

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

To promote and guide the implementation of a coordinated, comprehensive and effective ground water protection and management program for the state of Ohio

Ohio Environmental
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Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health
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8895 East Main Street
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Ohio Public Utilities
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180 East Broad Street
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Ohio Department of
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Ohio Department of
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77 South High Street
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Ohio Department of
Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

June 21, 2011
ODNR – Fountain Square
Building E, Assembly Room East

The June 21, 2012 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation on House Bill 473 by Mike Hallfrisch, ODNR-DSWR

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke, Aaron Shear
ODNR: Mike Angle, Mike Hallfrisch
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
PUCO: Sue Daly
USGS: Ralph Haefner
OSU Ext.: Cindy Folck

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources

Well Sealing Reports. Starting on July 2nd it will be possible to upload well sealing reports to the Internet. Programming is still underway to enable public access to these reports.

House Bill 473. Legislation was signed on June 4th enabling rules to be developed to implement the Great Lakes Compact. This legislation will become law ninety days after signing, on September 2nd.

Ohio EPA, Division of Materials and Waste Management

C&DD Rules. Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-400, which contains amended and new Construction and Demolition Debris landfill rules concerning closure, post-closure care and financial assurance, will go into effect on August 1st. The rules addressing requirements to monitor ground water for leachate parameters will go into effect on January 1st, 2013.

C&DD Ground Water Monitoring. With support from DDAGW staff, preliminary hydrogeologic investigations have been conducted at thirteen (approximately 25% of the actively licensed) C&DD facilities. The objective of the investigations was to evaluate the adequacy of ground water monitoring networks at each facility, while also determining whether these facilities may be impacting ground water quality.

Ohio State University Agricultural Extension

Positions Available. OSU Extension is hiring County agents; requirements include a Master's degree in agricultural or environmental science. Postings are at <http://extension.osu.edu>.

Regional Specialists. Extension now has some field specialists who work regionally across multiple counties. For example, to deal with agronomy, farm management, and phosphorus issues, there are two specialists in northwest Ohio, as well as a manure management specialist.

Farm Science Review. This year is the 50th anniversary of Farm Science Review, which will be held during the third week of September.

Retirement. Dean Bobby Moser is retiring from the College of Agriculture; a search will soon be on for his replacement.

Asian Longhorn Beetle. The Asian longhorn beetle is an invasive species that has appeared in Clermont County. This beetle does not target any particular type of tree and is destructive to all. As a borer, it feeds internally and can only be destroyed by injecting the tree with pesticide at an exact time interval.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

Ground Water Quality Fact Sheets. The division is developing fact sheets on ground water quality parameters of interest to the public. By October 1st, fact sheets should be finalized on fluoride, radium, oxidation-reduction, manganese, and arsenic.

WMAO Meeting. The Water Management Association of Ohio's fall conference will be held November 14-15. The theme is "100 Years of Watershed Events", beginning with the 1913 flood a century ago. Speakers are asked to highlight the environmental watershed event(s) relevant to their topics. The call for abstracts has been issued, with a deadline of June 29th.

NGWA Conference. The National Ground Water Association's conference will be held next week in Columbus. Two DDAGW staff will be presenting; topics include road salt impacts, hydrogeologic sensitivity assessments for the Ground Water Rule, and regional characteristics of ground water quality in Ohio.

Ground Water Monitoring. DDAGW staff are conducting monthly monitoring for inorganics in the three ODNr observation wells that were recently upgraded for water quality sampling. Samples have already been analyzed for volatile organics and none were found. Also, samples from DDAGW's ambient network wells are being analyzed for pesticides, using grant money from the United States Department of Agriculture. So far, only minor amounts of atrazine and its metabolites have been detected in some wells in Ross County.

Source Water Protection Coordination. Over the next few months Source Water Protection (SWAP) staff are meeting with partners in other Ohio EPA divisions and other agencies whose rules address SWAP areas around public water system wells, to share information and identify any problems or opportunities for additional cooperation.

OWDA Grant Proposal. Ohio State University Extension Service in cooperation with ODH and Ohio EPA has applied to the Ohio Water Development Agency for a grant "Understanding the information needs of private well owners in Ohio and the development of interpretive tools for well water quality information". The project will include development of a guidance document

and interactive website that will enable the public to better understand water quality results obtained from drinking water wells. If the grant is approved, work will begin in November.

Nonpotable Wells Document. The division is working on a document summarizing Ohio EPA's rules for nonpotable water wells in a concise and more user-friendly format. The document, which is targeted to well drillers, should be complete by fall.

Lab Capabilities. The division has received several inquiries as to which Ohio laboratories are capable of performing analyses for all three tiers of parameters listed in the fact sheet "Recommendations for Drinking Water Well Sampling Before Oil and Gas Drilling". For example, not many commercial laboratories are presently equipped to analyze for methane gas in a water sample. ODH indicated there are several labs they have been in contact with that do test for the Tier 3 parameters. The division plans to contact the certified drinking water laboratories to determine whether they have the analytical capability to analyze for all three tiers of parameters.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey

Postings. Postings are up for a seismologist and a division chief; Mac Swinford currently is acting chief.

