

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

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246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

Ohio Department of
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8895 East Main Street
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Ohio Public Utilities
Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of
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Ohio Department of
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77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

Ohio Department of
Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**February 21, 2013
ODNR Fountain Square
Assembly Room East**

The February 21, 2013 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation on the January 2013 report on Household Sewage Treatment System Failures in Ohio, by Rebecca Fugitt, ODH.

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke
ODNR: Frank Fugitt, Jim Raab, Tom Tomastik
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
ODOT: Hans Gucker,
SFM: Charlie Zepp
PUCO: Sue Daly

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation:

New Rules. During 2011 and 2012 BUSTR revised their Administrative Rules. Copies of the revised rules can be found at www.Com.OH.Gov/fire/BUSTRpublications.aspx.

Ohio Department of Health:

Home Sewage Treatment Rules. The first draft of the sewage treatment system rules are out for public comment until March 1st. Based on comments obtained during the first review period, ODH will make revisions to the rules and begin the official 60-day comment period in April.

Registration of Well Drillers. The 2013 registration for private water systems contractors is slowing as most contractors complete their registration process. To date over 800 contractors have registered.

Ground Water Investigation. ODH is working with Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization (DERR) on a ground water investigation of solvent contamination in ground water at a Mansfield site. ODH has assisted with sampling of private water systems.

New Database. ODH has contracted with a company to develop a new web based database for use by both ODH and local health districts to capture and record environmental health permitting and inspection data. Currently the new system is being implemented for Food Safety and Recreation; the water and sewage program modules are proposed to begin development after July.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

Five-year Rule Review. DDAGW has convened a workgroup to complete the five-year rule review for water well standards (Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-9). The main goals are to consolidate and streamline the rules, define terms, ensure consistency with private water well rules, and clarify which rules apply to all nonpotable wells versus those that apply only to public drinking water wells.

Ambient Well Database. DDAGW is developing a new database for ambient ground water data, to replace STORET. Currently staff are working on loading historical data and developing the reports.

Flyash Permit. DDAGW recently issued a Class V well permit to the Ohio Department of Transportation to inject a cement and flyash mixture into subsurface voids to stabilize a road bed in Ottawa County.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

New Commissioner. Commissioner Cheryl Roberto resigned at the end of 2012 and Beth Trombold has been appointed as her replacement, starting in April.

Rule Review. PUCO completed a five-year rule review in October 2012.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management:

Water Well Complaint. Recently a family in Portage County complained about elevated methane and chlorides in their water well that they link to the installation of an oil and gas well about 1,800 feet away. An investigation by ODNR found no evidence of communication between the two wells, however. It was noted that the drinking water well had been drilled through the shallow aquifer into a bedrock unit that is known to yield oil, and typically has high levels of methane and chloride.

D&L Illegal Disposal Case. On January 31st ODNR inspectors discovered a hose discharging wastewater from a tank of fracking byproducts at D&L Hardrock Excavating (near Youngstown) into a storm drain that empties into a tributary to the Mahoning River. Ohio EPA staff were called out to assist with cleanup. ODNR has revoked the permits for the D&L owner's six injection wells and denied applications for three new permits. D&L has also lost its brine hauler's permit. Civil charges have been filed.

Seismic Monitoring. The division has purchased nine portable seismic units to conduct proactive seismic monitoring around Class II brine injection wells. Currently sites near Youngstown and Marietta are being monitored.

Anti-fracking Protest. On Tuesday (Feb. 19th) a group of people protested at the GreenHunter Water property in New Matamoras, which serves as a storage site and transfer station for wastes generated by hydraulic fracturing conducted by the oil and gas industry. This site was targeted because it has applied to the U.S. Coast Guard for a permit to ship the wastes down the Ohio River by barge.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geologic Survey:

Staff Changes. A geologist will be hired to staff the Horace Collins Geologic Repository. Paul Spahr has transferred in from the Division of Soil and Water Resources.

Projects. Projects in process include the Bellevue karst surficial mapping in northwest Ohio, preparing a proposal for saline waste injection and carbon sequestration, and a shallow seismic investigation of mine subsidence in Sharon Coal.

Ohio Department of Soil and Water Resources:

Allen County Groundwater Investigation. The division recently completed a ground water investigation in Allen County concerning pumping of an irrigation well at the Hidden Creek Golf Club. The report was sent to all the well owners who participated in the study and is now available from the Division's website.

