

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

Oct. 20, 2011

**ODNR Fountain Square Campus
Building C, Conference Rm. C-4**

The October 20, 2011 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and discussion of a charter for the proposed Salt Workgroup.

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke, Aaron Shear
ODNR: Mike Angle, Leonard Black, Greg Nageotte
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
ODOT: Kevin Hodnett
PUCO: Sue Daly
USGS: Ralph Haefner
NRCS: John Armentano

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources

Well Sealing Reports. The division is developing a process for filing well sealing reports online, similar to the process for filing well logs. It is expected to go online in January 2012. *[A copy of the draft report form was distributed for comment]*

Dewatering Investigation. The division is preparing a report on a dewatering investigation near the Village of Elmore (Ottawa County).

Ohio Water Well Association Convention. The 2011 OWWA Annual Convention will be held November 11 at the Aladdin Shrine Center on Steltzer Road in Columbus, Ohio.

Ohio EPA, Division of Materials and Waste Management

C&DD Rules. DMWM is in the process of developing rule revisions and new rules in Chapter 3745-400 of the Ohio Administrative Code regarding the regulation of construction and demolition debris facilities (C&DD). Comments from the interested party review of these rules need to be submitted to the Division by October 25, 2011. Please see the DMWM web page to obtain a copy of the draft rules and to gather further information pertaining to this interested party review and comment period.

Ohio Department of Transportation

Nelsonville Bypass. The Nelsonville bypass is under construction, with a tentative completion date of 2014. ODOT is authorized to construct up to 8,000 wells to inject a flyash/concrete mixture into underground mining voids where they are crossed by the new road.

Land Subsidence. ODOT is also conducting a pilot on reinforcing portions of the subsurface along Route 2 in northern Ohio, where the dissolution of gypsum beds has caused subsidence.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Merger. Aqua-Ohio is in the process of acquiring Ohio-American Water.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Signup Period. November 1 to December 15 is the next sign-up period for:

WHIP = Wildlife Habitat incentives program

WRP = Wetlands reserve Program

EQIP = Environmental Quality Incentives Program

CSP = Conservation Stewardship Program

New National Initiative. A national initiative provides funding for the following four practices:

- 1) Certified Organic and Organic Transition
- 2) Seasonal high Tunnels
- 3) On-Farm Energy
- 4) National Air Quality

There will be three funding cycles and the application deadline for each cycle is: Feb 13, 2012, March 30, 2012, and June 1, 2012.

Facility Shutdown. The NRCS research facility in Coshocton will be shut down.

United States Geological Survey

Virginia Earthquake. USGS has posted information about the August 23rd earthquake on its website. The article is titled "Groundwater-Level Response to Virginia Earthquake, August 23, 2011" and is available at <http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/eq/VAquake2011.html>

ODNR Observation Well Network. Currently 46 of about 120 wells have been upgraded with improved shelters and new data loggers. Equipment for obtaining water quality samples (in cooperation with the Ohio EPA) is now available for three of the wells, but it has not yet been installed.

New Publication. USGS recently published "Subsurface transport of orthophosphate in five agricultural watersheds, USA," Joseph L. Domagalski, Henry M. Johnson, Journal of Hydrology 409 (2011) 157-171. It is available online at www.elsevier.com/locate/jhydrol

Arsenic Project. The proposal "Arsenic in Groundwater of Licking County, Ohio: Identifying vulnerable parts of aquifers and increasing public awareness", has been submitted to the Ohio Water Development Authority for funding; however, final approval has not yet been received.

OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

New Salt Contamination Sites. Staff visits to 64 salt storage sites located in source water protection areas during May 2011 identified ten sites that appeared to warrant some

investigation and outreach. Since then, significant salt contamination of ground water has been discovered at or near three of these sites (in Franklin, Ross and Warren Counties). The division is requesting that these facilities (1) conduct additional investigation to determine the extent of contamination; (2) make plans to remediate contamination; and (3) make facility improvements that will minimize and contain runoff.

Clean Water Act Integrated Water Quality Report. The division is preparing the ground water quality section of Ohio's 2012 Integrated Water Quality Report, a report issued every two years summarizing the quality of Ohio's water resources based on the latest water quality sampling data. The report is expected to go out for public comment in December 2011.

Water Quality Fact Sheets. DDAGW has completed draft documents on "Fluoride in Ohio's Ground Water". One version is technical and is intended for water quality specialists. The second version is a Fact Sheet for the general public. The division plans to complete a series of these documents on various ground water quality parameters, with chloride, radium and strontium next on the list. [SCCGW members were asked to provide comments on the MSWord version that will be e-mailed to them after the meeting]

Pesticide Sampling. Ohio EPA was approached by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct sampling for a suite of pesticides and their breakdown products. USDA will provide the sampling bottles and pay for the analysis; OEPA staff will conduct this sampling as part of their autumn 2011 ambient ground water quality sampling round.

