

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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TO PROMOTE AND GUIDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE STATE OF OHIO

March 18, 1999

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Building D, Third Floor Conference Room

ABSTRACT

The March 18th meeting was devoted to updates and announcements, review of a draft letter concerning SCCGW's coordination with the Ohio Water Resources Council, and discussion of ground water issues that need to be prioritized and addressed by SCCGW over the next year or two.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Larry Antosch, Michael Baker, Tim Christman, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, David Hanselmann, Bob Van Horn,

ODH: Rebecca Petty

ODA: Bob Wulfhorst

PUCO: Sue Daly

USGS: Jeff DeRoche

FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY

Under "Miscellaneous" (page 5, item 2), the date of the April SCCGW meeting was listed incorrectly. The meeting will be held April 15th, not April 22nd, at Ohio EPA conference room A on the 5th floor.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ODA, Pesticides Division, Bob Wulfhorst announced:

- 1.) The agricultural well monitoring program for Ohio's Pesticide Management Plan is progressing. Last year wells were selected for sampling in the northwest. Wells are now being selected for other parts of the state.
- 2.) ODA staff met with U.S. EPA in Washington, D.C. last week regarding the Pesticide Management rules. The final draft rules are due to reach pesticide agencies for comment next month. States have been identified as co-regulators with U.S. EPA of these rules.

- 3.) The drinking water standard for atrazine is under review and may be raised in the future. The uncertain status of the atrazine MCL has been a major block in progress on the Pesticide Management process at the federal level. Of the five pesticides that were identified for specific management needs, atrazine has always been the most problematic. Cyanazine and alachlor will not be produced in the future, so only residual uses will be a concern. Metolachlor is a minor concern because the MCL is so high, and simazine is a minor concern because its usage is so low.
- 4.) A recent study of acetochlor in Champaign County identified a degradation product that is much more mobile than acetochlor itself.
- 5.) A product called “Balance” is one of the first of a new generation of atrazine-replacement compounds. Its label includes environmental precautions stating that the product may not be applied to “restricted soils” where the depth to ground water is less than 25 feet below ground surface, or where the depth to water is unknown. The “restricted soils” are listed in alphabetical order. [Bob passed one copy of the Product Bulletin around the table.] A study conducted in Huron County identified about 5,000 acres in that county that would be affected by this restriction.
- 6.) Two interesting wastewater problems have arisen in California. In the San Francisco Bay area, the level of pesticides flowing through the wastewater treatment system from residential areas is exceeding discharge standards in the permits. These levels are believed to be associated with homeowners treating pets for fleas in the bathtub, and rinsing the residue down the drain. A national study group is recommending more training of homeowners with regard to these kinds of pesticides.

Also, a conflict has arisen between California’s wildlife resources agency and its surface water agency. The wildlife agency has been introducing copper compounds into streams to control algal blooms (to protect the fish); the surface water agency opposes this practice. (One SCCGW member noted that chemical compounds are used in Ohio to control the lamprey population.)

OEPA, Division of Emergency and Remedial Response, Tim Christman announced:

- 1.) The various workgroups of the Unified Cleanup Program Task Force are continuing their efforts to develop unified cleanup standards. The Ground Water workgroup’s report has been pushed back and will not be complete for a few more months.

ODH, Bureau of Local and Environmental Services, Rebecca Petty announced:

- 1.) Senate Bill 105, the Home Sewage Bill sponsored by Senator Gardner, has been introduced. ODH has assigned Jean Caudill (previously from Clermont County) to work on updating the sewage treatment rules. Meetings will be held around the state this summer to obtain comments from interested parties.
- 2.) The bureau is still seeking a new sponsor for the legislation for private water systems.
- 2.) The Private Water System Rules are to be submitted to the Public Health Council in May. No comments were received from any state agencies. In response to contractors’ concerns,

ODH has withdrawn the proposed requirement to use only casing that has been hydrostatically tested. The rules are scheduled to be filed with JCARR around mid-summer and hopefully will be finalized by this fall.

OEPA, Division of Surface Water, Larry Antosch announced:

- 1.) Stuart Bruny has been named as Acting Chief of the Division.
- 2.) The Division may need to revise its guidance documents on Sludge Management Plans to acknowledge special concerns in Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) areas.

Comments:

- 1.) Tom Allen noted that recently DDAGW's Ground Water Program has been receiving more requests for site reviews of wastewater, sludge, and storm water lagoons, and underground injection wells. This appears to be related to the more stringent water quality requirements for discharge to streams under the Anti-degradation rules.

