

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

March 21, 2018

<b>Attendees:</b>	Roger Thompson	Gunner McCain
	Scott Stewart	Steve Revell
	Denise Johnson-Terk	Graham Bradley
	Craig Heindel	Rodney Pingree
	Peter Boemig	Mary Clark
	Mark Bannon	Ken White
	Claude Chevalier	John Beauchamp
	Sille Larsen	Rich Wilson
	Ernie Christianson	Bryan Redmond

**Scheduled meetings:**

March 27, 2018	9-12 AM	Annex Building
April 3, 2018	1-4 PM	Annex Building

**Minutes:** The minutes for the prior meeting of February 26, 2018 were accepted as drafted. Steve asked that the minutes indicate which sections of the draft rules were reviewed during that meeting, so people can be prepared for the next meeting.

**Annual Report:** The TAC discussed whether specific recommendations were made during the 2017 meetings with if manganese should be included in the rules as a primary standard and whether there was a recommendation to use a specific protocol when testing for radioactive contaminants. After a short review of information from Sille, Scott, Rodney, John, and others, the TAC acknowledges that there is a current primary standard for manganese which should be included in the draft rules. The TAC also acknowledged that the Vermont Department of Health has a protocol for the sequence of testing when testing for radioactive contaminants which should be followed by projects subject to the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.

**Rule Review:** The review of the draft rules continued starting with subchapter 8. Ernie noted that, in response to TAC comments from the previous meeting, the language related to the cost/benefit analysis of replacement systems has been revised. The revised language was circulated to the TAC by email. The TAC supports the revised language.

Steve asked about the requirement that the minimum design flow is for two bedrooms when a new lot is created for a single-family residence. This is the existing requirement. Census data for Vermont indicates that the average occupancy for a single-family residence is slightly more

than 3 persons and that while the initial construction might be for only a single bedroom there would be a lot of pressure by future owners for more capacity. The TAC supported keeping the minimum at two bedrooms.

The TAC discussed the process described in the draft rules used to determine design flows for uses not specified in the design flow tables or used to justify lower design flows for existing projects. One situation is when an existing operation wants to increase its use and onsite flow monitoring may justify a reduction in design flow. Another situation is when a change in use is proposed and an applicant wants to justify a reduction in design flow. Ernie noted that there are many issues related to determining a different design flow. The process to collect flow and waste strength data is time consuming and expensive. Any use of data collected at a different location must include an analysis of why the data from one location will translate to another location. Wastewater strength from some operations, such as restaurants, is highly dependent on the management at the location that may carefully control the discharge of grease and oil into the system. In some cases, an existing building with low measured flows may see an increase with a change in ownership or management.

Steve asked about design flows for small country stores where there may be a couple of small tables and just a few chairs. These operations are important for small communities. Requiring a design flow of 30 GPD per seat seems excessive for operations where a few people gather for a cup of coffee. The TAC discussed various categories of operation, other than restaurants, that might be applied and supported a proposed design flow of 15 GPD for grocery stores with limited food service that may satisfy this issue.

Gas station design flows were also discussed. Ernie suggested using a per fueling space, rather than per pump or per hose, design flow. The TAC supported this approach.

Mary raised the issue of wastewater strength and whether the numbers for low-strength should be revised. She said that the Indirect Discharge Program collects a lot of data from the regulated systems. A total of 1863 results were analyzed, and the influent BOD averaged 144 mg/l and the TSS averaged 63 mg/l. These numbers would be reduced after septic tank treatment. Gunner and others noted that even though the averages are low, the range for low strength wastewater should be large enough to cover what can be expected in residential wastewater. Peter suggested removing section 1-805(a)(2)(A)(ii) which indicates that additional septic tank capacity might be a method of reducing wastewater strength. This might be a method that should be determined by a Professional Engineer per the rules. Rich suggested that the category for moderate strength wastewater, 1-805(b)(2), could also be removed. The group recommended making just two categories of wastewater strength, with the higher category requiring advanced treatment. A designer could also choose to provide additional tankage, or some other method of waste strength reduction, to reduce wastewater strength even when not required by the rules.

The discussion then moved to subchapter 11 for the last few minutes of the meeting. Isolation distances were discussed. Gunner asked about the point of measurement for roadways. The rules will be made clear that if there is a ROW the measurement is from the ROW. Steve asked about the message that Ernie had circulated related to isolation distances from farming operations. Ernie said that the Agency of Agriculture had established some isolation distances based on their own review and that the DEC had accepted their recommendations during the interim. An additional meeting with Agriculture is needed to discuss the isolation distances.

The next meeting will continue with subchapter 11 and then return to subchapters 9, 10, and 12.

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**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