Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

October 9, 2019

**Attendees:** Roger Thompson Scott Stewart

Graham Bradley Bryan Harrington Nathan Kie Denise Johnson-Terk Sheri B. Young Justin Willis Gunner McCain Steve Revell Ernest Christianson Sille Larsen Rich Wilson Cristin Ashmankas John Beauchamp

**Scheduled meetings:**

November 12, 2019 1-4 PM The Annex Building

**Minutes:** There were no comments about the draft minutes of the July 30, 2019 meeting.

**Comments about the new Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules (Rules)**

Ernie said that he has received some comments that the new Rules are hard to understand and excessively wordy. Ernie explained that in trying to ensure that each section of the Rules is legally enforceable some sections are hard to follow even though in most cases the technical standards have not changed. Ernie and the TAC agreed that the difficult to understand sections should be reviewed and revised to eliminate confusion. Sections 1-903 and 1-802(e)(2)(A) were flagged for review. Gunner asked why a 4” limitation was added to section 1-802(e)(2)(A). This section allows for a variance when doing a replacement wastewater system for a pre-existing use when the cost of greater compliance is large compared to the increased health and environmental protection. Ernie said he wanted to define the maximum variance so that designers will not ask for unreasonable variances.

**Interference Testing of Wells:** Ernie said that Scott had flagged an issue about testing for well interference based on an existing situation. The question is whether the Rules should allow for a request for information about interference with existing wells that are located at distances greater than those specified in Table 11-4 of the Rules. Ernie thinks that §1-1108(b) of the Rules does allow for request for this information when there is evidence of potential interference. The TAC consensus is that when there is site specific evidence that unacceptable well interference may occur at a distance greater, the Rules should allow for a request for information for wells located at distances greater than specified in Table 11-4. Ernie will ask for legal advice on whether the existing Rules allow for such a request or if a Rule revision is needed.

**Soil Description Versus Percolation Testing:** The TAC continued this discussion from the previous meeting. Sherri again noted that there are large areas in Addison County that are clay soils which under the soil description method are not acceptable while in some cases they might pass the percolation test method with a percolation rate of 120 minutes per inch or less. The Rules require use of the more restrictive results of the percolation test or soil description method. Graham commented that treatment and flow can be separate issues and, if the flow is mostly related to the soil structure, less treatment may occur than expected. Cristin said that the numbers in the Rules match work done in North Carolina used to determine the long-term acceptance rate of wastewater on clay soils. Sheri suggested that some work should be done in Vermont because the clay in Vermont is somewhat different than in North Carolina. The University of Vermont has a soil science program and perhaps they could do some investigation of the topic in consideration of the widespread clay soil limitations in Addison County and other locations in Vermont. Cristin agreed with Sherri and suggested that the DEC should look for money to do some studies.

**Innovative/Alternative Systems:** Graham is reviewing an application from Geomatrix Systems, L.L.C. for use of their GeoMat™ Flat system in Vermont. The application covers many permutations, each of which would need a detailed presentation for use in Vermont. Graham will discuss this with the applicant and determine if a more focused application for use in Vermont may be appropriate. When the information is complete Graham will ask for TAC comments.

**Meeting Date:** The next TAC meeting will be from 1-4 PM on November 12, 2019. The meeting will be at the Annex.