

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
February 25, 2014

Attendees: Roger Thompson
Chris Russo
Mark Bannon
Ernie Christianson
Gail Center
Rich Wilson
Claude Chevalier
Craig Heindel
Anne Whiteley
Gunner McCain
Bill Zabiloski
Mary Clark
Jay Buermann
Jessanne Wyman
Ken White
Justin Willis
Peter Boemig

Scheduled meetings:

March 18, 2014	1-4 PM	Winooski Con. Rm., National Life – Montpelier
April 22, 2014	1-4 PM	Winooski Con. Rm., National Life – Montpelier
May 20, 2014	1-4 PM	Winooski Con. Rm., National Life – Montpelier
June 17, 2014	1-4 PM	Winooski Con. Rm., National Life – Montpelier

Agenda:

Accepted

Minutes:

The minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting were accepted as drafted.

Legislative Update:

Ernie reviewed the various bills under consideration. H.479 deals with the beneficial use of gray water. There is interest in surface application of gray water for irrigation purposes; however federal regulation prohibits surface application of water with human pathogens. Gail asked about farms using urine as fertilizer. Ernie said that the urine is heated to destroy any pathogens prior to land application. One bill proposes to encourage “downtown” development by reducing permit requirements, including allowing for prescriptive approval of applications that are certified by the Licensed Designer. There is no action at the moment on H.857 which would allow for a change in use of a building which potentially would increase the design flows of the water and/or wastewater systems based on a claim by the building owner that the systems are adequate for the proposed increase. There is also no action on H.182 which proposes that any isolation distances required under the Wastewater System and Potable Water Rules be on property

that is either owned or that is subject to legal easements which allow the isolation distances to extend onto other properties. S.211, which proposes to allow more buildings to use holding tank systems, is under discussion. The Senate Committee intends to rewrite portions of the bill and the Agency will again comment once the new language is available.

Ernie also reported that he had contacted the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and asked if they have any concerns about adopting rules that allow drilled and shallow wells located 75' from wastewater disposal systems. Wells constructed less than 75' from wastewater disposal systems must be grouted. They said they did not have regrets but did not make the decision. Ernie plans to contact the people who did make the decision.

Innovative/Alternative Systems:

Mary said that she and a subcommittee of TAC and Regional Office members had just met with representatives of Oakson Inc. about using a drip dispersal system without requiring pretreatment of the effluent to the filtrate standards of no more than 30 mg/l of BOD and 30 mg/l of TSS. The Oakson system relies on a series of filters that can be backwashed that protect the drip dispersal system from clogging. There is a significant track record of successful operation of the system in other states. Mary will follow up with the subcommittee members on the next steps.

Mary said that she has scheduled another group to meet with representatives of the Eljen Company in March and has scheduled a meeting about the Simple Septic system with representatives of the Presby Environmental Company before the April TAC meeting.

Mary also discussed an ongoing request for approval of effluent filters. Bear Onsite Company has a line of filters, some of which have been reviewed and approved by NSF. There is some discussion over what is required regarding testing for approval in Vermont and it would be good to have a clear statement of the process or allowed methods.

The Agency also provided a handout of discussion points on I/A Operation and Maintenance Inspections. The Agency proposes to allow people who are not licensed designers, but who are approved by the vendor of the specific system, to also do the ongoing maintenance and operational inspections after the initial installation has been completed and certified by a licensed designer. This will increase the number of people available to do the inspections and allow a group of people who specialize in operation and maintenance work to provide this service.

Next Meeting Dates:

The group agreed to meet on April 22nd, May 20th, and June 17th.

Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rule Revisions (Subchapter 9):

Ernie reviewed the draft of the rules that had been circulated by e-mail. The draft is a complete rewrite of the rules and while it incorporates a great deal of material from the existing rules it also pulls material into Subchapter 9 from other subchapters and moves some material out to other subchapters. Sorting all of this out will take some time to make certain that the pieces work together.

Among the proposed changes:

A replacement system can be permitted at any time and then constructed at some future time without further review.

Some language will be added related to wastewater strength. Mark and Craig suggested that a list of generators of low and moderate strength waste be created. Jay suggested guidance that allows for projects that mix residential uses with low strength waste and other uses with moderate and high strength waste. It should be possible to calculate the strength of the combined wastewater rather than just design a system for the total design flow at the highest strength.

Soil descriptions should include more detail descriptions using the USDA methods. There was discussion if this should be required rather than suggested. These are methods that would be required if the percolation test approach is replaced with a soil identification approach. Licensed Designers will need to have these skills in order to make the switch. There was also discussion about whether the focus should be on “redoximorphic” indicators rather than mottles. Any description needs to cover both but the ones that determine how the rules actually apply are the “redoximorphic” indicators.

The language about flood areas was discussed. Mark thinks that the references may not be appropriate. Ernie and Anne said the descriptions are federal language and related to flood insurance but will double check to make sure they are correct.

The TAC discussed the existing requirement that all systems designed using the performance based approach must be inspected in the springtime for three years. This was a statutory requirement for a few years after the performance based approach was approved by the legislature. That requirement has now expired. The TAC said that the approach has now been in use for several years without any evidence of failures of systems using this design approach and therefore the group supports discontinuing the inspection requirement.

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