

Report about bbe Toximeters in Salt Lake City during the Olympic Games 2002

After September 11 the world is more aware of the constant threat of further terrorist attacks. The 2002 winter Olympic Games held in Salt Lake City were considered to be a potential terrorist target. so the U.S. government invested millions of dollars in special security precautions to protect the games. One area of concern was the possibility of a chemical and/or biological attack via the water supply system.



To counter such threats, the four main water utilities in the Salt Lake Valley

Olympic Games 2002 opening ceremony

area decided to protect their water sources using real-time water quality monitoring products from bbe Moldaenke. The bbe toximeters are unique in their capabilities and are extremely effective for early detection of toxic contamination of water. The bbe Daphnia Toximeters were installed at crucial locations in the Salt Lake Valley and were used to constantly monitor the water for a wide range of toxins. The real-time online instruments enhanced the existing surveillance technique and provided an early warning system to detect contamination of the water system.



Monica Beal, Gerard Yates from Central Utah Water Conservancy and Michael Lechelt from EPA Hamburg in front of a bbe Daphnia Toximeter

The first of the bbe instruments were operational in early December, while the last one started operating in mid-January.

The German Environmental Protection Authority in Hamburg, has considerable experience in operating the bbe instruments and was therefore contacted by the Salt Lake City authorities for sharing their knowledge. Over the years the Hamburg EPA has installed 12 bbe biomonitoring systems. Given the importance of the event, the Hamburg EPA sent an officer to Salt Lake City to provide assistance and knowledge

transfer of water surveillance techniques using the bbe toximeters.

Furthermore, the representatives of bbe Moldaenke were on hand to provide support during the installation and commissioning of the instruments. By the start of the Olympics Games everything was prepared and the staff of the water utilities could carry out their duties knowing that the bbe Daphnia Toximeter was on guard 24/7. We appreciate the opportunity and are proud to be part of the historic event. We would like to thank all the staff and management of the water utilities in Utah for their hospitality during our stay!

The bbe team