

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

June 20, 2002

Horace R. Collins Conference Room
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Repository Building
3307 South Old State Road
Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The June 2002 meeting was devoted to Agency updates and announcements and a presentation on new underground injection well rules.

ATTENDANCE

ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Scott Kell, Ted Lozier, Rick Pavey
OEPA: Tom Allen, Vlad Cica, John Kessler, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger
ODA: Larry Berger
BUSTR: Charles Zepp
PUCO: Sue Daly
OSU Ext.: Cindy Folck
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Jeff de Roche

Visitor/Presenter: Lindsay Taliaferro III, OEPA

MAY MEETING SUMMARY

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Rebecca Petty's comments were revised as follows:

Representative Neihaus has prepared draft legislation that will be distributed to interested parties over the summer and fall for comment. The legislation will establish a state mandated household sewage treatment system program with ODH oversight of local health district programs, establish program standards, and create a hardship loan program for system repairs.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly's comments were revised as follows:

- PUCO is coordinating with Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water (DSW) and Legal staff to discuss the effects of DSW enforcement action on the rates and the obligation to serve for PUCO regulated water and sewer companies. When a wastewater treatment facility is required to shut down because of an Ohio EPA enforcement action, PUCO needs to be informed because of the change in rates. Also, the PUCO obligation-to-serve conflicts with Ohio EPA enforcement actions that require a wastewater treatment facility to shut down.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Discipline, Jeff de Roche, announced:

- The Survey has published a new report: "Use of Electrical Resistivity to Detect Underground Mine Voids in Ohio" by Rodney Sheets, Water-Resources Investigations Report 02-4041. Hard copies are no longer being distributed but the report is available on-line at <http://oh.water.usgs.gov/reports.html>.

- The Survey has submitted a proposal to the Great Lakes Protection Fund to complete a basin-wide assessment of the Great Lakes that would involve extensive ground water/surface water modeling in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Canada.

- To support the Ohio River TMDL, ORSANCO has asked the Survey to develop a proposal to study ground water inputs to the Ohio River, using water budget analysis and isotope studies.

- The Survey is working on a new project proposal for the Nature Conservancy. The project would involve sampling ground water and surface water to help define baseline ecology in the Summit (County) Interlobate Plateau.

- In cooperation with ODNR's Division of Mineral Resources Management, the Survey is conducting geochemical studies to evaluate the success of restoration efforts at a former mining site in Perry County.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Mineral Resources Management, Scott Kell announced:

- The Division is drafting rules for modeling the cone of depression created by mine dewatering before dewatering is actually initiated. Consultation with the Division of Water would be one of the permit requirements. The goal is to predict where dewatering may occur so that impacts on other uses can be avoided.

- The Division is also working on in-stream mining rules.

- Thanks to an intensive cross-training effort, all field inspectors now are trained in the rules for coal, minerals, and oil and gas.

Ohio State University Extension, Cindy Folck, announced:

- The Ohio Watershed Leaders (OWLS) Workshop will be held August 29-30 at Camp Otý'Okwa in the Hocking Hills Region. Registration deadline is July 26.

- Via a USEPA grant, the Extension is co-hosting the Greater Cleveland Pesticide Education Conference on Tuesday August 6, 2002 at the Tri-C Downtown, Cleveland as well as the LCCC Spitzer Conference Center, Elyria. The Conference will focus on controlling pests in houses and apartments in the greater Cleveland area.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano, announced:

- Farm Bill Updates: The final rules are not published yet. The Service has not received funding provided by the bill yet, and cannot hire additional staff until certain of the funding. They are using cooperative agreements and third-party vendors to get work done in the meantime.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly, announced:

-The Counter Terrorism and Security in the Water Industry Conference was held on May 22nd. Attendance was unexpectedly low; only 28 people attended but they gave the conference excellent reviews.

Ohio EPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, Vlad Cica announced:

- The Division is working on a geotechnical resources manual focusing on topics such as slope instability in waste impoundments. The manual should be going out for public comment soon.

- Bills are out concerning siting criteria for Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) landfills.

- After an evaluation of CDD landfills in northeast Ohio, the Division has determined that at least half of the material disposed of in these landfills is actually solid waste. Enforcement actions are now being escalated.

