



TAF Project Overview & Status Report
Current to May 2, 2003

<i>Air Quality</i>	
<i>Project/Description</i>	<i>Approved Funding</i>
<p><i>Evaluation of WATER9 Computer-Based Model</i></p> <p>AMSA received two submissions in response to its Request for Qualifications, and selected CH2M Hill for this project. The project will evaluate EPA's WATER9 model to ensure that hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions estimates developed using the model are based on sound science. The WATER9 model simulates volatile organic compound (VOC) and hazardous HAP emissions from wastewater collection systems and treatment plants. AMSA's Air Quality Committee is concerned that the WATER9 model may contain conservative algorithms based on limited field data conducted by academic researchers that could lead to a dramatic increase in the number of POTWs that are considered major sources of HAPs.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$39,800</p> <p>\$39,800 (FY 2003)</p>

<i>Biosolids Management</i>	
<i>Project/Description</i>	<i>Approved Funding</i>
<p><i>Review of "Interactions Of Pathogens And Irritant Chemicals In Land-Applied Sewage Sludge (Biosolids)"</i></p> <p>The \$3,000 is being used to facilitate scientific review by Dr. John Neuberger, Associate Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas Medical School, of a biosolids article published in BioMed Central (BMC) Public Health, an online journal. The research article, co-authored by David Lewis, has several key limitations or omissions, dealing with the potential impacts of recall bias on the study, the limitations of modeling and exposure scenarios, as well as the presence of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> in digested biosolids. The scientific review will assess these limitations' potential impact on the article's conclusions.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$3,000</p> <p>\$3,000 (FY 2003)</p>

<p><i>Radioactivity Dose Model Development</i></p> <p>This is an ongoing project that began in 2000 in an effort to develop a dose model or guide for biosolids managers to use in concert with the results from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Nuclear Regulatory Commission survey conducted to evaluate the level of radionuclides in biosolids. AMSA's dose model is essentially complete and AMSA's contract has been idle for some time as we await the results of the EPA/NRC survey and dose model effort. AMSA expects this project to be completed by the end of calendar year 2003.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$41,500</p> <p>\$6,529 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Dioxin Sampling Study</i></p> <p>These funds were originally approved in 2001 to support completion of AMSA's Dioxin Survey. The Survey report has been completed and the remaining funds (\$5,304) will be returned to the TAF.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$70,855</p> <p>\$5,304 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Dioxin Rule Assessment</i></p> <p>These funds were used to retain a consultant to review the risk assessment and associated documentation for EPA's Part 503, Round II revisions for dioxin in land applied biosolids. The risk assessment is extremely conservative and was reviewed to ensure consistency with EPA's own risk characterization procedures. This project is complete and the remaining funds (\$10,320) will be returned to the TAF.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$30,000</p> <p>\$10,320</p>

<p><i>Management and Operations</i></p>	
<p><i>Project/Description</i></p>	<p><i>Approved Funding</i></p>
<p><i>CleanWater Central</i></p> <p>AMSA retained contractor Mark Hoeke to coordinate population of the CleanWater Central Database. Created in 1999, the CleanWater Central Database will serve as a central hub for future data collection activities, such as the financial survey and AMSA Index, and as a repository for information vital to the wastewater treatment community. A project advisory committee comprised of AMSA and Water Environment Research Foundation representatives has developed a set of policies and a fee structure that will be considered by the Board in May 2003. AMSA hopes to complete the first round of data population by May 2003, conduct a beta test during June 2003, and re-launch the database in July 2003.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$51,000 (\$29,750 AMSA/ \$21,250 WERF)</p> <p>\$29,750 (FY 2003)</p>

