

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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

## TO PROMOTE AND GUIDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE STATE OF OHIO

February 21, 2008  
Horace Collins Conference Room  
Delaware, Ohio

### ABSTRACT

The February 2008 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Chris Kenah (Ohio EPA) titled "Evaluation of Chemical and Microbial Effects of Wastewater Infiltration Lagoons on Ground Water Quality – Butler County, Ohio."

#### ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Bob Knipmeyer (Directors Office),  
Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger,  
ODH: Russell Smith  
ODA: Bill Goodman  
ODOT: Andrea Stevenson  
PUCO: Sue Daly  
NRCS: John Armentano  
USGS: Ralph Haefner

#### *Ohio Department of Health:*

New Reports. Two new documents are available:

- A four-page fact sheet titled "Contractor procedures for cleaning and disinfecting private water wells"
- A four-page executive summary of the Report to the Household Sewage and Small Flow On-Site Sewage Treatment System Study Commission

#### AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### *Ohio EPA, Director's Office:*

Battelle-Jefferson Research Facility. A public hearing was held by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission the previous evening on closure of the facility and to discuss detections of strontium-90 in ground water underlying the facility.

Joint Conference. A conference jointly sponsored by Association of Ohio Health Commissioners and Ohio EPA will be held next Wednesday at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin.

C&DD Setbacks. There appears to be a disconnect between ODH and OEPA-DSIWM rules concerning setbacks from private wells from construction and demolition debris (C&DD) landfills. ODH rules require a 1000 foot distance from any landfill for domestic water wells, while OEPA C&DD rules require a 500 foot setback for C&DD landfills from water wells. Some local health departments have been enforcing the private water rules' 1000 foot isolation based on their authority to license the landfill provided by OEPA.

Water Well Rules. ODH is working on revising a limited number of water well rules. For example, allowing collection at the pressure tank for approval of the permit and considering revising the water quality requirement for approval of a water system from total coliform presence /absence to less than four colonies of total coliform per 100 ml.

Coordination with DEFA on Failing Septic Systems. ODH is coordinating with OEPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) to collect information on failing septic systems from local health districts. ODH is required to collect this data as a result of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 and provide a report on sewage system operation and failure rates by June 1, 2008. DEFA is also required to collect information on the locations of failing household systems and the costs of system replacements, or public sewer solutions for the Clean Watershed Needs Survey required by U.S. EPA under the Clean Water Act.

DEFA has asked ODH to document bacteria loads in streams near septic systems. The information required for both reports/surveys is being combined to provide one survey tool to the local health districts. The survey will be finalized with instructions and provided to the health districts by March 1, with final data to be submitted by May 1 to ODH.

This information will be used by the state Sewage Treatment System Study Commission to help make decisions about future changes to the sewage law and rules, and will be used by the state legislature, U.S. EPA and Congress to determine funding needs and hopefully, to help develop alternative funding strategies and solutions, and/or provide funding or some type of financial assistance for system replacements or sewer line extensions.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service: Farm Bill.** The agency is working on contracts currently in place, as it cannot approve new contracts for the CRP, CSP and other programs until the new Farm Bill is passed.

**United States Geological Survey: New staff.** Dick Bartz (formerly with ODNR) is now working part-time for USGS as a program officer for the Great Lakes.

Great Lakes Compact. So far only one state legislature (Indiana's) has ratified the Great Lakes Compact. In Ohio, the Compact was passed by the House, but a revised version is being considered in the Senate.

Budget. USGS funding is flat, and because of inflation, this affects the matching funds the agency is able to offer.

Ground Water Summit. The National Ground Water Association Ground Water Summit this year will be held in April in Memphis, Tennessee.

New Reports. The USGS has recently published the following reports:

Barbara L. Rowe, Patricia L. Toccalino, Michael J. Moran, John S. Zogorski, and Curtis V. Price, 2008, Occurrence and Potential Human-Health Relevance of Volatile Organic Compounds in Drinking Water from Domestic Wells in the United States: Environmental Health Perspectives, V. 115, No. 11, November 2007. <http://www.ehponline.org/members/2007/10253/10253.pdf>

Joseph D. Ayotte, Sarah M. Flanagan, and William S. Morrow , 2007, Occurrence of Uranium and 222Radon in Glacial and Bedrock Aquifers in the Northern United States, 1993–2003: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2007-5037. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2007/5037/>

**Ohio Department of Agriculture:**

Bedbugs. An infestation of bedbugs has been reported in Cincinnati. Bedbugs were largely eradicated in North America using DDT, but now they seem to be making a comeback.

**Ohio Department of Transportation:**

Construction Projects. ODOT is finalizing the construction projects to sell by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently the focus is on preservation and maintenance of existing highway infrastructure.

New staff. Gary Wilhelm has been named Deputy Officer of Facilities & Equipment Management.

**Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:**

New Commissioner. A new commissioner will be announced in March.

**Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:**

FSA Policy. Ohio's Source Water Protection Program has been working with other U.S. EPA Region V states to persuade Farm Service Agency (FSA) headquarters to change its policy regarding eligibility for the conservation reserve program (CRP). The change would ensure that acreage eligible for continuous CRP due to proximity to public water wells would lie within the delineated source water protection area instead of a 2,000 foot radius.

Pesticide Monitoring. DDAGW recently met with ODA to discuss sites for ground water monitoring of pesticides.

Bromide Analysis. Ohio EPA's lab is developing the capability to analyze water samples for bromide (by fall, 2008).

Time-of-Travel Study. A contract to conduct time-of-travel studies upstream of ten public water system intakes has been signed by USGS and should be signed by Ohio EPA within a week or so. The studies will be used to refine River Spill, a computer program used to predict when a spill will arrive at downstream drinking water intakes, and to provide predictive tables and graphs for each of the water system operators.

Fact Sheet on Radium. The agency will be developing a fact sheet on the occurrence and distribution of radium 226 and 228 in Ohio's ground water based on information obtained from the public water system compliance monitoring data.

Well Standard Rule Revisions. DDAGW is revising its well standard rules as part of the 5-year rule review. The main changes are: (1) providing reciprocal setbacks for siting new wells (i.e., requiring new well sites to observe an equivalent setback from facilities that are required to maintain a setback from public water wells; and (2) requiring municipal community water systems to prepare a Drinking Water Source Protection Plan as a condition when siting a new well or wellfield.

**SCCGW Chairman:**

Storm Center. Storm Center's Web site for northwest Ohio will be activated today. The TV version will be launched on March 18<sup>th</sup> by WTOL in Toledo. Environmental story ideas for the Sandusky and Maumee River basins should be forwarded to Tom Allen.

**PRESENTATION**

Chris Kenah gave a presentation titled "Evaluation of Chemical and Microbial Effects of Wastewater Infiltration Lagoons on Ground Water Quality – Butler County, Ohio."

**NEXT SCCGW MEETING**

The next meeting will be held April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at the Horace Collins Classroom, 8:30-11:30 am. It will include agency updates and a presentation by Lindsay Talliaferro III (OEPA) on ground water monitoring around C&DD landfills.

**REMINDER:** Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries will be posted on the SCCGW Web site: [www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/SCCGW/index.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/SCCGW/index.html)