- Clean-up of the Kirby Tire fire site continues.

- Lindsay Taliaferro III (DDAGW) added: Filing of the solid waste rule revisions is delayed in part over proposals to redefine 'aquifer system' and 'significant yield' to conform to VAP definitions. Under VAP, 'significant yield' is anything greater than 3

gallons per minute, and there is some industry opposition to using this definition as a siting criterion for solid waste landfills.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, John Kessler announced:

- The Division's budget is significantly impacted by the expected 15% State budget cut. Overtime and equipment spending will be minimized but so far no layoffs are planned.

- Distribution of the RFP for 319 grants is delayed to the end of June, due to technical difficulties with the Web site. An additional RFP may be put out in December.

State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation, Charles Zepp announced:

- The Bureau has CDs available containing the 1992 and 1999 rules, as well as all their technical guidance documents. These items also are available on their Web site.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, Mike Hallfrisch and Ted Lozier announced:

- Entry of historic well logs into the well log database is finally complete.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Tom Allen and Barb Lubberger announced:

- The Division is renewing contracts with ODNR-Division of Water and Great Lakes RCAP to assist with the Source Water assessments. ODNR will continue to create potentiometric surface maps for selected aquifers and RCAP will continue to conduct SWAP inventories for community public water systems (both ground water and surface water-based) in northern Ohio, as directed by OEPA District staff.

Ohio EPA, Directors Office, Bob Knipmeyer announced:

- The Agency is interested in ODH's efforts to characterize naturally-occurring arsenic in Ohio's ground waters. (Jeff deRoche added that an investigation of arsenic transport mechanisms in the Great Miami River NAWQA study area was initiated four months ago, using geochemical studies and modeling to help understand what mobilizes it.)

- The first human positive for West Nile virus in Ohio is expected this year. The virus, which is transmitted by mosquitos, usually is first detected in dead birds, especially crows and blue jays. In humans it causes flu-like symptoms and can lead to encephalitis, which is life-threatening.

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Registration Section, Larry Berger announced:

- Sampling of agricultural monitoring wells, as specified by Ohio's Pesticide Management Plan, is nearly complete for this year. Of 100 wells, 83 have been sampled.
- The pesticide container recycling program usually runs July-August, but because of budget issues, there may not be anyone to implement it.
- Same is true for the used-pesticide disposal program.
- By July 1st ODA expects to have in place the additional engineers and inspectors needed to implement new Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) rules.

PRESENTATIONS

"Ohio's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program", Lindsay Taliaferro III, Ohio EPA - DDAGW

In 1984 Ohio acquired primacy for implementing this program for Class I, IV and V wells. (ODNR regulates Class II and III wells.) Ohio EPA's authority derives from ORC 6111.043 and .044, and rules are codified in OAC 3745-34. Changes in Class V well rules were finalized on March 11, 2002, after two years of effort. New requirements include:

- large-capacity cesspools must close by April 5, 2005.
- motor vehicle waste disposal wells must close by January 1, 2007.

Locating Class V wells is an issue, since few are self-reported. OEPA staff currently are focusing their efforts on completed SWAP areas. This gives priority to areas that provide drinking water, and makes use of the SWAP inventories. Also, efforts are focused on Logan and Miami Counties, due to numerous water quality issues in those counties. The unit is coordinating with watershed groups to focus on TMDL areas. To date, 20 facilities have received NOV's for violation of UIC rules.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ohio Water Resources Council

At OWRC's upcoming July 1st meeting, the Strategic Plan will be distributed and Advisory Council members reappointed. Governor Taft is expected to attend.

The goal of the Strategic Plan is to identify the most pressing issues and needs for the future, to enable a more proactive approach to water resources management and plan for the budget.

At the next SCCGW meeting, members will discuss their agency's priorities and needs, in preparation for making recommendations to the OWRC.

July 18, 2002 SCCGW Meeting

-- The meeting will be held at the ODNR Repository Building, Horace R. Collins Conference Room in Delaware, Ohio from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The meeting will consist of agency updates and announcements, as well as continued discussion on the OWRC's goals and objectives.

