

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  
February 12, 2013

**Attendees:** Roger Thompson                      Justin Willis  
Mark Bannon    Gunner McCain  
Gail Center    Spencer Harris  
Cindy Parks     Peter Boemig  
Chris Russo     Mary Clark  
Craig Heindel                                        Ernie Christianson

**Scheduled meetings:**

March 19, 2013            1-4 PM            Liquor Control Conference Room – Montpelier

April 16, 2013            1-4 PM            Liquor Control Conference Room – Montpelier

**Agenda:**

The draft agenda was accepted with an item added for lakes and ponds informational meetings.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 8, 2013 meeting were accepted with a spelling correction of Cromaglass. The minutes of the January 25, 2013 meeting were accepted with some minor clarifications provided by Cindy.

**Annual Report:**

Roger briefly covered the revisions to the Annual Report. These were primarily updating the TAC members contact information and the table of Regional Office permitting information. The TAC accepted the report and Roger will email Ernie the finished report for publication on the Agency website.

**UIC Meetings:**

Cindy provided an update on the rule adoption process. There have been meetings with the Groundwater Coordination Committee and the TAC with detailed discussions and revisions to the draft. Informal meetings have been held with several interest groups including Vermont Geothermal, VPIRG, Vermont auto dealers, title insurance attorneys, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the granite industry, well drillers, and the petroleum industry. The discussion was based on a handout prepared by the Agency, dated 2/5/13 that defined what an injection well is and then discussed proposals for groups of wells that might be prohibited, allowed with a conditional exemption, or allowed with a

specific permit. The meetings were generally well received with each interest group looking forward to seeing draft rules in order to make detailed comments.

Gail asked how the discharges from cooling towers will be regulated. Cindy said she is still working on the issue. Gail also noted that Health Department advisories are not incorporated into the Water Supply Rules

Roger asked for a timeline. Cindy said there will be an updated draft after the round of informal meetings is complete. The draft will be reviewed by TAC and the Groundwater Coordinating Committee and when ready it will be submitted to ICAR (Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules). Cindy said that the title insurance attorneys asked for a better definition of residence for the portion of the UIC Rules dealing with projects that share commercial and residential space.

### **Innovative/Alternative Systems:**

There was a brief discussion of the GEOflow Pipe. Mary asked that any comments on the draft approval be emailed to her.

Mary also opened a discussion about the Innovative/Alternative approval process in general. For instance, how much weight should be given to an NSF approval? Mark and Peter said that an NSF review provided useful information but is not definitive in terms of a state level approval. The NSF testing generally shows how a system works under laboratory conditions for a relatively short period of time which may not reflect how a system will perform over a longer time period.

Mark said that one issue to look at is the level of maintenance required to keep a system operating.

Mary also discussed the issue of required inspections, noting that at least one state trains service providers on all of the technologies approved in the state. Justin said that one thing to keep in mind is that manufacturers may not give a warranty unless the service providers are approved by the manufacturer.

Mary asked for volunteers to look at several technologies under consideration for approval or renewal in Vermont. Justin, Spencer, Gunner, and Craig volunteered for portions of the work.

### **Installer Training Program:**

Mary gave an update of her work on this program. She held meetings in Essex Junction, Springfield, Rutland, and Montpelier with 22 installers, 6 product vendors, 2 designers, and DEC staff to find out what people thought about creating an Installer Training Program. Mary presented the program as being voluntary however many of those attending said the program should be mandatory with a goal of ensuring that installers have the required knowledge to install the increasingly more complex systems and to

ensure that installers are not giving “low ball” cost estimates for installations based on installing substandard systems. Mary explained that this would require a statutory change but the concept can be discussed to see if there is support for such a change.

Those attending the meetings also supported 2 or more levels of certification that would range from simple, passive types of systems, to more complex systems that require active monitoring and operation. The certifications should require renewal and continuing education.

The group did not feel that particular qualifications such as years of experience or a high school diploma should be required. The group did support using an exam as part of the certification process.

### **Lakes and Ponds:**

Mary said that there is ongoing work to educate people about lakes and ponds and the effects on water quality from the land uses surrounding them. The Lakes and Ponds Section has an environmental “Lakewise” award that property owners can apply for based on good land use practices. The Agency is also supporting meetings through the Vermont Lakes and Ponds Associations to educate property owners on septic systems. In many cases, just informing property owners can result in changes in behavior that help protect the lakes and ponds.

### **Executive Committee**

Steve Revell, Ernest Christianson, Roger Thompson

Alternates – Chris Thompson, Spencer Harris, Claude Chevalier, Craig Heindel

### **Subcommittees:**

#### **Hydrogeology**

Craig Heindel, Bill Zabiloski, Mark Bannon, Scott Stewart, Steve Revell, Mary Clark, Roger Thompson, Peter Boemig, Ernie Christianson, Spencer Harris

#### **UIC Rules**

Craig Heindel, Steve Revell, Roger Thompson, Ernie Christianson, Scott Stewart, Rodney Pingree, Kim Greenwood, Cindy Parks, John Beauchamp, Gail Center

#### **Wastewater Strength**

Mary Clark, Cindy Parks, Peter Boemig, Bill Zabiloski, Roger Thompson, John  
Akielaszek,

**Bottomless Sand Filters**

Peter Boemig, Mark Bannon, Cindy Parks, Mary Clark, Denise Johnson-Terk, Craig  
Heindel, Ernie Christianson

**Seasonal High Water Table Monitoring**

Craig Heindel, Steve Revell, Roger Thompson, Ernie Christianson, Bill Zabiloski, Dan  
Wilcox, Mary Clark