

# 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**

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Ohio Department of  
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1980 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**April 18, 2013**  
**ODNR Fountain Square, Bldg. E**  
**Assembly Room East**

*The April 18, 2013 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and preparation for launching a workgroup to update SCCGW's 1996 Well Abandonment guidance.*

## **ATTENDANCE**

Ohio EPA: Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke, Aaron Shear  
ODNR: Frank Fugitt, Jim Raab  
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt  
SFM: Charles Zepp  
PUCO: Sue Daly  
NRCS: John Armentano  
USGS: Ralph Haefner

## **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Ohio Department of Health:***

Home Sewage Treatment Rules. ODH is working through approximately 2,000 comments on the draft sewage treatment system rules, in preparation for revisions and redistribution for the official 60-day comment period.

### ***Ohio EPA, Division of Materials and Waste Management:***

C&DD Leachate Rules. TOAC Rule 3745-400-20, became effective on January 1, 2013, which require owners or operators of C&DD Facilities to annually sample their leachate (quarterly if they recirculate leachate.) Based on the leachate sampling results, the owner or operator must then include any newly detected constituents into their ground water sampling plan.

Landfill Odors. Landfill odor has been reported at several MSW and C&DD facilities lately. Jerome J605 hydrogen sulfide analyzers have been purchased to that Division staff can measure hydrogen sulfide gas levels during odor surveillance at these facilities..

Recycling Drilling Wastes. Some recycling firms have proposed to recycle drilling wastes (sediments and rock mixed with drilling muds) by composting out hydrocarbons and using the remainder for various beneficial uses. The division is reviewing completed pilot studies.

### ***Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:***

Uncovered Boreholes. Water well rules for private water systems include a ten-day timeframe for completing wells once the borehole has been drilled,

but public water system rules do not. This may be addressed in the five-year rule review currently underway.

Direct Exchange Geothermal Systems. A question has been raised recently about the use of sand, instead of thermal grout, for backfilling boreholes for direct exchange geothermal systems. The SCCGW's 2012 geothermal guidance did not address direct exchange systems in detail, because they were reportedly not being installed in Ohio. Some research and possible revision of the guidance will be conducted.

Five-year Rule Review. As reported in February, DDAGW has convened a workgroup to complete the five-year rule review for water well standards. It is hoped that SCCGW's planned revision of its well abandonment guidance can be reflected in these rules. Also, DDAGW staff are assisting the Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization with review of their ground water-related rules.

New Ground Water Quality Database. Over 11,000 water quality sample results have been loaded into a new ground water quality database that will enable the program to more efficiently manage the data received from our laboratory and stream data to the U.S. EPA's STORET system via the WQX process.

Methane Predictions. GSI Environmental is interested in DDAGW's Ambient Ground Water Data. While methane is not monitored, the company is interested in using water type (e.g., Piper diagrams) to predict background methane levels based on what has been observed in Pennsylvania.

Salt Storage Guidance. The Ohio Water Resources Council endorsed SCCGW's Salt Storage Guidance in February.

Salt Storage Pile Inquiry. Recently the division was approached about a proposed siting of a 30,000-ton salt pile on a concrete loading area next to the Ohio River near Martins Ferry. Upon review, this site was found to lie within at least five of eight categories of sensitive areas that the guidance recommends avoiding, including proximity to surface water, 100-year floodplain, source water protection areas, and area of high pollution potential for ground water.

Centralized Salt Storage. Trumbull County is considering siting a single well-designed centralized salt storage facility to replace multiple small storage facilities throughout the county. The Greater Ohio Policy Center called looking for information that would support the move, in particular related to costs of potential contamination. DDAGW mentioned the Village of Camden's experience.

Water Quality Monitoring Committee. The Ohio Water Resources Council's Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee has developed a list of the various collectors of ground water quality data in Ohio, and is presently working with Ohio agencies on submitting their data regularly to the Division of Surface Water's credible data base.

NGWA Forum. The National Ground Water Association is presenting a ground water forum in June, with OSU professor Scott Bair giving the keynote speech.

***United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center:***

Sequester. Due to the federal sequester that became effective in March 2013, furloughs of up to nine days are expected in 2013.

