

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
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Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health
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8895 East Main Street
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Ohio Public Utilities
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Ohio Department of
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Ohio Department of
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77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

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

August 16, 2012
Horace Collins Classroom
ODNR Geologic Repository, Alum Creek

The August 16, 2012 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation on "Hydrogeologic Sensitivity Assessments for the Ground Water Rule", by Chris Kenah (OEPA)

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke, Aaron Shear
ODNR: Mike Angle, Frank Fugitt, Jim Raab, Tom Tomastik
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
PUCO: Sue Daly
ODOT: Hans Gucker
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Ralph Haefner

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio EPA, Division of Materials and Waste Management
C&DD Ground Water Monitoring. With assistance and technical support from DDAGW, DMWM continues further development of the C&DD Ground Water Monitoring Program. Preliminary hydrogeologic investigations are being conducted at actively licensed C&DD facilities.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
WMAO Conference. The Water Management Association of Ohio's fall conference has as its theme "One Hundred Years of Watershed Events", benchmarking from the disastrous 1913 flood that gave rise to Ohio's conservancy districts. Trudy E. Bell, a historian, is the keynote speaker and Dr. Lonnie Thompson will close the conference with a talk on global climate change. The conference will be held November 14-15 at the Quest Conference Center.

OWRC Steering Committee. The Ohio Water Resources Council has created a water quality monitoring steering committee, whose task is to improve water quality data availability and accessibility, and avoid duplication of effort by the various agencies that collect water quality data. The committee will be chaired by Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water.

Ambient Ground Water Monitoring Program. Three rounds of ground water quality sampling have been completed for the three ODNR ground water observation wells that were equipped with pressure transducers and

dedicated pumps Monthly sampling is being done to study the effect on water quality of seasonal variability in water levels.

Ground Water Quality Technical Papers/Fact Sheets. DDAGW is creating Technical Papers/Fact Sheets on ground water quality parameters of interest for drinking water. The write-up for fluoride is complete and documents are in process for radionuclides, oxidation-reduction, iron and manganese, and arsenic. Technical Papers/Fact Sheets also are planned for strontium, chloride and nitrate.

Water for Oil/Gas Drilling. DDAGW is developing a Fact Sheet for public water system operators discussing capacity issues, engineering considerations, emergency preparedness for systems that are being approached by oil/gas companies to provide raw or treated water for hydraulic fracturing.

Drought Impacts on GW Levels. Statewide, ground water levels are 0.5 to 2.0 feet below normal. Climatologists are noting that if El Nino develops over the following months, next year could be another dry year.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey:

Transition. On August 3rd Larry Wickstrom retired and Mac Swinford will retire on August 30th. The division recently welcomed Frank Fugitt, who transferred from the Division of Soil and Water Resources. Frank will focus on getting the shallow seismic unit up and running again, and making repairs and renovations on ODNR's Lake Erie monitoring boats.

Seismic Workshop. The Survey hosted its annual Ohio Seis network workshop yesterday. Information was presented on last year's seismic events at Youngstown and recent seismic events around Marietta.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas:

New Oil/Gas Wells. Currently 330 wells have been permitted for the Utica Shale, of which more than 80 have been drilled, and 17 are already in production. In addition to Chesapeake, other large oil and gas companies are starting to purchase leases.

SB 315. Senate Bill 315, which provides tightened standards for oil/gas well operations, is to take effect September 10th.

Public Information. BP has developed an informational brochure about oil and gas well drilling and operations that reportedly has been very well received by the general public for its clarity and detail. The brochures are state-specific, and BP reportedly has hired two consultants to put one together for Ohio.

Class II Well Permits. Currently four permits are ready to be issued for Class II injection wells (which inject brines from oil/gas well drilling into the deep subsurface). Another 25 permits are ready for public hearing.

Treatment Options. The division is receiving proposals for new technology for recycling and treating oil/gas drilling wastes on almost a weekly basis. The Ohio Water Resources Council has contracted Battelle to evaluate a number of proposals for brine treatment technology.

Stray Gas Forum. Staff from a number of SCCGW agencies attended the Stray Gas Forum that was presented by the Ground Water Protection Council in Cleveland during July. It was noted that in Ohio, methane is found in about 25% of the water supply wells sampled before recent oil and gas exploration, but isotopic sampling suggests that much of this methane is biogenic in origin.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources
Staff Changes. Deputy Chief John Kessler has moved over to the Division of Real Estate and Land Management, and Mike Bailey has taken his place.