SWAP Update. The 2011 newsletter for the Source Water Protection Program is now on the SWAP website at www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/swap.aspx.

Barberton SWAP Protection Plan. The City of Barberton has funded the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) to complete a watershed action plan for the Wolf Creek subwatershed that will also function as the city's source water protection plan. (The city's public water system is based primarily on surface water, pumped from Wolf Creek.) The plan is to be complete by June 2012.

National Ground Water Monitoring Network. The Subcommittee on Ground Water of The Advisory Committee on Water Information released a draft report titled *National Ground-Water Monitoring Network- Results of Pilot Studies*.

Ohio Water Table. The Fall 2011 issue of the Ohio Water Table (a quarterly put out by the Water Management Association of Ohio) is available on WMAO's web page at <http://www.wmao.org/pdf/Ohio%20Water%20Table%20Fall%202011.pdf>

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Geological Survey

Geothermal Resources Assessment. The division has a grant to assess Ohio's resources for geothermal energy. Deep-earth geothermal energy (based on the high temperatures at depth) is more practical in the western states, but there is significant potential for shallow ground source heating/cooling systems. One interesting idea is to install heating/cooling systems in flooded abandoned mines, where ground water provides a steady year-round temperature that can be used for heating in the winter and cooling in the summer.

Clark County Karst Project. The division has initiated a project to study the karst in Clark County, similar to the project just completed for Delaware County.

Salt Mining Leases. ODNR is working with the salt industry in Ohio (principally Morton and Cargill) to re-do their leases for salt mines beneath Lake Erie.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources

ERIN Web site. ODNR's Earth Resources Information Network (ERIN) is up and running on the website at <http://ohiodnr.com/tabid/23134/Default.aspx>, with a data refresh scheduled for November. The website includes video tutorials on how to use ERIN.

WMAO Conference. The 40th annual WMAO fall conference will be held November 16 and 17 at the Quest Conference Center, 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus (near Polaris). The conference theme is "The Water Nexus", featuring talks on the relationship between water and energy.

Watershed Coordinator RFP. The 2011 Request for Proposal for watershed coordinators has been issued; responses are due November 4th. Grants will be issued in January 2012.

Ohio Department of Health

Sewage Rules. The Sewage Rules Advisory Committee plans to meet for discussing draft rule concepts through February 2012. ODH expects to prepare an initial set of draft rules for household sewage treatment systems for review and comment in March or April 2012. A second draft will be developed based on initial comments and released for the formal 60 day review process required in law. ODH expects to provide a set of proposed rules for adoption to the Public Health Council by fall of 2012 with an expected effective date in early 2013.

House Bill 32. Last session the General Assembly passed House Bill 32 to exempt certain plans and measurements relating to household or small flow on-site sewage treatment systems from the Professional Engineers and Surveyors Law. The bill has been introduced in the Senate, which has held sponsor and proponent testimony.

Household Septic System Upgrades. ODH has partnered with Ohio EPA, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA), to develop a funding program for financial assistance to repair or replace failing home sewage systems for low income homeowners. This funding program is based on the successful American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding project implemented in 2009-2010. In 2011, with \$6 million provided by DEFA, financial assistance was provided to homeowners to help fund the repair or replacement of 500-600 failing household septic systems. The same funding level has been offered to counties and cities for calendar year 2012. The application period closed last month and the final awarded list to counties and cities should be available in December 2011 or January 2012.

Well Driller Registration. The annual registration forms for water supply contractors will be mailed out next week and should also be posted on the ODH website at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odh/Programs/eh/water/PWSreg.aspx>.

Emergency Response Drill. The Bureau of Environmental Health participated in a meeting with the Bureau of Radiation Protection and other state agencies to prepare for an emergency response exercise in the event of a release from a nuclear power plant. The Bureau will be developing procedures for sampling private wells in the ingestion zone recovery and re-entry area and will be coordinating with Ohio EPA staff involved in testing procedures for monitoring radiation levels in drinking water supplies and providing advice to the affected communities.

GEOTHERMAL WORKGROUP UPDATE

Distribution. The document titled *Recommendations for Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems* has been distributed to local health districts and Ohio Water Resources Council members. Comments are due by November 1st; so far none have been received.

Webinar. Ohio EPA is preparing a webinar in November on the geothermal technical recommendations for DDAGW staff; the webinar materials will be shared with other SCCGW members.

Finalization. Once comments have been received, the Workgroup will be reconvened to address any received comments and the document will be finalized and made available on the SCCGW web site.

SALT PILE STORAGE WORKGROUP

A draft charter was distributed for comment, with comments due to Barb Lubberger by Monday, October 24th. The charter will be revised as needed and made available for discussion by the Ohio Water Resources Council's advisory group on Wednesday, October 26th.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

... will be the annual Holiday Meeting on Thursday, December 15th, and will be held at the Dutch Kitchen in Plain City, 8:30 -11:30 am, with buffet lunch available afterwards at member's own expense. .

REMINDER:

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

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