809 contaminants
- ✓ Specific to drinking water and wastewater contamination
- ✓ All-hazards database
 - Intentional, accidental, or natural contaminations
 - Biological, chemical, radiological
- ✓ Use throughout contamination lifecycle
 - Planning, response, and return to service





WCIT Trainings

29 Trainings since August 2014

321 Water Sector professionals trained

New trainings posted!
Sign up today!

http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/waters_eurity/wla/training.cfm#live



Powered by





Accessing the WLA (coming soon!)

Trains the Water Sector on the resources available to identify analytical support

- Response can get complex with many different types of labs to be called upon for support
- What if your partner lab is unavailable?

Training includes

- Training Resource (interactive pdf)
- 1-page Summary Resource

Laboratory services can be accessed through five routes:



DEMO



WLA MENU

WELCOME TO

ACCESSING THE WLA

INTERACTIVE TRAINING RESOURCE

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE LABORATORY NETWORK (ERLN)

WATER LABORATORY ALLIANCE (WLA) | 

BEGIN



Additional Analytical Preparedness Resources

WLA resources

- Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Template
- *Sampling Guidance for Unknown Contaminants in Drinking Water*
- *Containment and Disposal of Large Amounts of Contaminated Water: A Support Guide for Water Utilities.*
- Analytical Preparedness Full-Scale Exercise (AP-FSE Toolkit) (coming soon!)
- Analytical Preparedness Self-Assessment (APS) (coming soon!)

Full List → <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/wla/index.cfm#tools>

Non-WLA resources

- Selected Analytical Methods for environmental Remediation and Recovery (SAM)
- Web-based Electronic Data Review (WebEDR)
- Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
- WaterISAC

Questions?



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WLA Homepage
<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/wla/>