Well Sealing Reports. In July the web application was activated for online filing of well sealing reports.

Ground Water Complaints. The division is investigating two ground water dewatering complaints, one at a golf course near Lima and another related to industrial dewatering south of Canton.

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center

Test Your Well Event. The August 14th Test Your Well event, held in Johnstown, was the last of the three events to instruct Licking County homeowners on testing their private wells for arsenic. Of the wells tested to date, arsenic levels have exceeded the MCL in only two wells.

Muskingum Watershed Issues. The Muskingum Watershed Conservation District has been approached by oil and gas companies to lease land and provide water for hydraulic fracturing, focusing on using reservoir water that is released to lower water levels behind dams. The USGS will be evaluating the amount of water that could be available.

National Ground Water Meeting. The USGS national ground water meeting was recently held in Denver. Topics included improvements to Modflow (it now features an unstructured grid like those used for analytic element modeling) and using isotopic analysis to identify the sources of dissolved gas.

Ohio Department of Transportation

Statewide Master Facility Plan. ODOT is developing a Statewide Master Facility Plan; one of its goals is to promote cooperation among ODOT Districts, and eliminate redundant equipment and facilities, where sharing across district boundaries would be feasible and efficient.

Excess Road Salt. Due to the mild winter, many salt storage facilities ended up with more salt than they could store under cover. ODOT did a great job of trading with facilities that had excess storage capacity, and managed to avoid storing any salt outside a building.

Underground Storage Tanks. The Hazardous Waste unit is finishing up its project to close underground storage tanks at ODOT facilities and replace them with aboveground storage tanks.

Recycling Brine. The University of Akron is conducting a study to determine under what circumstances wash water (from washing down salt spreaders) could be re-used as brine for road de-icing.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Finalizing payouts. With Federal Fiscal Year 2012 concluding at the end of September, NRCS is busy finalizing contracts with producers. Of \$18.6 million for EQIP projects, 90 percent is already obligated. The Grand Lake St. Marys watershed received a substantial portion, including \$700,000 of EQIP funds primarily targeted at livestock practices. Another large portion went to Great Lakes restoration, with \$1.8 million for phosphorus reduction practices.

Drought. Due to the drought, producers are being permitted to temporarily use land set aside under the Conservation Reserve Program for cutting hay or grazing animals. This is true for all counties of Ohio, though the drought is most severe in northwest Ohio.

Conservation Innovation Grants. Ohio plans to release the projects approved for funding in 2012 after the national awards are announced.

Ohio Department of Health:

Stray Gas Training. ODH will be scheduling stray gas training for local health district staff once the Stray Gas Fact Sheet is complete.

Information Updates. ODH is updating Fact Sheets and reorganizing the web site.

Investigations. ODH has been assisting OEPA's Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization (DERR) with investigation of solvent contamination in ground water at three sites around Ohio, including a pipeline release in Hancock County. ODH's role is to collect and analyze samples from private wells in the vicinity of the sites.

Sewage Rules. The finalization process is on track and it is expected that the rules will go into effect around March 1st of 2013.

National 'Protect Your Ground Water' Day. September 11th has been designated the national 'protection your ground water' day. The National Ground Water Association wants to work with Ohio's environmental agencies to promote this event.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

Geothermal Workgroup. The Recommendations document is not yet finalized. Two issues that still need to be addressed are which agency should be in charge of the recommended training and how the training program will be funded.

Salt Workgroup. Due to recommendations that needed to be coordinated internally by the Ohio EPA, finalizing the draft guidance document was delayed; however, a final draft incorporating the edits will be provided to the workgroup for their concurrence before forwarding to the Ohio Water Resources Council. For all salt storage facilities, 300-foot setbacks are recommended from all wells, streams and wetlands. For facilities where salt is stored and handled within a structure, there are no additional siting restrictions. However, if salt will be handled outside, the facility should avoid siting within the inner management zone of a source water protection area. If small salt piles (less than 3,000 tons) will be stored outside, the facility should avoid siting within any portion of a source water protection area. Finally, for large outdoor salt piles, the facility should try to avoid siting within sensitive geologic settings, defined to be areas with a DRASTIC rating of 160 or above or areas underlain by shallow or exposed bedrock.

PRESENTATION

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

... will be held October 18th at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Assembly Center East.

REMINDER:

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

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