Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

May 9, 2017

**Attendees:** Roger Thompson Claude Chevalier

Rich Wilson Gunner McCain

Graham Bradley Ken White

John Beauchamp Steve Revell

Sille Larsen Ernie Christianson

**Scheduled meetings:**

No meetings are currently scheduled. Ernie will ask for a meeting when he has material ready for review.

**Minutes:** Steve noted that he had not attended the April 25, 2017 meeting. The draft minutes will be corrected.

**Radiation Testing:**

Steve commented about testing for radium. This might not be necessary, because when a test for gross alpha and uranium shows any radiation, a water softener is added to the system which removes radium along with other contaminants.

John discussed the process of calculating radium levels by subtracting uranium from gross alpha. One concern is that uranium is measured in micrograms and radium is measured in picocuries. The methods use ratios varying from 0.67 to 1.5. Radium is a whole house contaminant because a person should not bath in water with more than 5 picocuries. Sille said that the Vermont Department of Health recommends that when gross alpha is between 5 and 15 picocuries there should be a discussion of whether to test for radium.

Ernie asked if there is a primary standard for gross alpha and there is. Sillie notes that even when the contamination is less than the primary standard there can be concerns depending on which contaminant is present.

**Sub-Chapter 12:**

Sille noted that standard formatting does not allow text material to be included within the table itself. The group recommended some wording changes such as using Right of Way rather than ROW.

Ernie asked if fluoride should be on the list for required testing. John said that he rarely finds levels above 4 PPM. Levels above this are a health risk. Sille noted that fluoride is a primary standard and currently included in the standard Vermont Health Department water testing package.

Ernie reviewed the results of an email exchange with Tim Raymond. Ernie contacted Tim about some TAC concerns and Tim responded as noted below. Ernie will circulate the email to the group.

The group asked about the language stating that potable water service lines shall connect to a main, not to a fire hydrant lead line. It may be just a language issue in that a hydrant lead line is one coming from a main that flows only to fire hydrant. The concern is that the water in a line connected to fire hydrants may become stagnant.

The group also discussed the use of valve pits and whether the requirement for passive drainage is realistic and necessary if the components in the pit are of water tight construction. Tim thinks that the pits must be dry and watertight.

Scott had asked that manganese be considered a primary standard. There is a current secondary standard of 0.5 mg/l. John noted that it is rare to find manganese at more than 0.3 mg/l. Tim said that the Water Supply Section’s concerns are with systems using orthophosphates for water treatment which would be rare for a non-public system.

Tim does not object the continuing use of the term Instantaneous Peak Demand rather than Peak Instantaneous Demand.

Sille noted that she believes testing for manganese is more important than testing for fluoride.

**Sub-Chapter 13:**

The Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules (Rules) regulate water lines connected to Public Community Systems from the curb stop on. When the supply is a Non-transient Non-community System, the water line is regulated from the building to the water main but only those issues specific to the Rules are covered. In most cases, all the interior piping is covered by the Vermont Plumbing Rules and not subject to additional review. Ernie has added language that exempts lines serving only a single-family residence from the pressure testing requirements.

Ernie is waiting for comments from Mike Kline related to water and sewer crossing construction requirements.

Gunner asked if the surface water crossing depth requirements have been reviewed as the draft rules seem excessive.

Claude asked about the requirements for well casing thickness. The draft refers to Schedule 30 pipe and there is no specification for 7” pipe. Ernie will add a statement that ¼” wall thickness is acceptable for 7” pipe.

**Jurisdiction Issues:**

Ernie is working on the transitions between the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, the Underground Injection Control Rules, and the Indirect Discharge Rules. One change that is proposed is that if a discharge requires an Underground Injection Control permit it cannot be discharged into a system regulated under the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.

**Sub-Chapter 11:**

Ernie made changes to §1-1103 to include sewer service lines.

Ken asked if the language related to reconstruction without a permit has been retained. Ernie said it had.

Steve asked about the section of the rules related to conversion from seasonal to year-round use. Would it be reasonable to continue with the requirement to identify a replacement water and wastewater system but allow the continued use of the existing systems until they fail? The group had concerns that, because some of the existing systems are very substandard, even though they do not meet the definition of being failed systems, the increased use might increase contamination problems. Gunner said that generally the conversion from seasonal to year-round use makes the property much more valuable and it makes sense to upgrade the system at that time.

Steve suggested adding a note to the section discussing groundwater monitoring that all monitor pipes should be installed with a bentonite seal.

Gunner said that the diagram related to determining the wastewater protection zone should be modified to show the minimum required basal area.

Claude said that in section B-13 the statement prohibiting taping in lieu of strapping electric lines to the waterline should be removed. There is tape made for this purpose that works well and in many cases the strapping does not remain in place.

Claude will send Ernie a diagram for the installation of a screened well.

Gunner noted that, in section B-6, an alternating system is not required.

Gunner asked if in section B-7 if the requirement for maximum ground slope should be 30% rather than 20%.

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**Executive Committee:** Steve Revell, Ernest Christianson, Roger Thompson

Alternates – Claude Chevalier, Craig Heindel

**Subcommittees:**

**Hydrogeology**

Craig Heindel, Bill Zabiloski, Mark Bannon, Scott Stewart, Steve Revell, Mary Clark, Roger Thompson, Peter Boemig, Ernie Christianson

**Bottomless Sand Filters**

Peter Boemig, Mark Bannon, Mary Clark, Denise Johnson-Terk, Craig Heindel, Ernie Christianson

**Seasonal High Water Table Monitoring**

Craig Heindel, Steve Revell, Roger Thompson, Ernie Christianson, Bill Zabiloski, Mary Clark

**Well Driller’s Reporting Form**

Rodney Pingree, Craig Heindel, Claude Chevalier, Peter Boemig, Mary Clark, Ernie Christianson

**Surface Water Sources**

Tim Raymond, John Beauchamp, Ray Soloman, Peter Boemig, Mark Bannon, Claude Chevalier,

Perry Thomas, Mark Clark, Scott Stewart, Rodney Pingree, Chris Russo, Ernie Christianson