

Davy - Hold

NREAD/DDS/th
12000
14 Sep 1983

From: Director
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities
Subj: Proposed Reassignment of Responsibilities for Potable Water Sampling Required by Safe Drinking Water Act
Ref: (a) BO 12610.1G
(b) BO 7420.2C
(c) FONECON btwn Mrs. Olive Downing, CPD, and Mr. D. Sharpe, NREAD, on 8 Sep 1983

1. Shortly after the NREAD relocation, COLONEL MARSHALL, AC/S, Facilities, requested NREAD to consider the feasibility of providing independent monitoring of water and wastewater treatment by NREAD be evaluated. The purpose of this memo is to give background and recommendations relative to the subject proposal.

2. During a telephone conversation on 7 September 1983, Mr. Mack Frazelle, Utilities Branch, Base Maintenance Division, indicated the following:

a. That each Tuesday, approximately 14 hours of time was spent by Water Treatment Plant Operators collecting water samples required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

b. Opinion that NREAD should assume this function.

3. Supervisory Chemist has advised that laboratory personnel (Physical Science Technician GS⁵⁷) could gather the samples in approximately 12 manhours on Monday - Wednesday. Routine sampling on Thursday, Friday and Saturday is not desirable in that overtime work on Sunday (when laboratory is normally closed) would be required, if a positive (i.e., contaminated) sample were discovered.

4. Sample collection by NREAD would provide the following benefits:

a. Independent monitoring (i.e., quality control) of the drinking water produced by water treatment plants;

b. Opportunity to reduce training requirements for Utilities personnel;

c. Consistency with intent of SDWA regulations;

d. Opportunity for reduced costs/improved efficiency would exist to accomplish work with lower paid and generally more qualified and trained employees.

Actual cost reduction would depend on Base Maintenance Division utilization of manhours currently utilized for the subject sampling.

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5. Currently, the Water Quality Control Laboratory, located in Building 65, is open from 0800 to 1600 Monday thru Saturday. One Physical Science Technician is on duty on Saturdays. The technician on duty Saturdays does not work the previous Mondays. Saturday work is required to process sewage samples collected on Fridays at Hadnot Point Sewage Treatment Plant and to determine results of five-day BOD samples which were initially processed on previous Mondays. The essential work on Saturday takes approximately four hours. The remainder of the day is spent on miscellaneous tasks which can be safely accomplished by a person working alone in a vacant building.

6. Manhours required of Physical Science Technicians to accomplish the additional workload can be provided in the following manner:

a. Reassignment of some of the monitoring of oil pollution abatement facilities to environmental protection specialist (approximately 4 hours per week).

b. Providing four hours of scheduled overtime on Saturday and eliminating day off on Monday (8 hours per week).

The scheduled overtime would require specific authorization in accordance with references (a) and (b).

7. Typically, vehicles assigned to Water Quality Control Laboratory have been high mileage four-wheel drive vehicles which are relatively undependable. While current lab vehicle requirements are satisfied, the subject sampling would require an upgrading of the quality of lab vehicle. A four-wheel drive would not be required for this type work.

8. During reference (c), the effects of the proposed reassignment on classification of the Physical Science Technicians were reviewed. Mrs. Downing advised that no upgrading would be expected.

9. Based on the above, it is recommended that responsibility for collecting drinking water samples required by SDWA be reassigned to NREAD as follows:

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a. That from 1 November 1983 - 31 December 1983, be considered a transition period during which Utilities personnel currently taking samples will be available on a scheduled basis to assist lab personnel to become familiar with distribution system and sample collection points.

b. That effective 1 January 1984, NREAD assume full responsibility for the subject sampling with Utilities continuing to collect samples associated with routine customer complaints in accordance with current procedures.

c. That laboratory schedules be changed to reflect operation from 0800-1200 on Saturdays using scheduled overtime to man the lab on Saturdays.

d. That action be taken to provide lab with an additional vehicle preferably a more economical two-wheel drive type.

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