

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

April 25, 2017

Attendees:	Roger Thompson	Ernest Christianson
	Graham Bradley	Joe Rheaume
	Justin Willis	Gunner McCain
	Claude Chevalier	Rich Wilson
	Scott Stewart	Peter Boemig
	Chris Russo	Ken White
	Rodney Pingree	John Beauchamp

Scheduled meetings:

May 9, 2017	1-4 PM	Winooski Room at National Life
May 16, 2017	1-4 PM	at the Annex

Minutes:

The draft minutes of the April 18, 2017 meeting were approved with the addition of Chris's comment that the designer's inspection report for I/A systems is often not submitted.

Rule Review:

Ernie opened the discussion of Chapter 12. Scott said that the Water Supply Section is proposing to reduce the threshold for a pump test from 5 GPM to 2 GPM. He said that this would provide additional information about the true capacity of a well that would be useful for increases in design flow and failed water supplies. Gunner asked if there have been many problem well where this approach would have prevented the problem. Scott said there have been some problems, though it is not known how many of the projects had been approved under the current Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules (Rules). Gunner suggested that the 5 GPD threshold be maintained for Potable Water Systems. Ernie will review the situation with Scott but the sense of the Committee is to keep the current number.

Scott suggested moving section 1209 to after section 1210 thinking that this would more closely follow the process used in designing a water supply. Scott also proposed adding a definition for total available head and to require the total available head to be specified in a permit application.

The group recommended removing section 1218(c). John asked if radium should be added to table 12-6 as a required item for testing. This led to a discussion of testing for radioactive elements. The TAC discussed this issue in past years when the current list was developed and when the statutory language allowing for the addition of water treatment systems without a permit was passed. Ernie will consider the current thinking and speak with Sille Larsen, Health Department, to see if a gross alpha test and/or radium should be added.

Peter asked about section 1303(c) and whether a potable connection can be made to a line constructed to serve fire protection systems. This depends on the arrangement of the piping. If the potable water is protected against backflow from the fire system and not connected to a portion of the piping that might tend to be stagnant, the potable water connection can be approved. The issue of installing valves, pumps, wells, etc. in below ground pits was reviewed. The current Rules allow for this when needed but with a requirement that the pit have passive drainage for any accumulated water and protection against flooding. Passive drainage is often difficult unless the site has a significant slope. It was agreed that some items, such as valves, are not likely problems if the pit is not passively drained. Other items such as wells can be contaminated if not properly sealed and vented. These decisions are somewhat case specific. Ernie will check with the Public Water Supply Section regarding below grade valve boxes.

Ernie will check into whether all water service lines should be leakage tested. This can be a significant expense and a delay in completing a project. Gunner noted that he would not participate in a high pressure (water system operating pressures) air test because of potential danger if any of the connections failed under pressure. Ernie will review the pressure testing requirements.

Claude asked if the 5 ½' bury depth could be reduced to 5'. There is an VOSHA standard that requires trench boxes for trenches deeper than 5'. It may be possible that benching the sides of the trench can be allowed instead of trench boxes. Ernie will check this. The Rules do allow for a reduction in bury depth when using foam board insulation.

Ken suggested that the Rules give specific guidance on additions to well casings. The additions should be made of the same material as the existing well casing and either attached with threaded connections or by welding that makes the connection watertight.

Claude asked about the Rule requirement that well disinfection should be done with a minimum level of 50 mg/l of chlorine. Claude said that when disinfecting wells currently in use, the 50 mg/l of chlorine is intolerable for the users. Even with a 5 mg/l concentration the chlorine taste can linger for days. Claude said that New Hampshire uses a 10 mg/l standard. Ernie will consider this.

Meetings:

Additional meetings were scheduled for May 9, 2017 in the Winooski Room at National Life and for May 16, 2017 at the Annex.

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