

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

September 17, 2024

Participation by videoconference

Attendees:	Sharon Bissell	Sille Larsen*
	Denise Johnson-Terk	Bruce Douglas*
	Julia Beaudoin	Craig Heindel*
	Sheri Young*	Ernie Christianson*
	Roger Thompson*	Mark Bannon*
	Steve Revell*	Craig Jewett*
	Terry Shearer	Cristin Ashmankas*
	Frederic Larsen	Megan Kane
	Jeanne Allen	Gunner McCain*
	Tom DeBell*	Brad Fischer

*Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members or substitutes

Scheduled Meetings:

All meetings are scheduled as virtual meetings.

October 15, 2024	2-4 PM
November 19, 2024	2-4 PM
December 17, 2024	2-4 PM

Agenda:

The proposed agenda was accepted as drafted. Craig H. asked about the list of 2023-2024 nominees to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Bruce said that this is the list of names that will be submitted to the Governor’s Office for approval after the next inauguration in January of 2025.

Minutes:

The draft minutes of the July 16, 2024 meeting were accepted with several edits for clarity.

Updates:

Bruce said that the proposed rule corrections have been approved by the Secretary of States Office. The only changes are corrections; therefore, the effective date of the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules (WW Rules) will remain November 6, 2023 with a note that corrections have been made. Bruce will notify Licensed Designers

Innovative/Alternative (I/A) Technology:

Bruce said that applications are under review and should be ready for review by the TAC at the October meeting.

Sheri said that the way that soil categories are specified in some the approvals for I/A systems does not match the categories in the Vermont WW Rules.

Rule Update Discussion:

The TAC reviewed Subchapter 7 of the WW Rules which deals with Licensed Designers. Bruce asked if the existing Subchapter appropriately covers the topics, particularly for people interested in becoming Licensed Designers. Bruce asked if sufficient training is available. Sheri said that most of the in-person training sessions are in northern or eastern portions of the State and very few in the southwestern area. Sheri said that more online training would be helpful, noting that in some cases the travel time to and from the training location exceeded the length of the training itself. Online training that can be taken on demand also makes it easier to fit into a Designer's schedule. Roger said that there is a lot of training done in New Hampshire and asked if similar training is available in New York. Sheri said it is very limited.

. Sheri asked about obtaining credit for activities done by one or a few Designers. Cristin said that she looks at these on a case-by-case basis and issues credit when it meets the requirements for continuing education. Sheri said that anyone can join the Granite State Wastewater Association that does provide some training. Bruce said that people can also join the Yankee Onsite Wastewater Association (YOWA) and the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) that also provide training. It was noted that Vermont Licensed Designers do not have a professional association, even though most other Vermont professionals do.

Bruce asked for comments on the various sections of the subchapter and there were no comments.

Section 1-301(b)(4):

This section of the WW Rules deals with connections to existing potable water systems or wastewater disposal systems. The WW Rules limit connections to systems not currently in use

to those systems that were in use within the previous four years. Bruce noted that the Governor gave a case specific extension for an existing mobile home park based on flooding damage.

Other Discussion:

Gunner said that the section for groundwater level monitoring on the Class B test consumed a lot of time. Cristin said that the exam has been revised to reduce the amount of time but will still cover the topic.

Craig H. said that there is a great deal of interest in promoting the addition of dwelling units to existing single family residences and that one difficult area is meeting the potable water system requirements. He suggested that a training session on this topic would be useful, and Steve supported his suggestion. Bruce previously reported to the TAC that there is support to update the requirements for calculating the Instantaneous Peak Demand (IPD). The proposed changes will result in a lower gallons per minute requirement, which in some cases will make adding a dwelling unit easier.

Jeff Williams is working on plans for a workshop to be provided by the Vermont Groundwater Association. A well drilling machine will be in operation. Discussion will include factors that should be considered when choosing a well site in addition to the isolation distances specified in the WW Rules.

Bruce discussed a proposed reorganization of the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division. There will be three sections consisting of administrative functions, technical services, and compliance. The compliance section will have two portions. One will deal with Public Water Systems that have to meet federal requirements as well as state requirements. The other portion will cover the WW Rules, Indirect Discharge Systems, and Underground Injection Systems. Craig H. asked how the changes would affect designers, and particularly hydrogeologic evaluations. Cristin said the review will be more centralized and recommended making an early contact when developing a plan to do a hydrogeologic study.