

1-7-2003 DRAFT MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2002

Members present: Bernie Chenette, Alan Huizenga, Gary Fern, Phil Dechert, Barbara Willis, Dave Cotton, Gail Center, Spencer Harris, Gerry Kittle, Jeff Williams, Stephen Revell, Roger Thompson, Rodney Pingree

Members absent: Kimberley Crosby, Kimberly Kendall, Craig Heindel

Others attending: Frank O'Brien, Allison Lowry, Marilyn Davis

Next meetings:

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

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

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

Tuesday, February 18, 2003, from 1-4 PM @ Room 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 December 2, 2002 minutes were corrected: on page 1 about the wording of "It is possible for" to clarify the meaning of the phrase; on page 4 regarding the administrative staff qualifications (it refers to municipal staff); and on page 1 about the concern that taxpayer funded projects that fail because of licensed designer or installer error should not have to have the corrective actions paid for by the taxpayers.

The subcommittee working on the hydrocharts will have them complete for the next meeting.

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission subcommittee on on-site systems had several items of interest that Roger Thompson reported.

The Infiltrator system, open leaching chambers that do not require gravel, has been doing considerable testing to see whether there is a masking of the infiltrative surface by gravel that does not occur with their units. It appears that there is a 60% masking with gravel and that the long-term acceptance rate may be 2 to 2 and ½ times greater with the open chambers. They believe also that there is a better saturation of the infiltrative surface that may give better treatment. They are not however, asking for a reduction in the depth to groundwater based on increased treatment. There may be additional research conducted to quantify the increased treatment.

The Elgin in-drain treatment system has been claimed to produce effluent that meets 30 mg/l BOD and TSS and therefore qualifies as a filtrate disposal system and can use a smaller disposal area. The Department will be reviewing this system.

In Connecticut a system called Ecomatrix has been using a method of injecting oxygen into the failed leach field that seems to be effective when the gas is pushed through the system. They have taken the research from in the lab to a mobile unit in the field. There has to be significant pressures to make sure that the oxygen treats the entire system. When air is put into the effluent stream, the improvement is to about 10 mg/l concentration rather than with this method which improves the oxygen levels in the soil around the leachfield to 20% concentration. In order for this to be effective, doses to the leachfield of sewage must be fewer doses with larger volumes.

Mention was made of a state that has used a program approving these more complex treatment systems and is thinking of dropping the program. It is difficult to keep the contracts in place for maintenance of systems, and there is a funding problem.

The Barnstable County testing site is still in operation although there are rumors that it might close because of lack of funds. There have been some problems correlating test center data with field data on the tested systems. Costs of testing have gone up considerably since the start of the testing.

The well drillers would like to get together with us and work on written information for well drillers about the new rules. The Water Supply Rules about well construction are being changed and they would like to coordinate with the on-site program so that the programs interlock appropriately. Roger and Jeff Williams feel that some or all overflowing wells should be capped. There is concern over wasting water from aquifers, especially with the droughts that are occurring more frequently. The effects of water softeners in densely populated areas (backwash salts into the groundwater) is becoming a real concern for new supplies in those areas. In areas where the hardness is about 350ppm, a residence uses about 700-800 # of salt per year. There is also concern in shallow bedrock areas that the contamination may travel long distances.

The Agency has not been able to run statistics on the numbers of permits being processed in the Regional Offices and will not be able to until after the New Year. The tracking system has been transferred to new software and the reporting programs are being constructed now.

There is a demand for training for installers. We would like to fit that in, but it will not be soon.

Steve Revell asked to be added to the subcommittee on well driller's education/checklist.

The next meeting of that subcommittee will be on January 21, 2003 at 11:00 am before the regular meeting of the TAC. It will be in the Water Supply Conference room. Rodney Pingree will schedule the room.

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, Bernie Chenette and Steve Revell.

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

K:\Protection\Phase.III.Rules\Tech Advisory Committee\Approved.Minutes.TAC.11-05-02.doc