

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
October 23, 2012

Attendees: Roger Thompson Denise Johnson-Terk
Cindy Parks Gail Center
Mary Clark Scott Stewart
Steve Revell Rodney Pingree
Peter Boemig Craig Heindel
Dan Wilcox Claude Chevalier
Bill Zabiloski Ernest Christianson
John Beauchamp Mark Bannon

Scheduled meetings:

November 20, 2012 1-4 PM Liquor Control Conference Room-Montpelier
December 11, 2012 1-4 PM Liquor Control Conference Room-Montpelier
January 15, 2013 1-4 PM Liquor Control Conference Room-Montpelier

Agenda:

The agenda was amended to a summary of the recent URI training courses provided at the Vermont Technical College and the meeting with TAC and the Regional Office Staff.

Minutes:

Cindy said the minutes should be amended to note that there was a recommendation for a general coordination between the UIC and Water Supply Programs on permitting issues.

Announcement:

Craig Heindel announced that Heindel and Noyes is closing by the end of the year and that he would soon begin working with Waite Environmental Management.

UIC Rule Update:

Cindy said that she and others will be doing a presentation of their draft work to the DEC Commissioner and the ANR Secretary next week. There is now a full draft that is undergoing internal review. Steve asked if the TAC recommendations are included in the draft and in general they are included. There will be a section added that will clarify when permits are required. The Department will be coming back to the TAC with proposals on isolation distances and other items that the TAC had identified as needing a Department decision. Mark asked about a 2005 decision in the Federal UIC Rules that eliminated the use of cesspools. Roger said the section covered cesspools that served 20

or more people and that there are probably not very many of those remaining in Vermont. Ernie thinks there may be more than we realize but it is still a small number.

Water Supply Rule Update:

Ernie said that he has been working with the Regional Office Staff and they have put together a draft document. He has met with Scott and will incorporate the work that Scott has done with TAC over that last several years. Gail asked if she should send comments now or wait until the draft is circulated. Ernie said to send comments now. Ernie said it would be about 10 weeks to get his draft back to the Water Supply folks for review. Gail asked if the revised rules will deal with water treatment systems and if permits will still be needed. The TAC has recommended that the provision in the rules which exempts water treatment systems from permitting requirements be revised to allow for a larger list of contaminants. Can this expansion be included in the proposed draft? Ernie said yes though he has concerns about an exemption for nitrate/nitrite because it may indicate contamination from a wastewater disposal system that should be stopped instead of solely relying on the water treatment system.

Scott asked about the sequence of events noting that he has been working on getting the water supply rules revised for a long time. Ernie said that the work on updating the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules and the Water Supply Rules will be on parallel tracks.

Craig hopes that the ongoing work between Scott and the TAC to ensure a smooth transition between potable water supply requirements and public water supply requirements will be incorporated. This is important because some projects start in one category and later transition to the other.

Roger asked if the use of the word “potable” as a definition of a class of system could be eliminated. The TAC is unanimous in support of this change.

There was discussion about how to present the information in the isolation distance tables of the Water Supply Rules. One suggestion is to place footnotes in the table as opposed to collecting a long list at the end of the table. Ernie said that he is concerned about how much space that might take inside of the table. This will need to be worked out to make the information as easy to use as possible. Scott noted that the TAC had proposed a list of isolation distances that was organized based on the relative importance that would be useful when determining which distances should be reduced when full compliance is not possible and the project qualified for a variance. Ernie said this would be added as an appendix.

Ernie said he expects to have a draft of the wastewater rules ready for review in 6 months.

High-Strength Wastewater:

Mary reviewed the document which had been emailed to the TAC. This is more of an educational document than an official guidance document. Craig asked about appendix A. Mary said this guidance that was developed by NOWRA. One suggestion was to add a section that covers types of floor drains.

Peter asked how the Regional Office Staff will respond if they get an application from a restaurant or other source of concern. Dan said that they would probably not ask for extra treatment as the existing rules appear to address the issues with the requirement for grease traps and with design flows for various restaurant types. Ernie noted that additional treatment could be added at a later date. Roger supported this and said it might not make sense to make everyone design to the worst case. Peter said that he is concerned that high-strength waste may not get proper oversight and that in his experience some property owners, particularly those planning on selling, are not willing to design an adequate system. Cindy noted that this issue is becoming a concern for more designers and owners based on getting about 4 calls per week asking for information about non-domestic wastewater. Cindy said that some designers have client who don't want to pay for wastewater characterization and are looking for guidance for their particular situation.

