



Drinking Water Advisory Committee

**May 20, 2008
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Ohio EPA
Lazarus Government Center
EPA Conference Room B**

Abstract

The following are highlights of the May 20, 2008 Drinking Water Advisory Committee (DWAC) meeting. The executive summary follows the abstract.

Major agenda items included discussions on the recent water festival, non-compliance monitoring for disinfection byproducts, initial discussions about the upcoming biennium budgeting process, and a rulemaking update. The meeting concluded with a roundtable discussion. (*Note: Unfortunately, we did not have time for the Lead and Copper update indicated on the agenda. A copy of the presentation is attached for your reference.*)

As a side-note, we would like to continue receiving RSVPs at least 3 days in advance for future DWAC meetings. Please be sure to respond to the e-mail sent out with the agenda.

A. Chief's Update - Mike Baker

Revised Sanitary Survey Process

Full implementation of the new sanitary survey process continues, and piloting began this spring for electronic collection of data in the field using tablet PCs.

Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)

The Division is starting to recognize additional efficiencies as a result of our migration to the SDWIS software. This new data management system provides better, higher quality and more accessible data, which we are able to utilize, along with the improved sanitary survey process, to better direct our resources to those systems most in need of assistance.

Operator Certification

The operator certification program is placing greater emphasis on small system training and outreach. The program is also continuing to work with Ohio State University to conduct analyses of job duties and tasks for each of the certification levels. The results of these job analyses will be used to focus our training efforts.

Emergency Preparedness

The Ohio WARN system is now in place. The program provides assistance to utilities in working through the legal and financial issues necessary to establish mutual aid agreements.

Water Sector Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training is being offered at no cost in Twinsburg and Dayton on June 3rd and 5th, respectively. There is still room available. Visit <http://www.horsleywitten.com/ICStraining/> for more information or to register for the training.

DDAGW has contracted with USGS to evaluate time of travel for some select stream segments used by public water systems as a water source. USGS will utilize a national model to estimate time of travel under various stages of flow, enabling public water systems to determine the amount of time a spill will reach their intake and allow appropriate response actions.

Recent Media Attention

There have been several drinking water related media stories in the past few months. On a national level, the Associated Press series on pharmaceuticals generated a lot of interest. Ohio EPA received several phone calls, but other states report a much higher level of attention. There are some projects currently in progress in Ohio to study this issue, but Ohio does not have any plans for additional monitoring programs related to pharmaceuticals or any other emerging contaminants.

In central Ohio, we have also received some media attention related to lead in schools and storage tank maintenance. A reporter identified a couple of schools that exceeded the action level for lead but failed to complete the appropriate public education. While Ohio EPA was actively working with these schools to address the exceedance, we failed to ensure parents were notified as required. Another story focused on the variations in frequency of inspections of storage tanks.

Ground Water Impacts Database

DDAGW is currently developing a database of water quality data where confirmed ground water contamination is indicated. We hope to use this data to evaluate susceptible areas and identify associated activities.

Interdivisional Coordination Efforts

Ohio EPA has formed an interdivisional workgroup between DDAGW and the Division of Emergency and Remedial Response (DERR). The workgroup is tasked with defining expectations for communications and response actions when ground water contamination threatens or impacts a public water system.

Ohio Water Resource Council (OWRC)

The council continues to work towards better integration of water resource considerations into local land use planning and development decisions, and to promote regional water infrastructure planning and collaboration. Efforts to identify examples of good infrastructure planning have not yet been successful.

Mike also distributed information on the new Local Government Services and Regional Collaboration Grant Program from the Ohio Department of Development. The program is designed to encourage new forms of collaboration among Ohio's governmental jurisdictions.

B. Central Ohio Children's Water Festival – Holly Kaloz

A presentation was given highlighting the first annual Central Ohio Children's Water Festival. One hundred seventy-eight (178) 4th and 5th graders attended the festival, held on the west lawn of the Ohio Statehouse. The festival was made possible by the collaboration and efforts of 13 organizations. We hope to continue the water festival tradition in Central Ohio in future years and are currently looking for volunteers to fill key coordinator positions on the planning committee.

