

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

April 18, 2017

Attendees:	Roger Thompson	Joe Rheaume
	Gunner McCain	Peter Boemig
	Rich Wilson	Steve Revell
	Sille Larsen	Graham Bradley
	Scott Stewart	Claude Chevalier
	Craig Heindel	Ken White
	Chris Russo	Ernest Christianson

Scheduled meetings:

April 25, 2017 1-4 PM at the Annex

Minutes:

The draft minutes of the April 4, 2017 meeting were approved with Scott's correction that his concerns about Zones 1 and 2 are related to wastewater systems rather than wells.

S.103: Ernie reviewed the status of this bill, which among other issues, regulates the water quality testing of all new groundwater sources. Ernie testified at the Committee and explained that it would be difficult for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to implement a new program to test all wells. One concern is about the requirement to develop a data base that would be publicly available. Ernie suggested that this information be stored with the Vermont Department of Health. A second issue is what action would DEC take every time a water sample failed to meet drinking water standards. A process to immediately follow-up on each test would take a lot of resources. Ernie is considering making water sources that serve only one single family residence exempt from the definition of a failed water supply. This would result in the landowner being aware of any water quality issues and placing the responsibility to deal with the problem on the landowner. If there is a legislative requirement that the water source be tested, a title search at the time of sale should inform a future landowner of any problems with the water source.

Sille said that the Vermont Health Department is working a data base that would include all the water quality data. The results of all water quality testing done by Vermont Department of Health approved facilities is required to be submitted to the Vermont Department of Health and will be included in the data base.

Craig asked if surface water sources can now be approved under the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules. Ernie said that these sources can be approved under the Statutory requirements created in 2016.

Rule Review:

Ernie started with a review of Chapter 10. Craig asked if the draft rules would include drip dispersal. Ernie said that the existing section on drip dispersal, which gives a few general instructions that are applied to the recommended design standards by equipment manufacturers, would be continued.

Ernie discussed section 1004 that deals with wastewater strength. The draft rules include two design approaches that yield different sizing results. The TAC recommendation is to select whichever approach that seems most appropriate and delete the other. A subcommittee can consider this if needed.

Steve asked if the use of grinder pumps should require larger septic tanks. The TAC agreed that larger tanks should be used when pumps discharge into a septic tank. All pumps create a surge in the tank that may reduce the effectiveness of the settling process. Grinder pumps that create small particles may be a larger problem because the small particles may not settle out of the effluent as well. It was noted that there is a general trend nationwide to increase the size of the septic tank and towards the use of two compartment septic tanks.

Craig asked that the draft rules give specific guidance on measuring points when determining the isolation distance from a minimum effective basal area under a mound system.

Steve asked about reducing the current minimum of 12" of mound sand under the crushed stone when the vertical isolation distance could be met with as little as 6" of sand. The TAC said that this is a construction consideration. There are concerns about how it could be ensured that the sand depth would start at the top of the plowed ground rather than the bottom of the furrow. The group recommended keeping the 12" minimum.

Ernie noted that he has added a requirement that the percolation tests be located within a certain distance of the test pits. The TAC suggested that the requirement should be that percolation tests are done in a pattern that defines the soil under and downslope of the leachfield.

Craig asked if the replacement area requirement for bottomless sand filters could be removed. Ernie noted that the proposal for use of bottomless sand filters will for the first time allow for new development. The size requirements for bottomless sand filters result in very small areas

and if any problems arise there may not be any room to fix a failed system. Craig suggested removing the replacement requirement if advanced treatment is required. Ernie asked for opinions on this approach and the group did not reach a consensus.

Chris asked about the annual inspection requirements required in permits for Innovative/Alternative Systems. She said that with the current requirements a landowner must pay for an inspection by a licensed designer and an inspection by a person certified by the system vendor. This often means two different people and double the cost for the annual inspections. This tends to lead to people ignoring the inspection requirements, particularly the requirement for the Licensed Designer's inspection report. The group discussed this issue with Ernie noting that he believes having a licensed designer involved results in more information about the status of the dispersal system. The vendor required inspection may only look at the operation of the advanced treatment system which may be functioning as designed even if there is leakage at the toe of the dispersal system. Chris strongly recommended that a landowner be clearly notified of the cost of operation and inspection requirements for the specific system because the number one complaint is that they did not know how much it would cost.

Chapter 12 was briefly discussed. Ernie said that clarifying language has been added to exemption related to the section on instantaneous peak demand on the water system for single family residences. The exemption allows for a single-family residence, with an included one bedroom unit, that has a total design flow of 560 GPD or less, to be constructed without use of a holding tank to meet the instantaneous peak demand on the water system.

Claude asked about section 1203(a) that limits a project to only a single well unless a single well cannot provide the required amount of water. Under this requirement, the well driller's exemption that allows for a replacement water source for a single-family residence without a state permit would not apply if more than one well is required for the single-family residence.

Ernie said that the use of surface water as a potable water supply depends on a quality determination using the Lakes and Ponds Division mapping of water quality.

Meeting:

Ernie asked that the group meet again on April 25th. The meeting will be at the Annex Building.

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