Mary suggested that the document be posted to the Division web page now and consider possible rule changes in the future. Ernie asked if the TAC is OK with this approach and the group said yes. Ernie asked if the document would create liability for designers if they don't follow the recommendations. Steve said it might and probably should. Steve said he really likes the document and supports making some rule changes to deal with high-strength waste. Ernie asked Dan how the Regional Office Staff would respond to posting the document and Dan replied that Ernie should tell the staff if he wants them to use the document as part of the review or just for information. Ernie said that the consensus seems to be to post the document as recommendations only and start using it. Most of the group agreed with this as the first step. Mary will clean up the document and send it out one more time for TAC and review. It was agreed to hold off on doing this until after Cindy takes a training course on high-strength wastewater provided by URI.

Installer Training Program:

Mary said that she is working on a program of voluntary training that system installers could choose to take. She is thinking about a program that might have two levels for simple and for more complex systems. There would be some type of exam. Those that pass would be able to advertise this and their names would be posted on the Department website. There would be a continuing education requirement. Mary will be looking for a TAC subcommittee to help with this. Craig said the testing should be informal, with an everybody passes approach, which is a method used for certifying people in other situations. Roger said there should be some method to rescind the approval. Peter said that there can be issues with installer certifications unless there is a method to ensure compliance. Mark asked about resources to operate the program. Mary said that EPA

already has a national training program with a training manual and a train the trainer program. This task will be part of Mary's duties.

Next Meetings:

The next meetings will be on November 20th, December 18th (revised to the 11th), and January 15th. Roger will arrange for meeting rooms.

URI Training:

Mary said that the two days of training at the Vermont Technical College were very successful with large groups attending both days. All reports from those attending have been positive.

Craig talked about meeting held in Waterbury with the TAC members, the Regional Office Staff, and the URI trainers. Craig said it was not quite clear as to whether Mary was leading the meeting or if Ernie was which made it a little difficult to know how to participate. One thing that did come through was that bottomless sand filters would not be the answer for every problem site.

Roger asked about the meeting later in the day involving just the Regional Office Staff. Dan noted that overnight the URI staff thought about the clay soil issues in Vermont and said that bottomless sand filters might not be the best solution for clay soil sites. The staff talked about mounds on steeper slopes. Steve and Roger supported changing the 1 on 3 slope requirement for mounds on steep slopes. The staff also talked about updating the requirements for at-grade systems. Peter asked about mound failures. Steve and Craig said they never saw failures at the toe of the mound and that they usually are at the stone/sand interface. Mark said that he had one system where the stone had a coating caused by the backwash from a water treatment system. John suggested this might be a sulfate precipitation.

Items prioritized for discussion with high, low, and medium ranking

1. Soil identification vs. perc test **medium**
2. Curtain drain with presumption of effectiveness **high**
3. Revisions to desktop hydro chart **medium**
4. Minimum amount of sand under a mound **high**
5. Water Supply Rule update **high**
6. Seasonal High Water Table determination for performance based systems **high**
7. Wastewater Strength

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

Overshadowing of Isolation Distance Issues –

Anne Whiteley, Ernie Christianson, Roger Thompson, John Beauchamp, Gail Center, Chris Thompson

UIC Rules and Geothermal Wells -

Craig Heindel, Steve Revell, Roger Thompson, Ernie Christianson, Scott Stewart, Rodney Pingree, Kim Greenwood, Cindy Parks

SHWT Monitoring –

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

UIC Rules and Disposal of Wastewater from Water Treatment Systems –

John Beauchamp, Gary Adams, Roger Thompson, Ernie Christianson, Gail Center, Cindy Parks

Wastewater Strength -

Mary Clark, Cindy Parks, Peter Boemig, Bill Zabiloski, Roger Thompson, John Akielaszek,

Bottomless Sand Filters-

Peter Boemig, Mark Bannon, Cindy Parks, Mary Clark, Denise Johnson-Terk