C. Non-compliance Monitoring for Disinfection Byproducts – Todd Kelleher

A presentation was given on disinfection byproducts and a draft policy describing the circumstances where public water systems may collect additional samples and have the results excluded from compliance determinations. Please see the attached presentation and draft policy for more information.

Marvin Gnagy noted he supports the development of this policy and indicated it is much needed. He also requested clarification that this policy does not address samples taken for the Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE), which are reported directly to U.S. EPA. Likewise, the policy does not address samples

taken during simulated distribution system (SDS) pilot studies, which should be reported to Ohio EPA along with the results of the pilot study.

D. 2010-2011 Drinking Water Budget – Mike Baker

Mike initiated discussions on the drinking water program budget. The state is not quite through the first year of the current biennium, and the revenues outlook is not good. The state has instituted a \$750 million reduction in general revenue funds (GRF) for state agencies. Ohio EPA is fortunate not to rely on GRF for funding, with the exception of the E-check program. The drinking water program is funded through a combination of federal grants (28%), the tipping fee on solid waste (22%) and program-specific fees (50%). Of the program specific fees, the License to Operate fee contributes approximately 75%, with the remainder coming from plan review, operator certification and laboratory certification fees.

The budgeting process for the upcoming 2010-2011 biennium has begun, and the agency needs to submit our final requests by September of this year. We hope to maintain the level of funding for our core programs, accounting for minimal increases for inflation and union raises. Initial projections indicate the drinking water program will face a deficit of approximately \$2.5 to 3 million by 2011 and \$3 to 3.5 million by 2013. The division is considering requesting small incremental fee increases of approximately 10%. This increase is not expected to cover the deficit, leaving the division to consider other means of securing funds and/or cutting back on services.

A special session of DWAC may be called around July to further discuss these concerns.

E. Rulemaking Update – Holly Kaloz

Members were provided with status updates on recent state and federal rulemaking activities, as well as an introduction to the division's current legislative initiatives. Please see the attached presentation and State and Federal Rulemaking Update handouts for details.

F. Member Roundtable

Marvin Gnagy announced the OhWARN program is receiving more and more interest. Approximately 15 systems have signed agreements, and many more are contacting AWWA for information. AWWA has also moved from 7 regions to 5 at the national level; as a result, a couple new states have joined Ohio's region. The national annual conference is in Atlanta this June, and the Ohio section conference is schedule for Toledo in September. There have also been some discussions at the national level about fluoride in Drinking Water. Mike mentioned U.S. EPA may also be considering revisiting the fluoride standards.

Erin Moore distributed a brochure developed by OTCO regarding Environmental Careers, and indicated OTCO has been actively recruiting and training new operators from those currently unemployed.

Tom Fishbaugh indicated RCAP is finishing up their utility management series. The last two sessions are scheduled for June in Chillicothe and Wooster. RCAP has conducted 19 training courses to date, with 391 participants from 237 systems. The next course they plan on offering will be based on U.S. EPA's new CUPSS program, which deals with inventory maintenance and asset management. Marvin indicated he has heard very good feedback about RCAP's rate setting seminars. The commenters are probably referring to the 301 course, which is expected to be offered approximately 10 more times next year.

Nancy Osborn indicated the health departments have been very busy dealing with sewage issues, and not much has been happening on the private water system side.

DDAGW Representatives:

Mike Baker
Kirk Leifheit
Todd Kelleher
Holly Kaloz
Susan Baughman

DWAC Attendees:

Marvin Gnagy, Ohio American Water Works Association (AWWA)
Erin Moore, Operator Training Commission of Ohio (OTCO)
Sue Daly, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)
Tom Fishbaugh, Great Lakes Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)
Steve Grossman, Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA)
Nancy Osborn, Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (Ottawa County Health Department)

Handouts:

- Announcement for Local Government Services and Regional Collaboration Grant Program
- Non-compliance Monitoring for Disinfection Byproducts presentation
- Non-compliance Monitoring for Disinfection Byproducts draft policy
- U.S. EPA Short-term Lead and Copper Rule Revisions and Clarifications Presentation
- Rulemaking Update presentation
- State Rule Making Update
- Federal Rule Making Update

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 27, 2008 *(Note: a special session may be called in July to discuss the drinking water program budget)*