

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

Ohio Environmental
Protection Agency
Lazarus Government Center
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

Ohio Department of Natural
Resources
Fountain Square
Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

Ohio Department of
Commerce-SFM
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Ohio Public Utilities
Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of
Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-
3399

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

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

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

**February 20, 2014
ODNR Fountain Square Campus
Building H, East Assembly Room**

The February 20, 2014 meeting consisted of Agency announcements, a presentation by Cathy Alexander about the OWRC's Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee, and a presentation by Doug Aden about ground-truthing sinkhole locations identified in LIDAR maps.

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke
ODNR: Frank Fugitt, Jim Raab, Tom Tomastik
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt, Feng Zhang (ODH intern)
USGS: Ralph Haefner
PUCO: Sue Daly

Presenters: Cathy Alexander (Ohio EPA) and Doug Aden (ODNR)

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Status of Ohio's Shale Gas Industry. As of February 15th, 2014, in the Marcellus Shale there is one rig drilling, 36 permits approved, 23 wells drilled and 11 wells in production. In the Utica Shale there are 40 rigs drilling, 1,093 permits approved, 737 wells drilled, and 367 wells in production.

Rules. The division continues developing rules for numerous issues, including pad construction, temporary storage, spill prevention, countermeasures and control (SPCC) plans, impoundment construction, and others.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

National Ground Water Week. National Ground Water Week is March 9-15. During the week Ohio EPA along with OSU Extension and ODH will unveil a new web-based application that the three agencies have been developing, which is designed to help private well owners understand water quality data from their wells.

Water Well Standards. The revised water well rules are almost ready for internal review. One important change is that public water well drillers now will be required to be registered well drillers under ODH's program. The chapter on well abandonment and sealing is being delayed, however, to ensure it is consistent with the well abandonment guidance currently being finalized by SCCGW's workgroup.

West Virginia MCHM Spill. Subsequent to the January 9th release of a coal-washing chemical known as MCHM into West Virginia's Kanawha River, Ohio public water systems using the Ohio River downstream from its confluence with the Kanawha River were kept informed by ORSANCO of the MCHM plume's progress down the Ohio River. Predicted arrival times at the plants' intakes were accurate to within an hour of actual arrival time. These predictions were based on NOAA/NWS real-time Ohio River flow velocity estimates.

Staff Changes. Jim Canepa is Ohio EPA's new Assistant Director focusing on legal issues and managing all of the program support offices. Cindy Hafner has been named as the new Deputy Director for Legal/Chief Legal Counsel. Peter Whitehouse will replace Cindy as Chief of the Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization (DERR).

Source Water Protection Survey. The source water protection program will be issuing its 2014 survey of local source water protection implementation soon. This online survey is issued every three years and is targeted to community public water systems whose water sources have a moderate or high susceptibility to contamination.

Hydrogeologic Sensitivity Assessment Guidance. The guidance documents for conducting hydrogeologic sensitivity assessments (HSA) and assessment source water monitoring (ASWM) for the Ground Water Rule have been finalized and are available on OEPA's web site at http://www.epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/pws/WQ-21-001_HSAGuidance.pdf

Fact Sheet on Redox. A new fact sheet and technical report is being developed for inclusion on DDAGW's web site to explain reduction-oxidation ("redox") principles and how they affect Ohio's ground water.

Retention Basins and Chlorides. Recently DDAGW has been requested to review proposed storm water retention basins at newly developed or developing sites where high chlorides—presumably from deicing salt—are known to have impacted ground water.

GWQC Program Enhancements. The Ground Water Quality Characterization Program is looking at providing more useful information to Ohioans by including more Tuscarawas River basin public water systems in the ambient water quality monitoring well network, possibly adding methane to the parameters monitored, and conducting special studies where ground water has been impacted by nutrients, in coordination with nutrient reduction strategy efforts being implemented by other divisions and agencies.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

Staff Changes. PUCO Chairman Todd A. Snitchler's term expires on April 10, 2014, and he recently announced that he will not seek reappointment.

Ohio American Water Company. The American water company, which sold its Ohio plants to Aqua-Ohio several years ago, is returning to Ohio under a different name, but will only be providing water for nonpotable uses, primarily for the oil and gas industry in eastern Ohio.

