

APPROVED MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2002

Members present: Bernie Chenette, Brad Aldrich, Alan Huizenga, Gary Fern, Phil Dechert, Kimberley Crosby, Barbara Willis, Kimberly Kendall, Gail Center, Spencer Harris, Gerry Kittle, Roger Thompson, Rodney Pingree

Next meetings:

Tuesday, December 17, 2002, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Appalachian Gap Room, Cyprian Learning Center

Tuesday, January 7, 2003, from 1-4 PM @ 100 Stanley Hall

Tuesday, January 21, 2003, from 1-4 PM @ 100 Stanley Hall

Tuesday, February 4, 2003, from 1-4 PM @ 100 Stanley Hall

Tuesday, February 18, 2003, from 1-4 PM @ 100 Stanley Hall

Wednesday, March 5, 2002, from 1-4 PM TBA

Tuesday, March 18, 2003 from 1-4 PM TBA

Tuesday, April 1, 2003 from 1-4 PM TBA

Minutes:

The minutes of the November 19 meeting were approved.

The subcommittee working on the hydraulic chart were unable to meet during the previous week so only minor additional changes were made. The report will be presented at the next meeting.

The remaining items about site technician authorities were discussed:

Design of public buildings and places of public assembly. Mention was made of the fact that most public buildings are funded with taxpayers' money and that perhaps there was an expectation that the facilities for these buildings should be designed by engineers. These buildings are no different than private buildings that are frequented by the public and the standards for the design are just the same. If the issue is the liability of the designer and the fact that the owner could have to foot the bill for replacement if a designer is out of business or bankrupt, municipalities, whose original projects are paid for by the taxpayers, should be careful to choose licensed designers, or installers, who are bonded or insured so not to place the expense of correcting the problem on the taxpayers if the system fails. Enforcement is the same for all licensed designers. It was the consensus of the committee that site technicians should be able to design systems of the same type and size for both private and public buildings. Educational materials for consumers, including municipalities, about liability and insurance should be made available.

Designs using advanced waste treatment units approved for general use. It was the committee's opinion that designers should know how the systems they are designing

work. The systems currently approved function much like a sand filter and site technicians should be able to use them in designs. There could be units that are complex enough that a site technician should not be able to use them in a design. The decision was that the approval for use could be into categories that would differentiate if it were not suitable for a site technician to use in a design. A site technician or an engineer may recommend a system that they are particularly familiar with which is more expensive than some other system that would be acceptable for a given situation. That would be unfortunate for the consumer but in that case it would be a matter of a consumer taking interest to become educated about what services he or she is purchasing, as it is with other purchases. For systems below 1350 gallons a day that will probably not be an issue.

The committee asked that the Agency send the draft approvals of innovative systems to them for review and comment before they are final.

The committee established another subcommittee to work on deciding what a well driller needs to know to site a well after July 1, 2007. The expectation is that they will learn enough about the needs for a replacement area for a wastewater system that they will not pick out the best wastewater system replacement area and put the well there; and that they will assess the location of septic systems and wells on adjacent lots. The subcommittee members are Jeff Williams, Rodney Pingree, Roger Thompson and Bernie Chenette. They hope to develop a checklist of basic criteria.

The Agency is working with VLCT on the rules for delegation of the permitting and enforcement program to municipalities. Spencer Harris, Gerry Kittle, Kim Crosby, Phil Dechert, Gary Fern and Allan Huizenga noted that they wished to be involved in the discussions.

There is a question about the qualifications needed for an administrative person, working for a municipality taking delegation, who may do administration rather than technical review of the systems. We will be considering that as we continue to talk with VLCT.

The Committee discussed the work to be done on other solutions for difficult sites. The desire to monitor some of the existing sites that may be keeping sewage below the ground surface yet not meet the rules is difficult to do because people are not willing to have their sites evaluated. It was mentioned that the 4 demonstration sites could be evaluated again if that would be useful.

A short list of other issues to be looked at are:

- Whether multiple barriers are necessary for public health protection...the Department and the Health department have operated on that premise for many years.
- Design flows for all categories...only residential and campground flows were looked at for these rules
- The requirements for the permit subdivision of existing improved lots
- Water Supply is considering a general permit for some water supply treatment units such as a water softener, iron removal facilities etc. Will there need to be

a permit under these rules? It may depend on the discharge from the unit and the relationship with the UIC program. The Health Department mentioned that one study of these units in another state indicated that 20% did not treat the water to standards.

- Replace the percolation test with soils evaluations

Subcommittees

Hydrogeology - Allison Lowry, Craig Heindel, Dave Cotton and Steve Revell.

Training subcommittee - John Forcier, Roger Thompson, Allison Lowry, Dave Cotton, Barbara Willis and Marilyn Davis.

Licensed designers - Spencer Harris, Gary Fern, Alan Huizenga for Lance Phelps, and Gerry Kittle.

Well driller's knowledge checklist-- Jeff Williams, Rodney Pingree, Roger Thompson and Bernie Chenette.

Interested in the delegation rules-- Spencer Harris, Gerry Kittle, Kimberley Crosby, Phil Dechert, Gary Fern and Allan Huizenga

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