U.S.G.S, Water Resources Division, Jeff deRoche announced:

- 1.) The Columbus office will move during the first week of April to 6480 Double Tree Avenue, Columbus, OH 43229-1111 (just south of the Marriott Inn north on Interstate 71).
- 2.) The Division is engaged in a national program to obtain information about antibiotics in the nation's streams as a result of discharges from confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). This study is being conducted under the USGS Toxics Program. The study will compare the levels of antibiotics present in (a) streams with minimal water quality impacts; (b) streams with known impacts from human waste streams; and (c) streams that receive discharges from CAFOs for cattle, hogs, and chickens.

OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Michael Baker announced:

- 1.) The Division is busy developing more detailed internal procedures and policies for implementing Ohio's Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program
- 2.) Mike spent the previous four days at a Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) meeting in Arlington, VA. Several topics of discussion there may have an impact on programs of SCCGW members:
 - (a) Ground Water Report to Congress. Section 1429 of the Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes funding of ground water protection programs, and requires U.S. EPA to submit to Congress a report on the status of State ground water protection programs every three years. The first national ground water protection report is to be developed by a national work group (Mike is a member). They plan to complete a 20-25 page summary followed by a 2-page Fact Sheet for each state. This report is being viewed as an excellent opportunity to educate Congressional members and their staffs on the significance of ground water resources to human health, the ecology and economics. [Mike passed a copy around the table of a memo to State Ground Water Program Managers from the executive directors of the GWPC, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), and the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA).]

- (b) Funding Gap Analysis. U.S. EPA is conducting a funding gap analysis of state water protection programs. It will use this information for prioritizing funding up to the year 2002.. The GWPC has been asked to assist in the ground water funding analysis. Their deadline is April 7th, and the states therefore must submit their information to GWPC by March 26. Mike is coordinating a response for Ohio.
- (c) Futures Forum. Vice-President Al Gore is taking the lead on a “Futures Forum” in December, where participants will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act and offer opinions on where the U.S. wants to be 25 years from now with safe drinking water programs. The GWPC has lead responsibility for soliciting and compiling opinions specifically on Source Water Protection. Mike will be circulating questionnaires related to this.
- (d) Environmental Information Management Suite (EIMS). This is a set of stand-alone databases and Geographic Information System modules that was originally developed for oil and gas well programs, and is now being developed for use by other programs throughout the country. The City of Omaha, Nebraska and State of Oklahoma has developed it for their SWAP program, and Regions 5 and 9 of U.S. EPA are considering developing it for SWAP programs in their states. It features easy-to-use pull-down menus and a module that enables it to be accessed interactively via the Internet.
- (e) Ground Water Rule. The intent of this rule is to ensure adequate protection from pathogens, including viruses, for all public water systems using ground water.. Currently there is discussion of requiring such systems to conduct monthly monitoring for pathogens, and possibly requiring them to disinfect. States have expressed concerns about inconsistency between the susceptibility analysis being conducted for SWAP and the pathogen susceptibility analysis under this rule. U.S. EPA has agreed to a joint ADSWA and GWPC workgroup to address this issue.

OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Tom Allen announced:

- 1.) Rich Bendula, with OEPA’s Southwest District Office, recently had an article published in the journal *Professional Geologist*. [Copies to be distributed with meeting summary]

ODNR, Division of Water, Mike Hallfrisch announced:

- 1.) The contract is nearly complete for converting the well log system to Windows NT.
- 2.) Four index wells in the observation well network will be fitted with satellite platforms, enabling remote transmission of water level data to a central processing and distribution site. These data will be accessible from the USGS web site with only a 4 to 8 hour time lag.

ODNR, Division of Geological Survey, Bob Van Horn announced:

- 1.) The Division recently hosted the Geologic Mapping Coalition’s Columbus Forum. Approximately 250 people attended, including representatives of 31 federal/state agencies,

8 universities and 28 consulting firms. The common message was the urgent need for 3-D maps of surficial materials.

- 2.) The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors unexpectedly voted to not include legislation for registering geologists in the State of Ohio. This decision appears to have been driven by concerns about overlap of practice between engineers and geologists (engineers were concerned that they would be excluded from geological work), and also concerns over funding additional representatives.

ODNR, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, David Hanselmann announced:

- 1.) The Farmland Preservation Bill has been divided up into six or seven small bills in the hope of making it easier to pass various sections of the original bill.
- 2.) The Division is working on updating the Nonpoint Source Management Program. SCCGW members will have an opportunity to review the document before finalization.

