

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

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MEMORANDUM

To: Groundwater Coordinating Committee

From: Rodney Pingree, Chair

Date: January 25, 2012

Subject: Minutes from the January 19th Meeting

Next Meeting: *February 16, 2012*

Attendees

Dennis Nealon, ANR DEC Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division; Rodney Pingree, ANR DEC Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection; Craig Heindel, Heindel and Noyes, Inc.; Liz Royer, Vermont Rural Water Association; Gail Center, Vermont Department of Health; Bill Irwin, Vermont Department of Health; George Mills, Vermont Department of Health; Razelle Hoffman Contois, Vermont Department of Health; Larry Becker, ANR DEC Division of Geology and Mineral Resources; Don Maynard, Johnson Company; Don Robisky, ANR DEC Facilities Engineering; Brian Kelly, University of Vermont.

Risk Advisories

Rodney stated that David Mears the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation wants to see the Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy revised (GWPR&S). As part of this revision, the groundwater quality enforcements standards that trigger risk advisories need to be updated. Gail mentioned that the last time the standards were adjusted was in 2005.

Razelle has been working on the Vermont Health Advisories which are researched and calculated concentrations of chemicals in drinking water in instances where the chemicals do not have an MCL. She stated that there are currently 214 chemicals on the list. Bill thought it was important that the standards adopted for Health Advisories should be only for those chemicals that do not already have an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard. In this way the Groundwater Coordinating Committee (GWCC) will avoid any potential controversy with EPA.

Also, there are the Vermont Action Levels. These are the eight chemicals of specific public health concern in public water systems. Action Levels as established by the Department of Health are the concentrations at or above which a specific (priority) procedure will be followed to provide public health protection. These eight chemicals have been in place since 1998 and are all carcinogenic, they include, Benzene (0.001 mg/L), Carbon Tetrachloride (0.0005 mg/L), Dibromochloropropane (0.00003 mg/L), Dichloroethane (0.0005 mg/L), Dichloropropane (0.0006 mg/L), Hexachlorobenzene (0.00022 mg/L), Tetrachloroethylene (0.0007mg/L), and Vinyl Chloride (0.0005 mg/L).

Razelle plans on putting a memo together explaining how the standards were derived. She intends on having the memo available for the March GWCC meeting, in turn, the GWCC can provide feedback to Razelle. Also, a schematic of the procedures and processes involved will be put on the Vermont Department of Health's website for educational purposes. She wants to illustrate a transparent process that includes per review of the acceptable scientific methods that were employed in the derivation of the standards.

Status of Class II petition for Brandon

On December 20, 2011, Secretary Deb Markowitz signed the first Class II Groundwater Reclassification Order. The reclassification is for the Brandon Fire District #1. The Town of Brandon provided a press release regarding the Class II and Commissioner Mears would like to do a follow up.

Anticipating that the GWPR&S will be updated, Rodney mentioned that the Commissioner thought that the Class II and IV procedures should be placed in the GWPR&S. The Commissioner also thinks the process for adopting Class II Groundwater Areas is too arduous. It is hoped that with the Brandon Class II completed more will follow.

Status of the Class IV petition for the CV Rail, St. Albans

A January 5, 2012 a meeting was held in St. Albans to take comment on the petition to reclassify the Central Vermont Properties, Inc. Engine House Yard to Class IV status. No one showed for the meeting nor have any comments been received during the public notice comment period. The Reclassification Order has now been sent to the Secretary.