

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

December 15, 2011

The Dec. 15, 2011 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Lenn Black (ODNR) on Ohio water rights as they relate to Marcellus Shale issues

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke, Aaron Shear
ODNR: Leonard Black, Jim Raab
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
ODOT: Hans Gucker
USGS: Ralph Haefner
Visitors: Larry Berger, Jeff DeRoche

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Transportation

Salt Management. With winter coming, ODOT is focused on preparing for road salt application, including upgrading equipment, developing slurries that be directed more precisely than granular salt, and researching the best ways to handle truck wash water.

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

Well Sealing Reports. By January the database for well sealing reports will be accessible online. However, it will take some time before all the reports are available, so the search capability will be limited.

State Precipitation Record. Ohio set precipitation records this year. Statewide, the record is over 52 inches (with two more weeks left in 2011); the previous record of 50 inches was set in 1990. Average annual precipitation is 38 inches.

Staff Changes. Jim Zehringer is the new director of ODNR; David Mustine has moved to JobsOhio. Rick Simmers is the chief of the new division of oil and gas resources management.

Seismic Activity. Staff who regulate the UIC Class II wells (injection wells for oil and gas drilling wastes) are meeting today to discuss a monitoring program to determine whether seismic activity near Youngstown might be related to injection of fluids at local Class II wells.

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

WMAO Luncheon. OSU geology professor Scott Bair will speak on geothermal wells at a Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) luncheon on January 17th at the Center for Automotive Research.

United States Geological Survey - Ohio Water Center

ODNR Observation Well Network. USGS has ordered 72 more recorders for water-level measurement, as part of the ODNR Observation Well network upgrade.

High Ground Water Levels. The record precipitation has resulted in very high water levels in ground water monitoring wells statewide. Water in the E-10 well in northern Ohio--which monitors an area that suffered “ground water flooding” a few years ago—is now only eight feet below ground surface. (Last year at this time it was 60 feet below ground surface.) There is a concern that ground water flooding may be a problem again in the spring of 2012.

Arsenic Project. The study of arsenic in ground water in Licking County (and Ohio) will be initiated in January, wherein residential well owners will be trained to sample their wells for arsenic and submit the samples for analysis. They will subsequently be provided with guidance for treating their water to remove arsenic.

Storm Water BMPs. USGS is discussing a project with the City of Columbus and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to determine the effectiveness of rain gardens in filtering and slowing the movement of runoff to surface water bodies.

OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

Salt Pile Workgroup. The Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) reviewed the SCCGW Salt Pile Workgroup charter and agreed that the workgroup should develop best management practices for salt pile facilities in Ohio, and summarize how other states handle this issue. OWRC assisted with recruiting workgroup participants from various planning organizations. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled for January 2012.

Source Water Protection Information Online. Ohio EPA’s will be working with the Office of Information Technology to develop an interactive source water protection area GIS application which will be accessible via the Agency’s secure source water protection web site.

Nonpotable Wells Guidance. The division is working on a guidance that summarizes state environmental rules that apply to siting and installation of nonpotable wells.

Water Quality Baseline Fact Sheet. The state recently revised its fact sheet providing guidance for sampling water supply wells to determine baseline water quality in areas that expect to be centers for Marcellus/Utica shale oil and gas well drilling.

Ambient Network. Due to concerns over potential impacts to ground water quality in Marcellus/Utica Shale gas well development areas, DDAGW may expand its ambient well network in southeast Ohio.

More SWAP Interest. Also due to these concerns, more communities in eastern Ohio are expressing an interest in developing a local source water protection plan.

Ohio EPA, Division of Materials and Waste Management

Odor Response Plan. The division is working with the Division of Air Pollution Control to develop an odor response guidance document for landfills and other DMWM facilities that may

have issues controlling odors. When completed, this guidance document will provide a consistent statewide approach to monitoring for odors and responding to odor complaints.

Ohio Department of Health

Water Well Permitting. ODH is busy with annual registration of private water well contractors. Rule revisions adopted in April, 2011 change the inspection frequency for contractors to once every 5 years, provide new requirements for increased bonding, establish inspections for new contractors, and require \$500,000 general liability business insurance.

Sewage Rules. The sewage rule advisory committee continues to meet on a monthly basis with the final meeting scheduled for March, 2012. A draft set of rules should be out for public comment by April. After a sixty-day comment period, the rules will be revised and reissued for a 30-day comment period, then they will go to the Public Health Council. During the comment period, ODH will conduct regional meetings to obtain comments. It is expected that the rules will become effective in early 2013.

PRESENTATION

Leonard Black, ODNR-Division of Soil and Water Resources, gave a presentation on Ohio water rights, with emphasis on how they relate to the use of water resources for fracking oil and gas development wells.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

... will be held February 16th at ODNR, Conference Room H-2. USGS will give a presentation on the arsenic project in Licking County.

REMINDER:

Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW Web site:

<http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/>