

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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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

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Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Ohio Public Utilities Commission  
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Ohio Department of Agriculture  
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Ohio Department of Development  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

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

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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 18, 2003

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

### **ABSTRACT**

The June 2003 meeting consisted of Agency updates and announcements, discussion of the FFY04 319 applications, and a presentation by Scott Kell on new regulations concerning the use of ground water models to predict the impacts of mining operations on ground water levels.

### **ATTENDANCE**

ODH: Rebecca Petty  
OEPA: Tom Allen, Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger,  
Heather Raymond  
ODNR: Scott Kell, Ted Lozier  
ODA: Larry Berger  
PUCO: Sue Daly  
ODOT: Rob Lang  
USGS: Jeff DeRoche  
OSU: Cindy Folck

### **MAY MEETING SUMMARY**

Jeff DeRoche provided some minor text edits to the USGS report.

### **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***US Geological Survey, Water Resources Discipline, Jeff DeRoche announced:***

- The National Water Research Institute is presenting the Second International Riverbank Filtration Conference in Cincinnati September 17-19, 2003. USGS is one of

several sponsors. Brochures are available from USGS, and registration can be completed online at [www.NWRI-USA.org](http://www.NWRI-USA.org)

***Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:***

-A series of train-the-trainer workshops designed to assist the nation's small drinking water systems with reducing their vulnerability to man-made threats and natural disasters will be held by The Water Environment Federation at various locations in the U.S. through the Fall.

- Congressman John Linden of Georgia has introduced legislation (HB 135) that would create a 21st Century Water Commission, which would be a federal agency created to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive strategy for handling future water needs on a nationwide basis.

- In July Sue will attend the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) summer meeting in Denver, where there should be more information about House Bill 135.

- Proposed Senate Bill 44 would create a "distribution system improvement charge", which would apply to investor-owned systems only and would be designed for improving existing infrastructure, not expansions or new systems.

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

- The landfill rules package has passed JCARR.

- An expansion permit was issued two weeks ago to Countywide Landfill. This was the largest landfill expansion ever permitted by Ohio EPA.

- Three contracts have been issued for cleaning up the Kirby Landfill, for removal of 3 million tires, mosquito control, and water quality issues. This has exhausted the division's tire removal fund, necessitating a fee that will increase the cost of new tires by 25 cents.

- ODNR's Division of Recycling and Litter Control is conducting a waste characterization study in Franklin and Hamilton County, to obtain data on the types and amounts of things thrown into the trash.

***ODNR, Division of Mineral Resources Management, Scott Kell announced:***

- The Division has been working with USEPA and other states on language for "performance measures" for Class II and III underground injection wells. Ohio's program is among the best state programs in the nation, without a single documented release in the twenty years the division has had primacy.

***ODNR, Division of Water, Ted Lozier announced:***

- ODNR Assistant Director Bill Moody is retiring.
- The Floodplains division is losing several GIS staff due to budget issues, and the Division of Water may be obliged to share some of its own GIS staff with them.
- The Division needs \$25,000 to enable electronic filing of well logs, and is looking for an appropriate grant.

***ODOT, Rob Lang announced:***

- ODOT is revisiting its policies concerning ground water and surface water to ensure they are up to date, especially with regard to the source water protection program.
- The Cuyahoga RAP has a grant to develop a GIS-based “Decision Support System” for transportation planning and water issues.

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

- On July 10<sup>th</sup> Jean Caudill will attend a meeting for incorporating the health districts into Ohio’s Watershed Management Plan.
- ODH has developed guidance for local health districts on local administration of private water systems
- Ohio EPA’s Division of Surface Water sent a letter to Trumbull County’s Health Department, identifying the areas of illegal discharges, citing violation of ORC 6111 and the Clean Water Act, and informing them that the case was being referred to the Attorney General’s Office. However, ODH decided to grant the county its regular subsidy because county staff have demonstrated effort to address the problems.
- Staff are working to keep the legislation on household sewage a high priority.
- There is interest in incorporating into Representative Niehaus’ household sewage legislation the proposal (by Representative Collier) to move jurisdiction over “small” wastewater treatment systems to local health districts. “Small” is defined as systems designed for up to 2,500 gallons per day. Only 6% of Ohio is geologically appropriate for traditional septic leachfields; everywhere else engineered solutions are required. The health districts are already struggling to ensure compliance with the systems they currently oversee, and this would increase the number and size of the sites they oversee.
- The well sampling program in the Oak Openings Sand unit of northwestern Ohio is going forward. ODA is funding the sampling, and ODH sanitarians are collecting the samples. Fifty samples will be collected on July 1-2 and analyzed for coliform bacteria, *E. coli*, inorganics and pesticides.