<p><i>2002 AMSA Financial Survey</i></p> <p>Published every 3 years, the <i>Financial Survey</i> has consistently proven itself to be a valuable resource for AMSA member agencies as they evaluate financing options and consider rate adjustments. In 2001, AMSA retained contractor Mark Hoeke to develop the <i>2002 Financial Survey</i>, tabulate data compiled from member agency responses and provide detailed analysis of <i>Survey</i> results and wastewater trends. AMSA's Financial Survey Workgroup provided expert advice and oversight on this important initiative. In December Mark Hoeke fulfilled his contract commitment to AMSA. The <i>2002 Financial Survey</i> was published on CD-ROM and released at AMSA's 2003 Winter Conference in Santa Fe, N.M.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$37,500</p> <p>\$7,720 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Privatization Project</i></p> <p>This collaborative project involving AMSA and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies utilized the services of PA Consulting to perform analytical work on merits of public vs private ownership/ operations/financing of POTWs. The resulting information became the content of two new publication released in early 2003, <i>Evaluating Privatization II: An AMSA/AMWA Checklist</i>, and <i>Public vs. Private: Comparing the Costs</i>.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$25,000 (\$12,500 AMSA/ \$12,500 AMWA)</p> <p>\$2,500 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>International Standards Organization Wastewater and Water Supply Standard Support</i></p> <p>AMSA retained consultant Mark Hoeke to attend meetings of the International Standards Organization (ISO) wastewater work group, to provide U.S. input and direction at, and to report to AMSA's ISO Advisory Committee on developments from, these meetings. ISO is developing a wastewater and water supply standard that could have broad domestic ramifications and ISO has formed a number of work groups, including the international wastewater working group (WG 4), which is the focus of this TAF project. Because ISO meetings take place in Europe, these funds are critical to ensuring the presence and perspective of U.S. publicly owned treatment works at these meetings and to determine over the next year whether, or to what degree, the Association should remain active in the ISO process. The ISO Advisory Committee has already met several times by conference call and is currently reviewing the first working draft document of the WG 4. AMSA has identified the appropriate contact people at the American Water Works Association, which is the lead U.S. representative to ISO for the water/wastewater sector, and has met with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on this issue. The next ISO WG 4 meeting takes place in Lisbon, Portugal at the end of May.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$10,000</p> <p>\$10,000 (FY 2003)</p>

<i>Legislative/Regulatory Policy</i>	
<i>Project/Description</i>	<i>Approved Funding</i>
<p><i>National Biosolids Partnership</i> AMSA and WEF retained lobbyist John Montgomery to work with the Senate and House Appropriations Committees to secure full funding in fiscal year 2004 for the National Biosolids Partnership. A special Congressional advocacy booklet on NBP was assembled and provided to staff on the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on VA, HUD & Independent Agencies. AMSA members supplemented this effort with letters from wastewater treatment agencies to House and Senate Members asking that \$1 million for NBP be included in EPA's FY 2004 budget. Two House members, Reps. Robert Aderholt (R-AL) and Robert Cramer, Jr. (D-AL), have submitted formal requests to the Appropriations Chairman to include the funding in the VA-HUD bill. The Subcommittees and the full Committee will work to pass their bills in May.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$30,000 (\$15,000 AMSA/ \$15,000 WEF)</p> <p>\$15,000 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Advocacy Support – Legislative/Administration Initiatives</i> AMSA retained The Accord Group to support the Association's efforts to advance both legislative and regulatory priorities. Most of the activity to date has focused on strategy development and garnering support for wastewater security and wastewater infrastructure funding legislation during the 1st Session of the 108th Congress. House and Senate staff have been briefed on the security and funding needs of POTWs. An AMSA-supported wastewater security bill has been voted out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and awaits action on the House floor. The Senate is anticipated to debate two wastewater security bills in May.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$48,000</p> <p>\$48,000 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Water Infrastructure Network</i> AMSA's financial contribution to WIN's 2003 budget of \$164,000 primarily funds a lobbyist to advance the coalition's legislative goals that are outlined in WIN's two reports. The funds also support media relations activities, website maintenance and fund-raising efforts. WIN testified in March in the House, finished work on a WIN bill, and conducted a briefing on the WIN bill in April for staff of the Environment and Public Works Committee in the Senate. A press conference and fund-raising dinner are scheduled in May in conjunction with AMSA's <i>National Environmental Policy Forum</i>.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$25,000</p> <p>\$25,000 (FY 2003)</p>