Comments:

SCCGW members briefly discussed the role of ground water in this Program, asking whether calculations were available yet on the percentage of total flow in a stream that is base flow (i.e., from ground water recharge). Jeff DeRoche stated that a hydrograph analysis study is underway. Another member stated that this issue is the key to tying ground water to watersheds.

- 3.) The Governor's Office has requested recommendations concerning changes in livestock legislation by the end of April. There is a push by some interested parties to change the environmental regulations governing discharges from large Confined Animal Feeding Operations.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

Well Construction Work Group

Rebecca Petty said that comments were due on the Well Construction Technical Guidance by April 1, 1999.

DISCUSSION OF LETTER TO THE OHIO WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

Members recommended some minor editorial changes. Any further comments were due by March 22nd, 1999.

DISCUSSION OF SCCGW GROUND WATER PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

Each of the members in attendance listed their programs' high-priority ground water protection activities, as follows:

Bob Wulforth (ODA)

- (1) Ongoing modifications of storage and containment rules for all agricultural facilities for bulk agricultural chemicals
- (2) Implementing the monitoring component of the Pesticide Management Plan

- (3) Continuing the Pesticide Disposal Program
- (4) Refocusing compliance activities in the field with new labeling requirements

Tim Christman (OEPA - DERR)

- (1) Creating a stable funding mechanism for cleanups via legislation
- (2) Unifying cleanup standards across programs via the Unified Cleanup Program

Rebecca Petty (ODH)

- (1) Passage of the Sewage and Private Water Systems legislation
- (2) Updating the Private Water Systems rules
- (3) Standardizing data collection and investigation procedures across the state

Larry Antosch (OEPA - DSW)

- (1) Adjusting sludge legislation and various land-application guidances to protect Source Water Protection areas
- (2) Creating delivery mechanism(s) for Farm-a-Syst
- (3) Address ground water/surface water interactions in the development of TMDL procedures.
- (4) Address concerns about storm water impoundments in Source Water Protection areas
- (5) Develop the watershed strategy

Jeff DeRoche (USGS)

- (1) Complete report on road salt in ground water
- (2) Continue ground water studies in the Great Miami River NAWQA and Lake Erie NAWQA.
- (3) Complete Bolton wellfield study, which concerns the transport of pathogens from a river to a public water system's wells
- (4) Continue the study of antibiotics in surface water due to CAFOs
- (5) Continue resource characterization activities for the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program

Tom Allen and Mike Baker (OEPA - DDAGW)

- (1) Continue developing procedures for, and implementing, Ohio's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program
- (2) Complete Ohio's contributions to the Ground Water Report to Congress and to the Futures Forum
- (3) Continue to contribute to development of the Ground Water Rule
- (4) Continue to contribute to development of UIC Class V Rule modifications
- (5) Continue to develop information management and GIS activities with focus on public access to information
- (6) Continue efforts to characterize Ohio's ground water quality
- (7) Handle new requests for UIC Class I wells
- (8) Continue assistance to the Divisions of Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management, to enable consistent permitting for ground water protection via site criteria and closure standards
- (9) Continue support of the Ohio Water Education Program, Project WET
- (10) Continue assistance in development of the Unified Cleanup Program

Bob Van Horn (ODNR - DGS)

- (1) Continue surficial materials mapping
- (2) Initiate detailed mapping, which will involve significant field work

Dave Hanselmann (ODNR - DSWC)

- (1) Complete Nonpoint Source Management Plan update
- (2) Digitize soils maps for GIS coverages

NOTE to all agencies, divisions and programs: **Please complete the attached format of your planned ground water protection and management-related activities for SFY 2000 (July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000) and submit to Tom Allen by April 8th.** The information will be compiled for discussion at the April 15 meeting.

APRIL AGENDA

The meeting will be held at Ohio EPA's new location, 122 South Front Street, Conference Room 5A, 8:30 to 11:00 AM. The meeting will include Agency updates and further discussion of SCCGW goals.

For the following few months, SCCGW meeting locations will be as follows:

- May 20th: USGS new building
- June 17th: USGS new building
- July 15th: The new OGS sample repository building at Alum Creek

HAND-OUTS

- 1.) **U.S. EPA memo** from Vanessa Leiby to State Ground Water Program Managers regarding the U.S. EPA Ground Water Report to Congress
- 2.) **Product Bulletin** from Rhone-Poulenc regarding the atrazine-replacement product, Balance.
- 3.) **Article** by Rich Bendula and Bob Moore: "Surface Water Impacts on Ground Water Quality in a Shallow Limestone and Dolomite Bedrock Aquifer, Clark County, Ohio", *Professional Geologist*, March 1999, pp. 8-11.

