

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

Ohio Environmental
Protection Agency
Lazarus Government Center
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

Ohio Department of Natural
Resources
Fountain Square
Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

Ohio Department of
Commerce-SFM
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Ohio Public Utilities
Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of
Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-
3399

Ohio Department of
Development
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

Ohio Department of
Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

June 16, 2011
USGS Ohio Water Center
6480 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus

The June 16, 2011 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Rod Sheets (USGS) about heat transfer modeling and geothermal heating/cooling systems

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke, Aaron Shear
ODNR: Mike Angle, Rick Pavey, Jim Raab, Tom Tomastik
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
ODOT: Hans Gucker, Kevin Hodnett
PUCO: Sue Daly
USGS: Ralph Haefner
NRCS: John Armentano
Visiting: Mark Wolfe, ODNR

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management

Disposal of Out-of-State Drilling Wastes. Effective May 19, Pennsylvania outlawed the disposal of oil and gas wastes in Pennsylvania's wastewater treatment plants. Waste transporters must be registered, bonded and insured to bring oil and gas wastes into Ohio, so they are keeping the Division busy with registrations. Similarly, applications for installation of new Class II deep wells (for injection of oil and gas wastes) have increased.

Reorganization. After July 1st, the Division of Mineral Resources' oil and gas staff will split off to have their own Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management, with their own chief. The reorganization should be official by October 1st.

Background Sampling. The oil companies installing wells into the Marcellus and Utica formations are conducting background water sampling, to provide pre-drilling water quality data for evidence if the drilling activities are subsequently suspected of impacting ground water quality. In the process they are finding some ground water quality issues, such as high levels of *E. coli*, arsenic, etc. SCCGW members expressed interest in seeing these data. Tom Tomastik offered to approach industry officials to make this request.

Fact Sheet. An Ohio EPA fact sheet was distributed, titled "Recommendations for Water Well Drilling Before Oil and Gas Drilling" and dated June 2011.

This was designed for homeowners who wish to conduct their own ground water sampling for evidence if oil and gas activities nearby are later suspected of causing ground water quality impacts.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:

Marcellus/Utica Shale. Giving presentations and answering questions about the Marcellus and Utica oil and gas drilling has taken staff away from other project work.

Geothermal Grant. The division has received a grant through the Arizona Geological Survey to study the prospects for deep geothermal energy in Ohio. (Currently the deepest well in Ohio is the injection well at Belmont County, completed to a depth of over 13,000 feet. At the bottom of this well, the temperature is 160 degrees Fahrenheit.)

Geothermal Heating/Cooling. There is also interest in using abandoned underground mines for geothermal heating and cooling.

Delaware Karst Map. Mapping of the karst in Delaware County is nearly complete. The results should be released in the fall.

Ohio EPA, Division of Materials and Waste Management:

C&DD Landfill Regulations. The comment period has ended for new regulations on Construction Demolition and Debris landfills. The division is addressing comments, and will soon be prioritizing sites for ground water monitoring.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

GLRI - EQIP Funds. NRCS has \$2.2 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative EQIP funds, which it must obligate by December 2011. The sign-up period for these funds ends on July 1st, 2011.

OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

ODNR Observation Wells. The division is buying submersible pumps for water quality monitoring in three of the ODNR observation wells that are being upgraded. These wells will provide monthly data to supplement the division's biannual ambient sampling data from public water system wells.

Source Water Protection Survey. On April 20, the division sent letters to almost 750 community public water suppliers, requesting that they complete an online survey on the types of source water protection measures they are currently implementing. To date, 390 systems (52%) have responded.

Road Salt Investigation. An agency workgroup recently completed an investigation of salt facilities in source water protection areas. Staff visited 81 sites around the state and recorded whether the salt was covered, stored on concrete, etc. It appeared that most of the sites were adequately managed.

Convey-It Salt Facility. Modeling of chloride levels has been conducted around this former salt storage facility near Springfield, Ohio. Ohio EPA has reviewed the report and will be requesting additional data.

United States Geological Survey - Ohio Water Center

Budget. The Survey took a 2-3% cut in its 2011 budget.

Arsenic in Private Wells. The Ohio Water Center recently submitted a proposal to the Ohio Water Development Agency for funding a project designed to educate homeowners in testing their domestic water wells for arsenic.

Ground Water Metadata Database. There have been no queries to, or apparent interest in, this online site, which was designed to direct users to the various ground water-related databases in the state. Various Web search engines may supercede the need for this site, which was created almost a decade ago.

WMAO Presentations. Presentations will soon be solicited for the Water Management Association of Ohio's fall conference.

"Ground Water Floods". Ralph is scheduled to give a talk on "Ground Water Floods" at an upcoming Floodplain Management conference.

Ohio Department of Health

Sewage Treatment Rules. The Rule Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly and discussing topics according to schedule. The next meeting will be discussing vertical separation distances and soil loading rates. All meeting information and comments are posted on the Sharepoint site for review. ODH anticipates that rules will be ready for public comment by late spring, 2012 with possible adoption by late summer/early fall 2012.

Private Water Wells. Revisions to the private water systems rules became effective on April 1. ODH held a series of regional training meetings for contractors and local health districts. ODH has been busy working with contractors and local health districts on answering questions and working through issues related to the new rules.

Data Integration. A business analyst recently was contracted to help ODH, Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH) review their databases, consider data needs in the Bureau and from the local health districts, evaluate tracking of data, permits/licenses and funds and then provide recommendations on a web-based computer application. ODH has committed to support the funding of a new integrated database for BEH.

Arsenic. ODH has been working with the USGS on the development of a proposal to evaluate the current level of knowledge of arsenic in private wells, and to implement several 'test-your-well' events in Licking County to increase information on arsenic occurrence, and update current health recommendations and treatment options. The proposal has been submitted to OWDA for funding. ODH also received a recent report from the Miami Conservancy District regarding the findings of their private well testing for arsenic. MCD data shows that of the private wells sampled for arsenic, 20 percent contained arsenic levels exceeding the MCL (10 ug/l).

PRESENTATION

by Rod Sheets (USGS) about heat transfer modeling and geothermal heating/cooling systems.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

... is scheduled for August 23rd at the Horace R. Collins Classroom at Alum Creek. The agenda will consist of regular updates and discussion of a proposed Salt Storage Guidelines workgroup. The meeting will be followed by a potluck lunch at Tom Allen's home nearby.

REMINDER:

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

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