<i>Water Quality</i>	
<i>Project/Description</i>	<i>Approved Funding</i>
<p><i>Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Methods</i></p> <p>AMSA continues to retain the services of Risk Sciences, Inc. for technical advice and support on WET issues. These funds will be used to provide technical support in the context of AMSA's new litigation on the WET Methods.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$5,000</p> <p>\$5,000 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Contribution to TMDL Adaptive Implementation Project</i></p> <p>This amount represents AMSA's contribution to a one-year project to conduct workshops and develop a monograph on the interpretation, analytics, and execution of adaptive implementation for total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). Dr. Ken Reckhow of the Center for the Analysis and Prediction of River Basin Environmental Systems, who served as the chair of the National Research Council's (NRC's) Committee to Assess the Scientific Basis of the TMDL Approach to Water Pollution Reduction, and oversaw the issuance of the corresponding NRC report, <i>Assessing the TMDL Approach to Water Quality Management</i>, is organizing the project. AMSA's funding is contingent on Dr. Reckhow securing the necessary funding from other stakeholders. As of early April, Dr. Reckhow had secured nearly all of the necessary funding and was beginning to formalize the project proposal.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$25,000</p> <p>\$25,000 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Nutrient Guidance and Database Review</i></p> <p>These funds were approved in 2002 to conduct a review of the database EPA used in the development of its nutrient criteria and supporting guidance. As EPA has provided more flexibility to the states for implementing the nutrient criteria, the Water Quality Committee will consider whether this project is still warranted and will determine whether to modify the original request.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$41,300</p> <p>\$15,460 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Participation in the Federal Water Quality Coalition</i></p> <p>Dues for AMSA to become an associate member for one year (2003) in the Federal Water Quality Coalition (FWQC). The FWQC is run by Fred Andes and his colleagues at the AMSA affiliate law firm of Barnes & Thornburg located in Chicago, Indianapolis, and DC. AMSA's FWQC already has provided us with greater leverage on a number of water quality issues and the status reports on new developments have been invaluable. Our membership also ensures access to an additional comprehensive web site library, draft comment language, an additional forum for discussions with EPA, and a further source of information and detail to benefit our work.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$15,000</p> <p>\$15,000 (FY 2003)</p>

<p><i>Dental Amalgam Separator Effectiveness Study</i></p> <p>Three-year study to examine the changes in mercury concentrations in wastewater influent, effluent, and biosolids at five POTWs in the U.S. and Canada that have already implemented regulations requiring dental clinics to install amalgam removal equipment. The Hampton Roads Sanitation District has volunteered its laboratory to conduct the analyses at cost for the duration of the study. AMSA has extended invitations to ten agencies to participate in the study and expects to receive commitments from them all. Sampling is scheduled to begin in June and the next month will be used to iron out any remaining logistics.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$44,000</p> <p>\$20,000 (FY2003) \$12,000 (FY2004) \$12,000 (FY2005)</p>
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<i>Wet Weather</i>	
<i>Project/Description</i>	<i>Approved Funding</i>
<p><i>SSO Rule – Cost Benefit Analysis</i></p> <p>Upon release of the SSO proposed rule, AMSA plans to retain a contractor to conduct a critical assessment of the cost/benefit analysis accompanying the rulemaking. As part of AMSA’s assessment, the contractor will analyze cost and benefit assumptions and factors used by EPA to justify its proposal, offer recommendations on how to remedy any perceived flaws, and provide a preliminary cost/benefit assessment of AMSA’s regulatory alternatives. Given the delay in issuing the SSO Rule, AMSA’s SSO Workgroup will reconsider this request and decide whether to modify the original project.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$30,000</p> <p>\$30,000 (FY 2003)</p>

