

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

**To promote and guide the implementation of a coordinated, comprehensive and effective ground water protection and management program for the state of Ohio**

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Ohio Department of  
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1980 West Broad Street  
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August 19, 2010  
Horace Collins Classroom  
ODNR Alum Creek Facility – Delaware, OH

*The August 2010 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements and discussion of action items for the Ohio Water Resources Council's next four-year plan.*

## **ATTENDANCE**

Ohio EPA: Michael Eggert, Scott Heidenreich, Barb Lubberger,  
Aaron Shear  
ODNR: Rick Pavey,  
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt  
ODOT: Kevin Hodnett, Nick Smith  
PUCO: Sue Daly  
USGS: Ralph Haefner

## **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***SCCGW Chair:***

**Geothermal Workgroup.** The workgroup will meet tomorrow to finish discussion of topics for guidance on siting and installing geothermal heating/cooling systems to avoid ground water impacts. The goal is to have a draft document available for review by October, 2010.

### ***OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:***

**Salt Piles.** In the last year, the Agency has initiated four investigations into apparent ground water impacts from salt storage facilities, at Chardon Township, Geauga County, Clark County-north of Springfield, the city of Athens and the village of Camden. At Camden, the levels of chloride and total dissolved solids have made the water provided by the village's public water system unpalatable. The village is providing bottled water and discussing alternative water sources. DDAGW is interested in working with SCCGW members to determine the best method for inventorying salt storage facilities throughout Ohio.

**Unsafe Water Investigation in Devola.** The Agency just completed the field portion of an investigation of nitrates in ground water in Devola (Washington County), which involved installing 18-20 geoprobe borings. The samples will be analyzed for isotopes of nitrogen and oxygen and other compounds, to try to determine the main source of nitrate contamination. A draft report should be available by October, 2010.

GWPC Annual Forum. The Ground Water Protection Council's annual forum will be held September 26<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh.

***Ohio EPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management***

C&DD Leachate Report. A draft report titled *An Evaluation of Leachate from Ohio's Construction and Demolition Debris Landfills* is available on the division's web page at [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsiwm/pages/news\\_pages/n\\_cddrules.aspx](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsiwm/pages/news_pages/n_cddrules.aspx).

Groundwater Quality at C&DD Facilities. A report titled *Hydrogeologic Evaluation of 98 C&DD Facilities in Ohio* was completed in 2008 by DDAGW for DSIWM, and was revised June 2, 2010. Out of the 98 C&DD facilities examined in this report, 46 sites had substantially complete data sets which allowed DDAGW to assess potential impacts of these facilities on ground water quality. Datasets for 29 of these 46 sites (63%) indicated a potential release to ground water. Based on this, the division will recommend requiring engineered controls for C&DD landfills.

Unifying Rules on Ground Water. A concept paper about unifying the rules concerning ground water issues for all types of solid waste landfills should be published in the next couple weeks.

Landfill Subsurface Reaction Workgroup. The workgroup has held three meetings on landfill fires and is developing a guidance document on how to prevent and control them. In addition to agency staff, the workgroup includes representatives of landfill companies, SWACO and consultants.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey***

Deep Injection Well. A 14,000-foot disposal well is being installed in Ohio, across the river from Wheeling, West Virginia, to inject oil and gas drilling wastes into the Mt. Simon sandstone. Most of the wastes are related to development of the Marcellus Shale formation. However, the Utica formation is believed to possess more economic potential for Ohio. Currently, 68 wells have been permitted and 35 of them are developed to exploit the Utica formation.

***Ohio Department of Health***

Sewage Rule Advisory Committee. The committee will soon start developing rules mandated by Sub. Senate Bill 110 and ORC Chapter 3718. ODH will be establishing a rule advisory committee that will meet monthly. Meetings will be available via web using Live Meeting and a Sharepoint website will be established to facilitate the rule development process. Sub. S.B. 110 also requires each county to establish an appeals boards as an alternative process to the court system for sewage system owners.

Ohio EPA and ODH requested system sampling results from local health districts for 3,000 private homeowners that have obtained coverage under the Household General NPDES permit, asking them to report the annual sampling results for their discharging sewage treatment systems, but has received only 400 results from local health districts. This low reporting is a concern to both agencies as this data will be used to assess the field performance of various systems. ODH and Ohio EPA will be discussing other options for compliance monitoring.

