

**Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Water Supply Division
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MEMORANDUM

To: Groundwater Coordinating Committee

From: Rodney Pingree, Acting Chair

Date: April 22, 2010

Subject: Minutes from the April 15th Meeting

Next Meeting: *Thursday May 5, 2010 at 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm in the Water Supply Division Conference Room, Old Pantry Building*

Attendees

Dennis Nealon, ANR DEC Water Supply; Rodney Pingree, ANR DEC Water Supply; Michael Smith, ANR DEC Waste Management; Jeff Comstock, Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets; Larry Becker, ANR Geology Division; Jeff Fehrs, ANR DEC Wastewater Management Division; Matt Levin, Vermonters for a Clean Environment; Kim Greenwood, Vermont Natural Resource Council; Don Robisky, ANR DEC Facility Engineering Division.

Groundwater Withdrawal

The legislature passed Act 199, “An Act Relating to a Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Program”. The Act sets up a reporting program for groundwater withdrawals of 20,000 gallons per day and over along with a permitting program for withdrawals of 57,600 gallons per day or more. Matt and Kim mentioned that the legislation had been in the works for 4 to 5 years. It was based in part on the experience of other New England states and their lack of regulation governing large withdrawals. In turn, this legislation is a proactive approach at protecting groundwater.

The statute’s corresponding draft regulation “Groundwater Withdrawal and Permitting Rules” are in preliminary form and comments regarding the draft rules should be submitted to Rodney by May 1st. Rodney went on to say that much of the proposed regulations came from New Hampshire. The draft rules do not address bottled water as does the statute, however the statute’s bottled water piece will be addressed in a revised version of the Water Supply Rule. Rodney went on to say that he knew of a dozen or so facilities that will be required to report their 20,000

gallons per day withdrawals. However, at this point there have been no applications for withdrawals of 57,600 gallons per day or over. Current withdrawals of this amount are grandfathered from the permit requirement until there is an increase.

Michael thought the rule was somewhat redundant. He mentioned that some of the language could be simply referenced in other rules. For example, the construction standards and isolation distances for wells could be referenced in the Water Supply Rule rather than being restated in this rule. Michael suggested that a subcommittee be formed to assist with the writing of the new rule.