

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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Lazarus Government Center
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

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Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health
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Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

Ohio Department of
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8895 East Main Street
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Ohio Public Utilities
Commission
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Ohio Department of
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77 South High Street
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Ohio Department of
Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

June 20, 2013
ODNR Fountain Square, Bldg. E
Assembly Room East

The June 20, 2013 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation on the impact of high-yielding wells on water levels in Ottawa County karst by Curtis Coe, ODNR-Division of Soil and Water Resources.

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke,
ODNR: Frank Fugitt, Jim Raab, Tom Tomastik
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
PUCO: Sue Daly
USGS: Ralph Haefner
OSU Ext.: Cindy Folck

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Health:

Home Sewage Treatment Rules. ODH recently completed a response summary to 2,100 comments received on these rules. To address complaints regarding the length and technicality of the rules, they will be reformatted so that the rules are stated briefly and the technical details are provided in appendices.

Tangent Company. The Tangent Company has begun testing its technology for converting wastewater to potable use. Water sampling will be conducted through September or October.

Retention Pond Complaint. Some Portage County residents are complaining of turbidity and *E. coli* in their domestic wells and believe the source is a large storm water retention pond nearby, which may have been excavated down to the bedrock aquifer. In July ODH will sample private wells in the vicinity.

Well Interpretation Tool. ODH is working with OSU Extension, Ohio EPA and others to develop a web-based well interpretation tool for private well owners. The application explains how to read water quality data, the health effects of various constituents, and water treatment options. They are hoping to have the tool ready by September 2013.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

Ground Water Quality Interactive Map. The division recently updated its interactive map on the internet, which provides water quality data from the ambient well sampling network, along with statistical summaries and charts for the entire state.

Camden Ground Water Investigation. Two salt companies (Cargill and Central Salt) have agreed to fund a ground water investigation of the chloride plume in the Village of Camden, to determine its extent.

HSAs and Assessment Source Water Monitoring. The division is finalizing guidance for implementing 'hydrogeologic sensitivity assessments' (HSAs) and assessment source water monitoring for the Ground Water Rule. HSAs are conducted for wells with *E.coli* detections, to help determine the most effective remedial action.

The Ohio State University Extension, Pesticide Safety Education Program:

Staff Changes. In November 2012 Joanne Kick-Raack retired as State Director of the Pesticide Safety Education Program; Cindy Folck currently is acting director. Bruce McPheron was recently named dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Algae Blooms. In response to the governor's task force on preventing hazardous algal blooms, legislation is being drafted that will require licensing for even small-scale application of fertilizer to agriculture crops.

Sensitive Crop Registry. A registry is being developed that will enable pesticide applicators to know the location of "sensitive crops" (which include tomatoes, grapes and bees) so they can follow label directions for sensitive sites when applying pesticides in those areas.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

New Commissioner. Asim Z. Haque will serve as a commissioner at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, filling the spot vacated by Andre Porter. Haque currently serves as assistant counsel at Honda North America, Inc.

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center:

Sequester. The federal sequester that became effective in March 2013 has left the Survey with a flat budget, but the threat of furloughs has passed for this fiscal year.

Utica Shale Water Quality. The Survey is discussing the possibility of sampling 10-20 oil and gas wells completed in the Utica Shale, to analyze the water quality of its brines.

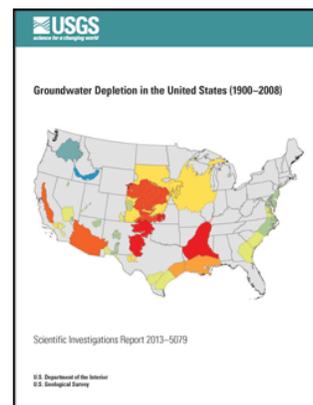
Noble County Proposal. The Survey is discussing a potential project with OSU that would involve installing and sampling monitoring wells on land in Noble County owned by OSU, then installing and operating an oil and gas well nearby. The monitoring wells would be sampled to detect any ground water quality impacts from the producing well. The advantage is having unlimited access for scientific study.

Storm Water BMPs. The Survey is studying the impacts of storm water BMPs such as rain gardens and retention ponds on ground water at a Slavic Village site near Cleveland. Twenty shallow monitoring wells will be installed to collect information on water quality impacts, potential mounding, etc.

