

July 26, 2018
GWCC Meeting

Attendees: Graham Bradley, Kasey Kathan, Scott Stewart, Rodney Pingree, Michelle Eisenstein, Robert Pelosi, Colin Dowey, Patti Casey, Sille Larsen, Craig Heindel, Liz Royer

H.8 – SS

Water well advisory committee merging with the GWCC, SS going to email the drillers, and will include mention of the online form for well completion reports nearing completion and other updates. Their first invite to the GWCC will be for the August meeting.

GWPRS – Rule Draft: SS

- Emergency rule making occurred for the addition of PFHxS, PFHpA and PFNA to the PFAS standard.
- Implication – 180 days to get the draft GWPRS rule through the full review process – it's moving forward!
- Groupings of pesticides will be removed, VDH is reevaluating some of the chemicals in the tables – goal to be on ICAR agenda for September 10 meeting along with Potable rules.
- Public process will begin after ICAR with two meetings.

Discussion:

For the pesticides that are going to be removed, are there federal standards?

- No, any federal standards have to remain, at Dept. of Ag's request the pesticides coming off the list are primarily those that are listed under AG's pesticide application rule and golf course management program, a new MOU has been developed to better clarify responsibility.

How will new standards be managed, if not on the list?

- If no health advisory or federal standard, and a compound is detected, DEC will reach out the VDH to have a health advisory established, as needed. No further interim standards – policy change is to file an emergency rule (if needed) to add the new standards as was done for PFAS.

Why those three additional PFAS compounds?

- Similar chemical structure and presumed health affect potential as PFOA and PFOS.

Class IV Groundwater Procedure – SS

Revised and distributed – mimics the discussions on fitting reclassification with the Corrective Action Plan process, Class I/II Procedure pending.

Lake Carmi Phosphorous– GB

DEC is initiating some research to perform a preliminary evaluation of the contribution from groundwater to phosphorous in Lake Carmi. GB presented on the preliminary scope of that work and asked for feedback on sampling approach and suggestions. The work will evaluate phosphorous concentrations up and downgradient of lakeshore camps and at parcels with different land uses (residential, undeveloped). Only preliminary work, not targeting total loading to Lake Carmi or evaluation all nutrient loading to the lake. Evaluating seven catchments, where there is a camp, there will be a monitoring well upgradient and downgradient, proposing a single well in regions where there is not septic installation.

General Discussion:

- Indirect discharge has a database that includes upgradient monitoring wells, may provide some general information on background, CH estimates that background phosphorous from that work may be around ND to 5 ug/l.

- General discussion on whether work needs to focus on septic, if not, perhaps focusing on the area where the greatest surface water contribution is coming from may provide valuable information – look at mass loading.
- Look into whether there any dug wells in the area, may provide low cost monitoring locations.
- Look into sampling a bedrock well for water level to understand vertical gradient.

Other Items

SL – VDH getting questions about cyanotoxins within a groundwater drinking source, is there a potential?

Liz: studies in Quebec have confirmed cyanotoxins in groundwater.

Nitrate impact on drinking water – how do you separate septic vs. manure vs. fertilizer?

CH - Can analyze septic specific components (surfactants, detergents (MBAS), caffeine)

Outreach on Private Well Mandatory Testing (Act 161) - SL

July 19 deadline for mandatory testing at new use (Private: new wells, or change in permit (expansion)) – private well task force in CT was successful in disseminating information (included relators, well drillers, contractors)

– Should the GWCC serve as a facilitator for this outreach? General discussion concluded that a separate focused group would be better, use membership from the GWCC and TAC to find people for this group.

- Well drillers annual meeting – in May every year.
- SL developing material that will be distributed for point of sampling.
- USGS study on testing at different locations. Kitchen faucet – not statistically different if taken at the different times, there is statistical difference when taken at the drill rig.
- Revise the flyer that well drillers are required to pass out. **Sille to send updated flyer to Scott to send to drillers.**
- Is there any associated enforcement? None associated with the bill.
- Initial testing, AC and RA – homeowners pay, will be added to existing database.

VDH Database

- Data sharing from VDH database: Since act 163 requires cert. labs to submit to database it is available – if using information for financial gain, VDH can opt to not share, but it is public information.
- Over the next year Sille working on additional mapping from database, fluoride, gross-alpha.

NEXT MEETING: August 23, 1 pm, ANR Annex