Alleged Requirement for Professional Surveyors. Representatives of the Board of Professional Surveyors and Engineers recently stated that, according to the definition of "surveying" in the Ohio Revised Code, a professional engineer must sign off on site evaluations and design plans for installations of sewage systems for most residential buildings and the health departments should not accept plans without a professional engineer's sign-off. The ORC definition is in fact so broad it covers almost any type of measurements of the ground surface, and it could affect

registered sanitarians and all staff who measure water levels or conduct ground water investigations. State Representative Ron Amstutz has met with the Board and ODH and has indicated he may draft legislation to clarify the situation if it cannot be resolved between the two agencies.

Private Water System Rule Revisions - Bacteria Monitoring Rules Aligned. The private water system rules have been revised to match the federal Total Coliform Rule and the Ground Water Rule. The MMO mug test and enumeration methods will be used to analyze for *E. coli*, enterococci and coliphage, and private wells must be developed until water samples have no more than four total coliform colonies. These new rules have been posted for public comment <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/rules/drafts/drafts.aspx> and will go to the public health council on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### ***Public Utilities Commission of Ohio***

Water Crisis in South Australia. South Australia has not had any significant rain in ten years, and has reached a point of water crisis. Acidic soil is being neutralized where surface water has receded. Dryness of aquifers has resulted in land subsidence. South Australia is currently building seawater desalinization plants, purchasing back water rights and promoting water conservation efforts.

### ***United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center***

Monitoring Well Network. Staff are preparing to replace the data loggers on the 140-well monitoring network. The original data loggers are outdated and are no longer stocked. Potential options for the new data loggers include geophysical logging and ground water quality monitoring.

New Water Alert System. A new customizable water alert is now available from USGS. A warning message is sent to the user's cell phone when a specified stream gauge reaches a specified stage. For example, EMS managers can be alerted to floods, and public water system operators using surface water can be alerted to low stream levels. Boaters and fishermen are also using this function. For more information, go to <http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert>.

Midwest Ground Water Conference. The conference will be held in Columbus on October 4-7, 2010. A field trip to the Columbus and Dayton public water systems will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **DISCUSSION**

### ***OWRC Action Items***

Copies were distributed of the Ohio Water Resources Committee's draft strategic plan (2010-2014). SCCGW members briefly reviewed the action items proposed for

- Education and Outreach
- Watershed Management
- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Data and Information
- Water Resource Infrastructure
- Water-Related Natural Hazards

Data and Information. Members agreed that SCCGW would commit to evaluating the current status of the ground water meta-database, which was completed in 2004 by an inter-agency

workgroup and is currently housed at ODNR. In addition, SCCGW will identify programming changes needed to streamline it and make more user-friendly, update the content information, take steps to ensure its long-term viability, and promote it as an on-line resource for anyone seeking Ohio ground water information. Rebecca will contact Sarah Lynaugh (ODNR) to obtain access to the ground water meta-database, and forward to Ralph Haefner to prepare for discussion at the next SCCGW meeting.

Water Resource Infrastructure. Members suggested adding an action item to work with Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) to develop longer-term sustainable funding for home sewage treatment systems. One member suggested reviewing a federal survey on a national infrastructure bank, at the following website:

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-728>

Education and Outreach. It was noted that Joe Bonnell (The Ohio State University) is now chairing the Education and Outreach workgroup, replacing Tom Allen who retired from Ohio EPA at the end of July 2010.

Additional comments on the OWRC action items should be e-mailed to Barb Lubberger by Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, when they will be forwarded to Gail Hesse (OWRC Coordinator).

#### ***Future Presentations***

SCCGW will arrange future presentations on:

- The geothermal workgroup results
- Oil and gas production from the Utica Formation
- Ground water permitting in accordance with the Great Lakes Compact

#### ***New Workgroup***

Members agreed to discuss establishing a workgroup to evaluate potential recommendations/guidance about common potential sources of ground water contamination that are currently unregulated, such as large salt piles and grain elevators.

#### ***New Location***

Members agreed to switch the SCCGW meeting location from the Horace Collins classroom in Delaware to ODNR's Fountain Square campus, which is much closer to everyone's workplace.

### **NEXT SCCGW MEETING**

... will be held October 21st at **ODNR, Conference Room C-4**, 8:30-11:30 am. The agenda will include agency updates, a presentation on the geothermal workgroup's guidance and discussion of the ground water meta-database.

#### **REMINDER:**

Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW Web site:

<http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/>