- Sampling was conducted around the OSU campus in Lima to investigate complaints of petroleum odors in local well water. No VOCs were detected but the GC/MS analysis detected low levels (ppb range) of other, not clearly identified compounds. More sampling may be scheduled.

***OSU Extension, Cindy Folck announced:***

- To help address the need to cut \$2.4 million from its budget, USEPA is proposing to cut the entire \$1.8 million that it provides to the pesticide safety (applicators') programs nationwide. For Ohio, the USEPA grant alone funds one FTE. The Endangered Species protection program also may lose funding.

- Environmental groups are mounting a legal challenge to FIFRA's authority over applying pesticides to surface water. Some pesticides are labeled for this purpose but the environmental groups want to require a Clean Water Act permit.

- A brochure is now available called "Fight the Bite, Ohio", which provides information on the West Nile virus and how to protect against it.

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

- The Drinking Water Program is proposing to conduct a special study this summer on trihalomethanes (disinfection byproducts) in purchased water systems.

- The division is trying to get a SWAP layer intranet set up. Most of the public water system wells have been located and over 1,000 ground water protection areas are delineated, about 75% of these for community systems. Most of the surface water protection areas are delineated.

- The Ground Water Protection Council has issued a call for papers for its annual conference in September, to be held in Niagara, New York.

- Fairfield County requested that the Division support protection of their Violet Township wellfield from a proposed interchange for Route 33.

- A *Dispatch* reporter (Geoff Dutton) called to request information on naturally-occurring arsenic in Ohio's ground waters.

- The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) Spring Conference on "Connecting Watersheds" was excellent, attracting 225 attendees, many of them the watershed stakeholders that conference planners were hoping to reach.

- The Ohio Water Resources Council has a meeting with the various agency directors on July 25<sup>th</sup> at ODA. They will discuss recommendations from the advisory group regarding water resource data and information, watershed initiatives, and water resource education.

- Tom distributed a copy of the March 2003 *Source Water News*. An article on pages 3-4 discusses the Draft EPA Strategic Plan for 2003-2008. Goal 2, "Clean and Safe Water", refers to drinking water and surface water, but makes no reference to ground water. The national Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) has voiced its concern to USEPA about this oversight. The draft Plan is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/plan.htm>.

***OEPA, Division of Surface Water, John Kessler announced:***

- A joint meeting between OEPA's Division of Surface Water and ODH will be held July 10<sup>th</sup>, to discuss failing home sewage systems. DSW's TMDL efforts continue to indicate that failing home sewage systems are one of the greatest threats to water quality in streams, posing a threat to recreation, aquatic life, and human health. At the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, training, funding options and various technical issues will be discussed.

**PRESENTATION**

Scott Kell (ODNR-Division of Mineral Resources Management) gave a presentation on ground water modeling to project the cone of depression as a prerequisite to granting a permit to create or extend a mine for industrial minerals extraction. Scott noted that producers are finding it harder to acquire land for mining purposes, so they are submitting more applications for permits to mine deeper. As a result they are reaching ground water, affecting flow directions and gradients and water tables.

Senate Bill 83, which became effective in March 2002, gave ODNR the authority to deal with dewatering issues at industrial mineral mining sites. (This authority has existed for some time for coal mining sites.) To develop regulations, a workgroup was formed that included representatives of ODNR's Division of Water and the Ohio Aggregates Association. The workgroup agreed that applicants should be required to demonstrate the impact of their planned activities on ground water levels, via ground water modeling.

Scott distributed a draft of the rule and invited comments. He can be reached at [scott.kell@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:scott.kell@dnr.state.oh.us).

**319 Proposal Discussion**

Heather Raymond (DDAGW) led an evaluation of the eleven applications for 319 funding for projects that involved planning protective strategies for public water systems.

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3307 South Old State Road  
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|---------------|---|
| 8:30 - 8:35   | CALL TO ORDER<br>- Introductions  |
| 8:35 - 8:40   | JUNE DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY  |
| 8:40 - 10:10  | AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS<br>-Legislation/Rules/Policies<br>-Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires<br>-Miscellaneous |
| 10:10 - 10:20 | BREAK   |
| 10:20 - 11:20 | Discussion of OWRC recommendations on critical water issues and state ground water protection   |
| 11:20 - 11:30 | AGENDA for August   |
| 11:30         | ADJOURN   |

[Note: tentatively scheduled for September is a presentation by Steve Williams on ground water contamination by C-8 from the Dupont plant along the Ohio River]