Drilling Demo. The Ohio Water Well Association will present a well drilling demonstration on May 16th in Miami County. The project will include drilling of a drinking water well and a residential geothermal installation. The installation of a constant pressure pump system and horizontal drilling will also be demonstrated.

AIPG Conference. On April 10-11, the American Institute of Professional Geologists will host a national conference in Canton, Ohio, at the McKinley Hotel. The focus will be on Marcellus and Utica/Point Pleasant Shale oil and gas activities. The due date for abstracts was February 20.

Ohio Department of Transportation:

MS-4 Annual Report. ODOT is currently preparing the annual report to Ohio EPA on its projects and facilities within urban areas and their compliance with Clean Water Act requirements. ODOT is currently in the process of updating their erosion and sediment control supplemental specification 832 to address new Construction General Permit requirements.

Training. This winter ODOT has conducted extensive training of its operators, especially with regard to environmental protection. On February 20th the agency hosted a Storm Water Expo at its Columbus office that was attended by approximately 175 people.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

Salt Workgroup: Yesterday (Feb. 21st) the Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) endorsed the guidance titled "Road Salt Storage in Ohio: Recommendations for Protecting Water Resources". Also presented was the document OWRC requested comparing how various states handle the environmental impacts of salt storage facilities. Many rely on their storm water programs, but nine of the 16 states reviewed employ other programs. Four states have rules that apply to salt storage in the vicinity of water supplies, two states require development and implementation of ground water protection plans for salt storage, and three states have rules specifically for salt storage.

Well Sealing Workgroup: The group agreed that it was time to convene a workgroup to address any needed updates for this SCCGW guidance, which was completed in 1996. Jim Raab was nominated to take the lead. He will locate the electronic version of this document and set up an initial meeting with representatives of the agencies that provided the original workgroup members. SCCGW members agreed that this project may not require too much time or effort; the main items to be addressed will be guidance on grouting, which has advanced significantly since 1996, and ensuring that this guidance is consistent with Ohio EPA and ODH well sealing regulations. Since Ohio EPA is reviewing its water well rules at this time, and expects to have a draft ready by September, the well sealing workgroup will try to have a draft update of this guidance ready by September as well.

Geothermal Well Workgroup: ODH and Ohio EPA met with staff from the , Board of Building Standards (BBS) staff, Department of Commerce, to discuss the the authority and jurisdiction the BBS has regarding the permitting and installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems. Upon initial discussion, BBS indicated they do have rules related to commercial and residential geothermal piping and refrigerant standards. BBS also indicated that the international building code committees were working on updated model codes for both residential and commercial geothermal piping and refrigerants. BBS indicated they would need to conduct additional review of their regulatory authority, but believed their authority could apply to grouting of closed loop boreholes, but were less comfortable about their ability to regulate the borehole construction or require the use of registered contractors to construct closed loop boreholes. The BBS certifies local building departments, and in areas without a certified building department, Commerce staff perform the permitting and inspections of commercial systems only. If BBS were able to expand their rules to include some of the regulatory recommendations developed by the geothermal workgroup (i.e. borehole grouting), it would still leave gaps of unregulated areas where certified building departments were not present. ODH and Ohio EPA are going to further discuss these issues with BBS and reconvene the geothermal workgroup to discuss this information and modify the recommendations for the state agency directors., PUCO identified that their may be some energy/efficiency credit information for both commercial and residential systems that should be included in the workgroup recommendations.

NATIONAL GROUND WATER WEEK

After some discussion, the group decided not to attempt a coordinated outreach effort for National Ground Water Week (March 10-16). Each agency will pursue some kind of outreach individually, mostly through its web page or other social media devices. However, it was noted that providing a web link to the National Ground Water Association would be a good idea, as they have a lot of information related to this event.

PRESENTATION

Rebecca Fugitt (ODH) gave a presentation titled “Household Sewage Treatment System Failures in Ohio”, which was a summary of the report on local Health Department survey responses for the 2012 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey. The report concluded that approximately 31% of all household sewage treatment systems throughout the state of Ohio are experiencing some degree of failure. Causes vary, but it is clear that the age of existing systems and the limitations of residential lots are significant contributors, which should be addressed through technology and rule development.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

... will be held at the Assembly Center East at ODNR on April 18th. More details on the agenda will be forthcoming.

REMINDER:

Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW Web site:
<http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/>