

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  
June 16, 2015

**Attendees:** Roger Thompson  
Claude Chevalier  
Darlene Autery  
Mary Clark  
Craig Heindel  
Gunner McCain  
Denise Johnson-Terk  
Ken White  
Justin Willis  
Peter Boemig  
Ernie Christianson  
Chris Russo

**Scheduled meetings:**

July 14, 2015          1-4 PM          Winooski Con. Rm., National Life – Montpelier

**Agenda:**

The agenda was accepted.

**Minutes:**

The draft minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting were accepted.

**Legislative Update:**

Ernie reviewed the new fees for regional office permits. The fees for various types of applications were raised while attempting to simplify the categories. Ernie noted that while he had suggested specific numbers, in the end the application fee for simple projects with flows of 560 GPD or less ended up being \$306.25.

H.375 did not pass this year but the bill which deals with ecological toilets and grey water systems is expected to be discussed in the second half of the session. The legislature may ask for input from the TAC on this bill.

Ken asked if there was any action related to “overshadowing” issues. A bill that would require ownership or legal control of all of the isolation distance was introduced but there was no action on it.

Ernie said that the bill directing the Agency to allow partial delegation to municipalities for projects that will use both water and wastewater systems owned by the municipality did pass. The language has already been included in the draft rules and would have been proposed for adoption even if the bill had not passed.

**I/A Systems Update:**

Mary said that an approval request has been made by Premier Tech that allows for the use of only coco husk media in their Ecoflo® Biofilter treatment system. Previously the media was a combination of coco husk and peat. The new approach allows for higher hydraulic loading of the treatment media. Gunner asked if the poly tank has been approved for use with the Ecoflo® Biofilter treatment system. Mary said that concrete tanks, or poly tanks with siting limitations, are approved and these options are a replacement for the fiberglass tanks previously approved.

Eljen Corporation has replied to a comment letter related to their Mantis System. The Agency has agreed to allow for non-pressure distribution when the system is not used in mound type systems and the Company is requesting approval to use the Mantis System in mounds when the effluent pumped to a d-box using a timed dosing approach. Gunner asked if this approach, which applies small doses frequently to the system, would provide as even distribution as an approach using a few larger doses. Roger asked if there is information about how the moisture spreads in the sand within a mound system if the effluent is applied to only in a few areas in the mound. Craig thought there would be fairly good distribution if there is unsaturated flow under the distribution points. Mary will circulate the information that was submitted by the Eljen Corporation.

#### **Regional Office Changes:**

Ernie said that the Department is facing a budget cut of about \$722,000 of general funds and has decided to make the full reduction with cuts from the Regional Office Programs. There will be a reduction of 9 positions and the Barre Regional Office will be moved to the central office. All people have been offered other positions within the Department filling existing vacancies and staffing within the Watershed Management Division and Waste Management Division. One Regional Office staff member located in Rutland is being offered a position in Montpelier which is probably prohibitive for commuting.

#### **Draft Rules:**

Ernie asked for comments about specific sections of the draft rules rather than attempting a page by page review.

Roger asked if the language related to public trust could be improved. It might say that some uses are automatically considered to be in the public interest and therefore approvable and that other uses might be approved when an individual review determined the use would be in the public interest.

Peter noted that clean stone is not defined and therefore designers find it hard to show installers why the stone they want to use is unacceptable. Peter said that New Hampshire uses a sieve test with a maximum allowance of fine material.

Ernie wants to exempt flow increases for single family residences when they are connected to both municipal water and wastewater systems. Peter asked about adding an exemption for new public buildings and additions to public buildings that do not require

water or wastewater systems. Exemption number 8 in the existing rules allows for this exemption and unless a determination by the Secretary is required the landowner need not file with the Agency.

Ernie also said he is proposing dropping the requirement for wastewater strength determinations for projects that have a set design flow in the rules. While there are concerns about wastewater strength there could be a lot of work involved as each project is case specific and with the reductions in Regional Office staff it is not appropriate to add new requirements. Ernie noted that there are a few types of projects where high strength wastewater is a concern and the Program will continue to require a design to compensate for the strength but these are well known and relatively few in number. In addition the Agency tracking system shows only a small number of failed systems each year for restaurants and other facilities that are listed in Table 3 of Section 1-808 that would be regulated as having high strength where the failure might be related to wastewater strength. The draft rules will follow the TAC Subcommittee's recommendations and suggest to designers that facilities with a flow number in Tables 8-1, 8-2, and 8-3 take into consideration the strength of wastewater during the design phase of a project. Designs for facilities that do not have a flow number in the Tables or those using water meter data need to consider wastewater strength as part of the design.

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**Executive Committee:** Steve Revell, Ernest Christianson, Roger Thompson  
Alternates – Chris Thompson, Spencer Harris, Claude Chevalier, Craig Heindel

**Subcommittees:**

**Hydrogeology**

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

**Bottomless Sand Filters**

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

**Seasonal High Water Table Monitoring**

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