

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

July 17, 2002

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

ABSTRACT

The July 2002 meeting was devoted to Agency updates and announcements and a discussion on the Proposed Well Construction Rules for Public Drinking Water Supplies led by John Arduini and Ralph Baker of Ohio EPA - DDAGW.

ATTENDANCE

ODA: Larry Berger
ODH: Rebecca Petty
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Ted Lozier, Rick Pavey
OEPA: Tom Allen, John Arduini, Ralph Baker, Kristy Hunt, John Kessler
USGS: Jeff de Roche

JUNE MEETING SUMMARY

SCCGW Representatives please note the final draft of the June SCCGW meeting notes include revisions to announcements provided by Jeff de Roche, USGS:

- 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.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- The Great Lakes Protection Fund Project is ready to move forward. The USGS will be conducting ground water modeling of the upper Great Lakes. An example of the types of evaluations that will occur in the modeling include evaluating how surface streams are effected by representative pumping rates. This will be a two year project that the USGS Ohio District will conduct in coordination with the USGS Michigan and Wisconsin Districts. The entire study area will cover parts of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Canada.

- The USGS Ohio District will be working with the Hamilton New Baltimore GroundWater Consortium to conduct an aquifer test to determine infiltration rates and riverbed conductance to update the aquifer characteristics in their area. The Hamilton New Baltimore GroundWater Consortium is re-evaluating previous ground water modeling in this area in order to incorporate any changes within the zone of contribution that could have resulted from changes in pumping rates. The USGS will be compiling previous aquifer tests to assist in providing more details on the characterization of the aquifer.

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Rebecca Petty announced:

- ODH will be re-sampling for arsenic in private water wells near the Tiffin landfill.
- ODH has hired a contractor to re-write the private water system database. The new database will have Web serving capabilities. The public will be allowed to use the database over the Web to search for registered well drillers by county and zip code.
- The number of bond claims for well drillers so far this year is 50. There were 75 bond claims in 2001. Local Health Districts have received extensive training on violations and are stepping up their enforcement. Grouting and insufficient annular space as well as insufficient casing are the most common violations.
- ODH has denied registration for three well drillers this year. There may be an advisory council meeting scheduled due to the fact that ODH has been having a lot of problems with some drillers. This will be an open meeting and anyone can attend.
- The private water system rules have been changed to allow ODH the ability to deny the registration of a well driller based on fraud or for someone who is aiding and abetting a well driller whose registration has been denied.
- ODH has been working with the Ohio Water Well Association to establish a voluntary certification program for well drillers. The voluntary program will establish experience requirements as well as a technical test.
- USEPA's Total Coliform rule is being re-evaluated because naturally occurring Noncoliform bacteria cause false positives. Instead of testing for Total Coliform, USEPA is considering relying on the Ecoli test. ODH is not certain how to react to this issue. Perhaps USEPA will drive the decision. Currently there are a lot of Total Coliform positive detects in Northeast Ohio. ODH has advised the Local Health District that if there is no detection of Ecoli or Fecal that the Total Coliform detect is most likely naturally occurring. The wells in question have a total depth of 120 feet in bedrock with an overlying cover of 60-70 feet of glacial material. The County is disagreeing with ODH that the Total Coliform could be naturally occurring. ODH will be meeting with the USGS, Ohio EPA and Dr. Burns from Benchmark Sampling to discuss this issue.
- On lot Sewage Rules are currently on hold. Representative Neihaus is circulating draft legislation. ODH and Ohio EPA met with the Governor's office last week to discuss the legislation.

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

- The major TMDL efforts the DSW is starting this year are in the Vermillion and Huron Watersheds.

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

- The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) has issued a call for papers for its October 23-24, 2002 Fall Conference. The conference is titled "The Three-Dimensional Watershed" and the focus will be on ground-water / surface-water interactions. Related topics include: Ground water under the influence of surface water, Diversion of water to or from the Great Lakes watershed, Conjunctive delineations for source water assessment and wellhead protection, Integrated ground-water/surface-water models, and Ground-water and surface-water data management. The conference will be held at the Ramada Inn, Sinclair Road, Columbus, Ohio. Ralph Haefner of the USGS is the Conference Chair and can be reached by email at rhaefner@usgs.gov or by phone (614) 430-7751.

- The City of Cincinnati will be discussing ground-water / surface-water interaction at their Bolton Wellfield during the WMAO Fall Conference.

- The Governor released the Ohio Water Resource Council's Strategic Plan. A checklist has been created to assist SCCGW Representatives with identifying the relationship between SCCGW with the OWRC Strategic Plan and Ground Water Protection Priorities. He will forward the checklist via email to SCCGW Representatives.

- Michael Eggert will be representing DDAGW and chairing the August 15th, 2002 SCCGW meeting. At future meetings, SCCGW Representatives will need to identify priority ground water activities in the OWRC Strategic Plan and determine any needed action by SCCGW such as a focus group to review and develop recommendations for the OWRC.

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

- Completed sampling 100 wells at Grade A Dairy farms for the Pesticides Management Program. Half of the results are back and there have been no detects.

- The Pesticide Container Recycling Collection program for old containers is underway.

- The Livestock Program Rules are available as of July 2nd, 2002. It was necessary to hire additional staff for the program. ODH hopes to have new staff hired by mid - August 2002. The goal is to transfer the program to ODA by mid-September 2002.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey, Rick Pavey announced:

- ODNR has added a three dimensional map of Ohio based off of available digital elevation models (DEMS). The DEMS are from the USGS. The DEMS have thirty meter grid spacing of elevations across the state.

- The Geological Survey has received the last of the seismic equipment that it has been waiting on. Currently field testing the new equipment. The purpose of collecting the seismic equipment is to acquire subsurface information in areas where there is no available information.

**Special Discussion: Ohio EPA - DDAGW position on A500 pipe in new well rules
John Arduini and Ralph Baker, Ohio EPA - DDAGW**

The Ohio EPA has proposed well construction rules that govern wells for both potable and non-potable use, with the exception of private water supplies. The agency's proposed rules set minimum standards for acceptable casing material that excludes the use of ASTM Standard A500 steel pipe, which is in common use. Because A500 pipe is not hydrostatically tested for water tightness and is a structural pipe standard, the agency believes that it should not be permitted for use as well casing to protect human health and prevent ground water contamination.

As the scope of this issue includes wells other than public water supply wells, the agency requests concurrence of the State Coordinating Committee on Ground Water.

SCCGW Response:

SCCGW will support the recommendations provided in its State of Ohio Technical Guidance for Well Construction and Ground Water Protection, 2002. This guidance states " Steel casing should meet ASTM Standard A53, A106, or A589, and API Specification 5L".

August 15, 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.