<i>Litigation/Legal Issues</i>	
<i>Project/Description</i>	<i>Approved Funding</i>
<p><i>West Virginia Antidegradation Case</i></p> <p>These funds cover AMSA’s share of 2003 outside counsel fees with law firm affiliate AquaLaw in this litigation. AMSA shares costs in the case with the West Virginia Municipal Water Quality Association and the West Virginia Municipal League. AMSA is defending EPA’s approval of West Virginia’s antidegradation implementation procedures, which contain antidegradation exemptions favorable to POTWs. Our motion for summary judgment in the case is due May 14, 2003.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$35,000</p> <p>\$20,000 (FY 2003)</p>

<p><i>TM "Daily" Load Amicus Brief</i></p> <p>These funds cover AMSA's share of outside counsel costs with law firm affiliate McGuire Woods to prepare a joint <i>amicus</i> brief in January 2003 with member agency the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA). In this case, Friends of the Earth (FoE) argues that total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) may be expressed only as true 24-hour daily loads. AMSA's <i>amicus</i> highlights how FoE's contention conflicts with Clean Water Act § 402(q) incorporating the 1994 Combined Sewer Overflow Policy. The D.C. Circuit heard oral argument in the case on April 21, and we now await a decision.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$10,000</p> <p>\$0 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Wet Weather Consent Decrees . . . Protecting POTWs in Negotiations</i></p> <p>\$23,000 of these funds cover legal fees associated with AMSA's creation, with affiliate Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, of the <i>Wet Weather Consent Decree Handbook</i>, to be released at the May meeting. \$10,000 of these funds were used to design and print the publication.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$33,000</p> <p>\$33,000 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Blending/SSO Litigation</i></p> <p>These funds continue AMSA's work with affiliate law firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey on <i>Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association v. Whitman</i>, in which AMSA is an intervenor and has been active since August 2002. These funds cover AMSA's litigation costs through and including June 2003. During this time frame, AMSA conducted many discussions with EPA and the plaintiffs, and filed a key motion opposing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) efforts to dismiss the case.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$30,000</p> <p>\$15,000 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Litigation</i></p> <p>These funds are being applied towards outside counsel costs with affiliate law firm McGuire Woods in AMSA's March 2003 suit in the D.C. Circuit challenging EPA's November 2002 final WET test methods. The Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, the West Virginia Municipal Water Quality Association, the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, the South Carolina Water Quality Association, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, and the Texas Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies joined in our filing and are contributing to the litigation. The funds are allocated through September 30, 2004, at which time we will evaluate whether additional funds are needed.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$60,000 (\$30,000 AMSA/ \$30,000 Other Organizations)</p> <p>\$30,000 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>General Legal Support-FY2003</i></p> <p>These funds are used throughout the fiscal year to consult outside counsel on various regulatory and legal issues, and for general litigation and strategic input and support. At this time, approximately \$19,000 of the \$30,000 has been expended or is committed to fund activities such as blending support; wet weather counseling; a Supreme Court <i>amicus</i> brief in <i>Pronsolino</i>; an <i>amicus</i> brief in the Ninth Circuit storm water case; and storm water legal advice.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$30,000</p> <p>\$30,000 (FY 2003)</p>

<i>Other Issues</i>	
<i>Project/Description</i>	<i>Approved Funding</i>
<p><i>WERF Endowment</i></p> <p>AMSA's annual contribution to the <i>WERF Endowment for Innovation in Applied Water Quality Research</i> for the <i>Paul L. Busch Award</i>. AMSA has agreed to contribute a total of \$10,000 over five years. The <i>WERF Endowment</i> was created to encourage development of scientific research and technological innovations that improve the water environment in a sustainable manner. The <i>Paul L. Busch Award</i>, slated to be presented annually by the <i>Endowment</i>, recognizes those outstanding and innovative individuals or teams who contribute significantly to research in water quality and the practical application of research in the water environment.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$10,000</p> <p>\$2,000 (FY 2003)</p>
<p><i>Clean Water Foundation</i></p> <p>These funds were used to contribute to the Clean Water Foundation's activities to observe the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act.</p>	<p>Total Funding: \$2,500</p> <p>\$2,500 (FY 2003)</p>