

Meeting Notes

Friday, November 22, 2019

Georgia DPH *Legionella* Prevention Working Group initial meeting

Meeting agenda with notes

1. Attendee sign in
 - a. Melissa Tobin-D'Angelo has a copy of the sign in sheet
2. Attendee introductions and group purpose
 - a. Purpose is to identify strategies to prevent *Legionella* through incorporation into rules and regulations with participation from multiple stakeholders
3. Background clinical and epidemiology
 - a. Melissa spoke about *Legionella* in Georgia
4. Regulatory authority background
 - a. Melissa spoke about the previous amendment proposal during the 2018-2019 DCA plumbing code task force session
5. Q and A session
 - a. No questions raised about the background information provided
6. Next steps
 - a. Discussion around ASHRAE 188 and *Legionella* prevention efforts in general
 - i. Joe sees this as a public health permitting issue and education issue. DPH is involved in permitting for tourist accommodations and hot tubs, but not for cooling towers, fountains, residential buildings over 10 stories, senior living housing, etc.
 - ii. We prefer to incorporate *Legionella* rules and regulations into existing processes rather than generate novel processes (e.g. public health permitting for cooling towers), but those are still options that should be considered
 - iii. Meghan asked if there could be a mechanism in the code where the designing engineer/contractors/etc. would be required to notify the owner of responsibilities re: ASHRAE 188 recommended activities at the time of occupancy
 - iv. At the 2019 ASPE symposium in Pittsburgh there were many white papers on *Legionella*; it's a frequent topic of conversation among the industry professionals, but that information isn't necessarily being transmitted to the smaller entities involved in building design/repair
 - v. It may make sense to have a section in the plumbing code for *Legionella* specifically (e.g. backflow prevention devices) with commentary/explanation of the rationale
 - vi. The fire code is one of the few codes with post-occupancy requirements, and those are overseen by fire marshals
 - vii. Plumbers are tested on the code for certification, so inclusion of *Legionella* language to any extent would result in education of plumbers accordingly
 - viii. There is building code language regarding occupancy use types

- ix. Plumbing code typically ends at the hose bibb, so irrigation systems are not covered
- x. When the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) is issued, there is a commissioning document from the contractor reviewed by the engineer of record
- xi. Pools need a certified pool operator- would it make sense to have a commercial building manager requirement? There is a property maintenance code but it is not mandatory. City of Decatur does enforce this, but most cities (if they even adopt that code) are reactive rather than proactive. A similar activity would need a clear report.
- xii. Notification at the CO could be a requirement by local code officials
- xiii. It may be worthwhile to engage trade associations. For example, Shawn does speaking tours when there are code updates re: recreational water. BOMA had a recent lunch & learn about *Legionella*, and ASHRAE hosted the same speaker, Trace Blackmore. (Meghan shared the speaker's resources and Melissa has a copy if others would like to review those.)
- xiv. High Performance Buildings and the South Face Energy Institute tend to be vocal industry partners
- xv. It would be valuable to determine minimum standards for both the design side and the implementation side.
- xvi. Joe will review the plumbing code section by section for areas of potential *Legionella* inclusion
- xvii. Mark volunteered to make a matrix of enforceability of the different sections of ASHRAE using City of Decatur as a case study
- xviii. Mark also offered to reach out to the housing authority with buildings in City of Decatur
- xix. In thinking about inclusion of *Legionella* prevention into different codes (building vs. plumbing), Joe offered to look at the Plumbing code and Mark offered to look at the property maintenance code
- xx. There was a brief discussion of a problem statement, mission, and vision without clear language. There did seem to be consensus that incorporating *Legionella* prevention into rules and regulations could be valuable, and the workgroup will attempt to identify strategies to proceed.

7. Misc.

- a. There were no objections to a current Emory graduate student observing the workgroup meetings moving forward

8. Next meeting planning

- a. Participants agreed that in-person meetings are preferable
- b. Melissa will share a doodle poll for the next meeting, which will likely be in early January 2020.

Tobin-DAngelo, Melissa

From: Tobin-DAngelo, Melissa
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:29 PM
To: Meghan.mcnulty@servidyne.com; Joseph.sternberg@gnrhealth.com; Franklin, Rachel; Mark.Ethun@decaturga.com; joseph.messina@hdrinc.com; pburnett@gawp.org; mthomas@gawp.org; Ted.Miltiades@dca.ga.gov; smstill@olympicpool.net; Lam, Kristina; Hannapel, Elizabeth; Redmond, Maurice; Ferguson, Christina; Drenzek, Cherie; Rustin, Chris
Subject: RE: Georgia DPH Legionella Prevention Working Group initial meeting

Good afternoon

I am sending a reminder and some additional details regarding Friday's meeting at 1:30 in our downtown DPH office.

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For those of you who do not have a hard copy of ASHRAE 188, please see link and instructions below to access a read only online version and review before Friday. Open a new window with the following link:
<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/standards-and-guidelines/read-only-versions-of-ashrae-standards> and scroll down to the Standard 188-2018 link. If you try to save or use the direct URL to the standard, you get an "access denied" page so please keep this in mind if you decide to bookmark it.

If any of you have designated a colleague to attend in your place, please do provide me with his/her contact ahead of time rather than forwarding materials yourself.

Regards and looking forward to seeing you all.
Melissa

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