

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
April 22, 2014

Attendees: Roger Thompson
Ken White
Steve Revell
Justin Willis
Scott Stewart
Chris Russo
Denise Johnson-Terk
Claude Chevalier
Ernie Christianson
Craig Heindel
Terry Shearer
Bill Zabiloski
Spencer Harris
Gunner McCain
Mary Clark
Peter Boemig
Mark Bannon

Scheduled meetings:

May 20, 2014	1-4 PM	Winooski Con. Rm., National Life – Montpelier
June 24, 2014	1-4 PM	Winooski Con. Rm., National Life – Montpelier

Agenda:

Deleted UIC discussion

Minutes:

The minutes of the March 18, 2014 meeting were accepted with an addition that the reference isolation distances were for mound type wastewater systems.

Legislative Update:

Ernie reviewed S.211, a bill that expands the use of holding tanks to some buildings owned by charitable, religious, and non-profit organizations. The bill passed the Senate and is under review by the House. It is being revised to add a requirement for a performance bond with at least 20 years of coverage. The bill would apply to both new and existing buildings. The building could continue to use the holding tank even if eventually converted to use by an organization not covered by the exemption that allows for use of a holding tank.

Ernie also discussed H.857 which reduces permitting requirements for a change in use of a residential building when the owner of the water and wastewater systems certifies that the systems have adequate capacity. The Agency does not support H.857.

Ernie gave an update on the shoreland regulation bills. A bill (H.526) is moving forward and as currently drafted will have a conditional exemption for water and wastewater

systems. The condition is that the Regional Office Programs will consult with and take into consideration the concerns of the Watershed Management Division when issuing water and wastewater permits.

Innovative/Alternative Systems:

Mary provided an update on several systems.

A TAC subcommittee and Agency staff met with Mr. Presby and others to discuss his application for the Simple Septic pipe leaching system. Mary will follow up with the subcommittee regarding the next steps.

Also under consideration is the Hydro- Action system which has NSF 40 approval. This is an aerobic treatment system.

Mary sent a follow-up information request to Eljen on their Mantis system after the subcommittee meeting with the company.

The Agency is also reviewing a request for a gray water disposal system that uses bark mulch for the distribution and treatment of the wastewater. The request is based on use of a systems of this type in arid climates. The TAC offered opinions and concerns with the proposal due to the potential for composting, longevity of media, and potential for biomat growth and ponding within the media. The applicant will need to provide additional information related to use in Vermont as there are concerns that the mulch media will be saturated and may not function well in a wetter and colder climate.

There is a request to approve use of the Anua (formerly Puraflo) Peat Filter where the modules are installed in an open bottom container that will discharge into the soil (one unit per bedroom). The current approach requires the effluent to be collected from the bottom of the filter enclosure and then discharged to a filtrate disposal system. The primary review issue is the limitation in the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules that limits the application of filtrate to no more than double the application rate of septic tank effluent. Roger reviewed the history of this requirement which is based on concerns that very high application rates may wash viruses down into the seasonal water table where they might travel long distances. It would be good to look at the current science to see if these concerns have been addressed. Roger noted that this concern is also the basis for requiring that all filtrate disposal systems use pressure distribution. The group discussed the requirement for pressure distribution and learned that some designers have proposed and received approval for filtrate systems using inground trench systems without pressure distribution.

Mary also discussed an application to use an evaporation system that would allow for an increase in design flow for an existing convenience store. The group discussed this and asked if an energy budget had been established as evaporation is energy intensive. The applicant had not submitted any information about energy used. The group also asked about air quality concerns and pathogens. This may depend on the temperature of system

as high temperature incinerating toilets have been used without reports of air quality issues and the high temperatures would deal with any pathogens. There was discussion of how this approval might fit within the rules as experimental and pilot systems require that a fully complying replacement area be available in case the new technology does not work.

High Strength Wastewater Outreach Document:

Mary mentioned that the High Strength Wastewater Considerations document had been posted to the Agency website at:

<http://drinkingwater.vt.gov/poregionaloffices.htm>

Three other outreach documents related to commercial kitchens, restaurants, and all users are also posted under “What’s New”. Thanks to all subcommittee members for researching and drafting this document.

Compliance Update:

Chris Russo who had been splitting time with the Drinking Water Section is now working full time on the Regional Office permits. Another person will pick up the work for the Drinking Water Section.

Chris said that the annual reports from the vendors of I/A systems that are due in April are being submitted. 70% were submitted on time and she is working on getting the remainder of the reports.

The annual inspection reports for the individual systems are coming in better than in the past. These do create extra work for the Regional Office Staff. Chris said that the new computer tracking system will help reduce the workload. The new system is progressing well and she hopes there will be a prototype for testing within 6-8 months.

Craig asked if the two delegate towns will be included in the system. Denise said that Colchester is working on a new system and the information will be available online. Spencer said that Charlotte is working on updating their system. They are working with the Tax Department to establish SPAN numbers for all parcels. Once there is a SPAN number for all parcels it will be easier to identify the current owners of parcels that have been sold.

Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules:

Ernie said that he plans to have a completed draft of the whole rule to Chris Thompson on June 6th. He asked to push the June TAC meeting back to June 24th so the group would be able to review a complete version that has initial Department approval which was agreed to.

Ernie led the group in a continuation of last month's discussion of subchapter 9. Most of the discussion related to clarification of the rules. There was discussion about allowing the use of drip dispersal piping in at-grade systems, pre-approval of groundwater monitoring plans and the collection of the data, when a hydrogeologic evaluation is required based on design flow and/or site, limitations, and use of groundwater monitoring versus soil identification.

Ernie will circulate a clean draft of the rules that does not show the track changes information in addition to a version with the track changes.

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