

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
September 23, 2014

Attendees: Roger Thompson
Peter Boemig
Darlene Autery
Jessanne Wyman
Claude Chevalier
Ernie Christianson

Ken White
Kim Greenwood
Justin Willis
Chris Russo
Mary Clark

Scheduled meetings:

October 14, 2014 1-4 PM Winooski Con. Rm., National Life – Montpelier

Agenda:

No comments.

Minutes:

A note will be added to the draft minutes that the 4.5 GPD/linear foot loading rate noted in the exception in 1-903(d)(1)(C) should be reviewed to determine if another number is more appropriate. Roger asked if the list of subcommittees that is routinely included in the minutes should be retained. The group decided that the inactive subcommittees for UIC and High Strength Wastewater issues should be dropped.

Compliance and Outreach:

Chris Russo gave an update of her work. Chris has mailed information related to operation and maintenance inspections for Innovative/Alternative Systems. DEC now allows vendor approved service providers to submit the operation and maintenance reports that are required at least once per year for permits issued starting January 1, 2014. This will increase the number of people who can provide the required inspection reports and may reduce the cost associated with the inspections.

Chris said that DEC was pushing its new SepticSmart program that educates owners of septic systems on how to maintain and protect their systems. Chris provided copies of the handout to the TAC.

The new permit application tracking system is moving slowly. The current target date is the Spring of 2015.

Innovative/Alternative Systems:

Mary told the TAC that company representatives would attend the next meeting to present the Anua peat filter treatment system.

The Bear effluent filter for installation in septic tanks has been reviewed and authorized for use in Vermont.

The renewal for use of Infiltrator Leaching Chambers has been issued with some updates. Peter asked if the documents could also state the loading rate in gallons per square foot of bottom area that has been approved, in addition to stating the number of chambers that are required based on the site specific soil conditions.

The Norweco Hydrokinetic system remains under review. The company is developing this system specifically to reduce nitrogen concentrations as nitrogen remains a major concern in many states. Kim said that the EPA is looking at this issue and may push all states to regulate nitrogen levels as a protection for surface water. Roger asked if the ability of the system to treat for nitrogen will be part of the Vermont review. Mary said that under the current rules only BOD and TSS are considered. Norweco currently has only one system actually installed and would not qualify for general use approval. There is discussion between DEC and Norweco about how much effluent quality monitoring would be required for a pilot use approval in Vermont. The company is suggesting 50 installations with 10%-20% being monitored. Peter said that seems pretty low for a new system. The company is also asking for a 90-180 day startup period before checking for compliance. Roger asked if this is appropriate if the systems can be approved for seasonal use which in Vermont might not be much longer than 90 days. Mary asked for thoughts on testing requirements and the TAC suggested starting with a rigorous process but with a built in approach allowing for periodic reductions in the amount of monitoring if the initial results were consistent and in compliance with the standards.

Review of the Draft Rules:

Ernie briefly discussed the progress on the water supply section. The public water system Division has recently reviewed and commented and Ernie has updated the draft. A follow-up meeting is scheduled and Ernie expects only minor changes to be proposed.

Ernie discussed bottomless sand filters and suggested adding this design approach to the rules. One point of discussion was the amount of sand required below the point of wastewater application. Ernie proposed the same approach as for mound type systems with 3' of sand with septic tank effluent and 2' of sand if the effluent had been pretreated to filtrate standards. The TAC asked about materials and expressed concerns that even pressure treated wood breaks down over a period of years based on reports of systems in Rhode Island. Ernie will follow-up on this.

Appendix A was briefly reviewed. Ken offered comments on 4 sections related to well construction which will be incorporated into the draft.

Ernie said that he would have an updated draft out to the TAC for review prior to the next meeting.

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

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