Facility Upgrades. The Horace Collins Laboratory at Alum Creek is in the process of being updated and repaired.

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center

Utica and Marcellus Shale Water Issues. The Survey is receiving numerous information requests related to oil and gas exploration of the Utica and Marcellus Shale in eastern Ohio. Most of the requests focus on potential impacts on water quality and water use. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has placed a moratorium on selling water from its reservoirs to oil companies until issues are better understood.

Study of Fracking Impacts. The Ohio Water Science Center is working to partner with its Pennsylvania counterparts to study water quality at one of seven drilling sites around the United States, analyzing water quality before, during, and after fracking.

Utica Shale Water Sampling. The Ohio center is also partnering with the USGS Eastern Energy Resources Science Center to learn how to sample natural brines from the shale formations (including the Utica Shale, which is believed to contain among the most saline brines in the United States).

Test-Your-Well Event. The joint agency arsenic study in Licking County sponsored the first Test-Your-Well event for arsenic in private wells in June, and yielded ten participants who agreed to collect samples. A web site for this initiative is under construction. Two more Test-Your-Well events are scheduled in Licking County for July 10th and August 14th. Also, USGS will be starting a project in October 2012 with the Miami Conservancy District to provide information on treatment options for arsenic in drinking water.

Regional Study. The USGS Office of Ground Water is developing plans to investigate the Pennsylvanian-Mississippian aquifer system throughout the eastern United States, to characterize aquifer characteristics on a regional scale.

Ohio River Basin Conference. The Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education will hold a conference in Athens, Ohio on July 19-20, 2012.

Recent Publications. USGS recently issued the following reports:

- *Water Quality Studied in Areas of Unconventional Oil and Gas Development, Including Areas Where Hydraulic Fracturing Techniques are Used in the United States*, Fact Sheet 2012-3049, April 2012.
- “Water-Quality Assessment of the Cambrian-Ordovician Aquifer System in the Northern Midwest, United States”, by John T. Wilson, *Scientific Investigations Report 2011-5229*. [Available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2011/5229/>]
- “Methods for Evaluating Temporal Groundwater Quality Data and Results of Decadal-Scale Changes in Chloride, Dissolved Solids, and Nitrate Concentrations in Groundwater in the United States”, 1988-2010, by Bruce D. Lindsey and Michael G. Rupert, *Scientific investigations Report 2012-5049* [Available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5049/>]

Ohio Department of Health

Methane Mitigation. ODH is working on guidance and a Fact Sheet regarding methane mitigation for homeowners, addressing topics such as how dissolved methane in ground water is measured, what levels are of concern, who can conduct such testing, and what to do with the results. Also, in August the Ohio Water Well Association will assist ODH in providing free methane mitigation training events for well installers/contractors and local health district staff around the state.

Clean Watershed Needs Survey. ODH assisted Ohio EPA with a survey of the failure rates of sewage treatment systems as part of the Clean Watershed Needs Survey conducted every four years for compliance with the Clean Water Act. Using these survey results, a report on Ohio’s 2011 operation and failure rates of sewage treatment systems will be issued in August. Approximately seventy of Ohio’s 88 counties responded to the survey with regard to home sewage treatment system types that have been installed, the failure rates, and reasons for system failure. The report summarizes failure rates over the last four years and the costs of system installations.

HSTS Rules. The rules for home sewage treatment systems, which have been under development over the last year, will be out for public comment in early August. ODH anticipates adoption of the sewage treatment system rules in early 2013.

Wastewater Re-use. Tangent, a private company, has developed a process for treating wastewater for re-use as potable water, and has been monitoring a test facility in Geauga County since 2009. ODH will be working with Tangent, Ohio EPA and national experts to review and monitor a pilot treatment unit installation in Moreland Hills at the Western Reserve Land Conservancy facility site.

Stray Gas Conference. A conference titled “Stray Gas Incidence and Response Forum”, sponsored by the national Ground Water Protection Council, will be held in Cleveland on July 24-26. More information is available at www.gwpc.org.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

Salt Workgroup. The workgroup is currently addressing comments from internal review and expects to provide a final document to the Ohio Water Resources Council in July.

PRESENTATION

“House Bill 473: Legislation on the Great Lakes Compact”, presented by Mike Hallfrisch, ODNR-Division of Soil and Water Resources

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

... will be held August 16th at the Horace Collins Classroom, ODNR Geological Repository at Alum Creek and will feature a presentation by Chris Kenah (Ohio EPA-DDAGW) on “Evaluating Public Water System Wells in Pathogen-Sensitive Hydrogeologic Settings in Ohio”.

The new chair is Jim Raab (ODNR-DSWR). Following the meeting, there will be a potluck lunch and Barb Lubberger will show slides from her recent trip to Nepal and China.

REMINDER:

Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW Web site:

<http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/>