Well Upgrade Project. The project to rehabilitate the ODNR ground water monitoring well network is nearing completion, with only twenty wells left to address. The project formally ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Pennsylvanian-Mississippian Aquifer System. In October USGS will initiate a study of the Pennsylvanian-Mississippian Aquifer System from New York to Alabama, focusing on water availability.

Arsenic Study. A project is underway with the Miami Conservancy District concerning methods to remove arsenic from ground water.

New Publication. USGS has published the following USGS Circular:  
*Progress Toward Establishing a National Assessment of Water Availability and Use*,  
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1384>

***Ohio Department of Commerce, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation:***  
Computer Upgrades. The bureau is currently converting hundreds of thousands of microfiche data records to electronic records.

Soil Vapor Classes. Staff are preparing classes on the use of soil vapor probes.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:***  
Karst Project. Doug Aden is finishing up the Bellevue karst map, which involved investigating thousands of sinkholes and ground truthing many apparent karst features.

Surficial Mapping Project. Also, the mapping of surficial glacial deposits in the Bellefontaine and Adrian (Williams/Fulton Counties) areas is wrapping up.

Coastal Erosion Project. This summer staff will study the geology of bluffs along Lake Erie and use this data in predictions of coastal recession rates.

Geologic Repository. The Horace R. Collins Geologic Repository at Alum Creek is being renovated to allow additional staff to be housed there.

***Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:***

Commissioner Leaving. Commissioner Andre T. Porter has left PUCO to become Director of the Department of Commerce.

***Natural Resources Conservation Service:***

Sequester. Although impacted by the federal sequester, NRCS has so far avoided furloughs.

Field Monitoring. The NRCS National Office is in the process of releasing two new Edge of Field Monitoring Standards for use in 2013. These practices will only be offered in limited areas. In Ohio these areas include 1) The Mississippi River Basin Area (MRBI) 2) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and 3) National Water Quality Initiative areas (NWQI).

To participate State had to make a request to the NRCS National Office stating where they wanted to participate this year. To date Ohio has not heard if they were approved to offer monitoring this year.

The old monitoring practice only allowed for 3 years of monitoring; the new practices allow for nine years.

EQIP. NRCS-Ohio has \$13 million for the EQIP program, of which over half is already promised to various projects. Sign-ups are underway for the remainder.

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

Timken Dewatering. The Timken Plant near Canton stopped dewatering a couple months ago and the water table is coming back. To address local residents' complaints about loss of water in their private wells, the company had 36 new wells drilled, most of them about 150 feet deep with about 50 feet of casing.

New Hire. The division has hired Mitch Valerio to work in the water withdrawal registration program, and on the Great Lakes Compact. He starts on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

OWWA Demo. On May 16<sup>th</sup> the Ohio Water Well Association will present its 2013 Well Construction Conference at Pleasant Hill, Ohio (Miami County). The agenda includes demonstrations of directional drilling, water well pump installation., and completion of a geothermal well. For more details, see: <http://www.ohiowaterwell.org/>

**WORKGROUP UPDATES**

Geothermal Well Workgroup: As reported during the February SCCGW meeting, ODH and Ohio EPA met with staff from the Board of Building Standards (BBS) staff, Department of Commerce, to discuss BBS' authority and jurisdiction over permitting and installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems. (See February meeting summary for details).

Currently the Dept. of Commerce is reevaluating their rules. Once they have clarified some issues internally, they will contact SCCGW representative Rebecca Fugitt.

**DISCUSSION/PLANNING**

Well Sealing Workgroup: The group discussed who should be invited to serve on the workgroup (including other agency staff as well as representatives of the well drilling industry). It was noted that ODH and Ohio EPA have both developed some rules for abandonment of wells since the original well sealing guidance was written in 1996, so a discussion of existing rules will need to be added. Grouting technology has advanced significantly since 1996, and some of the guidance on this subject requires substantial revision.

Several members were tasked with looking at guidance developed by other states, as well as ASTM standards and guidance that may be available from the National Ground Water Association and the Ground Water Protection Council.

**NEXT SCCGW MEETING**

... will be held at the Assembly Center East at ODNR on June 20th.

**REMINDER:**

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