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center:

Staff Changes. Ralph Haefner has been named Deputy Director of the USGS office in Lansing, Michigan, and will be relocating this summer. His replacement at the Ohio Water Science Center has not yet been named, but Denise Dumouchelle will take his place as representative to SCCGW. A replacement is also being sought for his position as Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) Ground Water Director.

Brine Analysis. The Ohio Water Science Center recently obtained permission to sample brines from ten conventional (i.e., not horizontal) shale-gas wells in eastern Ohio. Samples are being analyzed for inorganics, organics and isotopes. Total dissolved solids are in the range of 200,000-300,000 mg/l, so the samples typically require multiple dilutions before they can be analyzed. Results are not yet available.

Observation Well Network. The state observation well network, which includes real-time monitoring of water levels in 22 wells, has lost USGS's share of funding. Another source of funding will need to be secured or the instrumentation could end up being removed. One real-time observation well in Erie County tends to be an early indicator of ground water level changes and should be kept on-line to predict the kind of ground water 'flooding' that occurred in northern Ohio several years ago.

National Ground Water Monitoring Network. USGS is tasked with overseeing the development of a national ground water monitoring network, although no funding was provided to the Ohio Water Science Center for the effort. The Ohio Water Science Center is discussing how to bring the State of Ohio into the network.

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

Staff Changes. Rodney Tornes has been named Deputy Chief of the Division of Soil and Water Resources, replacing Ted Lozier.

Timken Report Available. The division has completed a report titled: *Hydrogeologic Investigation of the Timken Faircrest Steel Plant Construction Dewatering Project, Stark County, Canton and Perry Townships, Ohio*, by Curtis Coe and Jim Raab, January 2014. The report can be accessed online at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/3786/Default.aspx>

Well Logs Received in 2013. In 2013 the division received 5,579 well logs, which is the second lowest number received in a year since ODNR started keeping records. Approximately 65% of the well logs received are residential wells.

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health:

Staff Changes. ODH Director Theodore Wymyslo and Assistant Director Anne Harnish recently resigned their positions. Replacements have not yet been announced.

CDC Project. Feng Zhang, a Ph.D. candidate at OSU's College of Public Health is doing an internship at ODH funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to study the relationship between reported water-borne illnesses and sensitive hydrogeologic settings such as karst and specific land uses such as abandoned underground mines. The outcome will be educational materials enabling private well owners and agencies to better understand causes of disease and illness related to private water systems in Ohio.

Well Registrations. ODH is still registering water system contractors for 2014; 700 are registered so far.

Water Well Rules. The Bureau is preparing to review private water system rules as part of the required five-year rule review, due in 2016.

Sewage Rules. The comment log and responses for the latest round of public comments on the new sewage rules will be posted on the ODH website soon. The rules are nearly ready to be filed with JCARR.

OHIO WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL (OWRC) UPDATES

OWRC 4 Year Strategy Water Quality Action Items. Among the proposed action items OWRC will pursue in 2015-2018 are:

- 1) Evaluate how to incorporate ground water and drinking water nutrient issues into the Ohio Nutrient Reduction Strategy
- 2) Evaluate implementation of the Ohio Nutrient Reduction Strategy
- 3) Participate with U.S. EPA Region 5 in discussions related to the establishment of a regional climate change monitoring network, patterned after one piloted in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. A multi-state group working on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada is looking for team members to help draft the chapter on ground water (Annex 8 – Groundwater Science Report). Anyone interested in participating should contact Michael Eggert or Mike Baker.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

Well Sealing Workgroup. The workgroup is ready to put the final draft together. This will be submitted to the Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) upon completion and made available to the public upon their approval.

PRESENTATIONS

Cathy Alexander (Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water) gave a presentation on the OWRC's Water Quality Monitoring Workgroup, and its project to provide a centralized portal for Ohio's water quality credible data, including ground water and surface water. She solicited suggestions from the group concerning how to handle ground water data.

Doug Aden (ODNR, Division of Geological Survey) gave a presentation on verifying the existence of sinkholes identified from LIDAR maps in three Ohio counties with prominent near-surface karst (Clark, Delaware, and Seneca Counties).

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

Will be held April 17th at ODNR's East Assembly Room, 8:30 am -11:30 am.

REMINDER:

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