Surface-Groundwater Interaction. The University of Cincinnati, along with the Miami Conservancy District, is interested in studying ground water/surface water interaction at a proposed observatory on the Great Miami River.

WMAO Conference. The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) will hold its annual fall conference November 13 and 14, 2013 at the Quest Conference Center. A call for papers has been issued.

Groundwater Depletion. USGS recently published a report characterizing the overall rates and magnitude of groundwater depletion in the U.S. over the last century, based on data from 40 aquifers that are experiencing rapid depletion. The report is available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2013/5079>.



“Groundwater Depletion in the United States (1900-2008)”, Leonard F. Konikow, Scientific investigations Report 2013-5079.

NGWA Groundwater Forum. The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) sponsored an Ohio Groundwater Forum on June 19, 2013. The William A. McElhiney Distinguished Lecture Series speaker was John Jansen, speaking on aquifer sustainability and the need for monitoring to enable effective planning and management.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Resources:
Statistics. Statewide there are now 358 oil/gas wells drilled into the Marcellus/Utica shale play, and 32 rigs are currently running. The division has received 20 applications for Class II well permits (injection wells for brines extracted during oil/gas production).

Staffing. The division has hired eight geologists during the last year or so.

GWPC Events. On July 9-11, 2013, in Grapevine, Texas, the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) will hold a Forum on Stray Gas Incidence and Response and on Unconventional Oil and Gas Water Management.

Portage County Investigation. The division is finalizing its investigation of alleged ground water impacts from oil and gas production activities in Portage County. This investigation used isotopic analysis to determine the source of methane.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:

Karst Project. Doug Aden completed Bellevue karst mapping field work, which included Bellvue, Castalia, and Clyde 1:24K. From fall 2013 to spring 2014, Doug will progress to Flat Rock and Fireside. He has investigated thousands of sinkholes and ground truthed many apparent karst features.

Surficial Mapping Project. Mapping is complete of surficial glacial deposits in the Adrian (Williams/Fulton Counties) areas. Currently the map is undergoing GIS editing. Work on the Bellefontaine map continues.

Coastal Erosion Project. Textural GIS continues for project areas including Ashtabula and Lake Counties. Coding is complete that will enable analysis of sand and gravel volumes eroded from bluffs and deposited in near-shore environments.

Geologic Repository. The Horace R. Collins Geologic Repository at Alum Creek is being renovated. Newly remodeled classrooms should be available in August.

Utica Consortium Grant. Spectral gamma ray logging of core and bulk density analysis continues. The division is using the LAS file format to convert scans of geophysical logs into a digital format.

Research Partnership to Secure Energy for America (RPSEA). Funds from this Department of Energy source will be used to help define target zones for brine waste disposal in eastern Ohio. The project should begin soon.

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

Timken Dewatering. Water levels around the Timken Plant near Canton have returned to normal since they halted pumping four weeks ago. To address local dewatering complaints, the company replaced 35 private wells.

Max Walton Glen. The division was contacted about ground water conditions at a site in Richland County where the owner of a small water system (42 connections) wants to retire but cannot find anyone to take over management of the water system. Ohio EPA, ODH, and PUCO have also been contacted about various aspects of this problem.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

Well Sealing Workgroup: The first workgroup meeting has been held and the next meeting is scheduled for July 2nd. For the July meeting sealing materials will be the topic of discussion. In August they will address sealing methods, in September they will work on the Appendices, and they hope to finalize the updated document in October, 2013.

Geothermal Well Workgroup: Some workgroup members will meet with the Department of Commerce on July 1st to clarify exactly where Commerce has jurisdiction over geothermal installations. Following this, a general workgroup meeting will be scheduled to discuss the findings and revise the guidance.

PRESENTATION

Curtis Coe (ODNR-DSWR) gave a presentation titled “Hydrogeological Investigation of the Carbonate Bedrock Aquifer to Evaluate the Impact of High-Yielding Wells, Ottawa County, Ohio”.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

... is scheduled for August 15th, tentatively at the Horace R. Collins Geologic Repository (which is currently being renovated). The meeting will be followed by the annual summer potluck at one of the Alum Creek outdoor picnic shelters. More details will be provided in August.

REMINDER:

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

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