



Drinking Water Advisory Committee

**November 20, 2007
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Ohio EPA
Lazarus Government Center
EPA Conference Room Autumn**

Abstract

The following are highlights of the November 20, 2007 Drinking Water Advisory Committee (DWAC) meeting. The executive summary follows the abstract.

Major agenda items included discussions on the draft depressurization policy, the division's compliance goals, a security update, information on an infrastructure planning survey and a five year rule review schedule. The meeting concluded with a roundtable discussion.

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

Mike distributed the attached draft State Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report, which highlights the Divisions' Accomplishments

Revised Sanitary Survey Process

Full implementation of the new sanitary survey process has begun including different types of site visits with systems that have a higher need. DDAGW is still moving toward electronic collection of data in the field using tablet PCs for better efficiency.

Operator Certification Rules

Operator certification rules became effective at the end of last year; we continue to move forward with full implementation.

Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)

Migration to SDWIS was completed in early 2007. This new data management system provides better tools to determine and track compliance of Ohio's public water systems. We are also replacing the electronic drinking water reporting system with a new web-based system. This process has been delayed, but we intend to switch to the web-based system during late 2008 or early 2009.

Source Water Protection and Ground Water Investigations

Work in the source water protection area is continuing, we have also undertaken several water quality studies, including looking at sensitive areas to determine impact on public water systems, particularly focusing on microbiological contamination.

Policies

The Approved Capacity document, developed in consultation with the AWWA Technology Committee, will be finalized shortly.

New Budget

The new budget retained the same budget level as the last two years for the drinking water program; however, DDAGW continues to look for efficiencies. Considerations and discussions about smaller, incremental fee increases during the next budget cycle will likely be discussed at future DWAC meetings.

Sand and Gravel Operations

Sand and gravel operations and their relation/proximity to public water systems continues to be a concern. Senator Niehaus, representatives from the industry, Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Natural Resources met recently to discuss issues and address concerns. At this time, documentation is not available showing impacts from these operations. The concern tends to be focused on microbiological contamination due to the removal of earth that is a major contributor to filtration.

National Drinking Water Advisory Council

The National Drinking Water Advisory Council met last week. The Council spent one full day focusing on the importance of risk and crisis communication. With the Division's fully staffed outreach section, we plan to make more of an impact through outreach with the regulated community and general public. Over the next year, DDAGW plans to disseminate messages on the value of tap water via various media methods highlighted by a Children's Water Fair during National Drinking Water Week in May 2008.

B. Depressurization Policy – Dan Cloyd

A presentation was given on the depressurization policy (policy and presentation attached).

Discussion centered around confusion on the number of samples and sample sets needed to be taken and when an advisory needs to be lifted. More discussion is needed regarding this issue before the policy will be finalized.

C. Compliance Goals – Kirk Leifheit

A presentation was given on compliance goals and milestones for 2011. Please see the updated attached presentation (slightly modified from the copy distributed at the meeting) for more information. The Division is focusing much more on compliance as a measure of program effectiveness. Compliance rates have increased over the last several years due to this increased focus. Besides establishing District Office Compliance Coordinators, other efforts resulting in increased compliance include increased training of water systems and the use of reminder postcards. DDAGW also has better tools to review this information using the SDWIS database.

D. Security Update – Dave Bornino

An update was given on the division's security and emergency preparedness initiatives. DDAGW has formed an Emergency Response Team (ERT) that includes members from each district office and central office staff. The ERT conducted a tabletop exercise in April 2006. An After Action Report from the April 2006 exercise has been the main focus of the ERT. The After Action Report documented the effectiveness and overall performance. The report is an exercise evaluation that documents readiness and makes recommendations for improvements. Overall, the ERT scored reasonably well. Improvements are being made in the following areas:

Initial Notification: Grab-N-Go checklists for different types of emergencies have been created. Call lists are being developed for all public water systems including emergency contacts and operator of record.

Incident Assessment/Presumptive Hazard Identification: Currently working on Incident Command System, establishing roles and responsibilities for DDAGW staff and having technical specialists available for a variety of events.

Communications: Call lists and information gathering forms for staff have been developed. DDAGW is looking into Reverse 911 system for drinking water emergency situations.

Emergency Public Information: DDAGW will be working with the Ohio EPA Public Interest Center (PIC) on developing their roles and responsibilities for emergency public information and message mapping of various scenarios. Message mapping is a way to develop responses to predictable questions before an emergency situation occurs.

Population Protective Actions: The DDAGW emergency response plan is being reviewed and updated to ensure plans, policies and chain of custody exists for protection of samples as a result of criminal acts.

Another concern for public water systems is pandemic flu. If Ohio experiences a pandemic flu it could result in a 40% loss of the workforce. All businesses and organizations, including water treatment facilities, need to be informed and prepared.

In response to pandemic flu and other potential emergencies, Ohio EPA in conjunction with the Ohio Section AWWA is establishing an Ohio Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (OhWARN). Being a part of this agreement allows participating public water systems to share resources to overcome disasters occurring at the local or regional level. By adopting the WARN approach to mutual aid and assistance, drinking water and wastewater utilities in each state are able to sign a single agreement covering issues such as indemnification, workers compensation and reimbursements. WARN is open to both private and public utilities. The agreement allows for utilities to share equipment, personnel and other resources required to respond effectively to any crisis. Currently, utilities signed to OhWARN are City of Cleveland, Village of Archbold, City of Ravenna, Aqua Ohio, Butler County and Montgomery County. City of Columbus, City of Cincinnati and the City of Oxford have an agreement in front of councils for passage.

DDAGW also participated in the Ohio Emergency Management Association (OEMA) conference to distribute maps and contact information for all public water systems by county within the state. This will allow emergency personnel to make contact with water system operators before an emergency event occurs. This will also be beneficial with disaster exercises and other pre-planning efforts.

DDAGW is also involved with the Greater Cincinnati Water Works on the Water Sentinel Program and the development of a Water Consequences Management Plan. A full scale disaster exercise is in development.

Looking into the future, DDAGW is planning a second tabletop exercise in 2008, specifically looking to see if the corrective measures taken since the first exercise are sufficient.

E. Ohio Water Resource Council: Infrastructure Planning Survey – Mike Baker

Mike briefly discussed the Ohio Water Resource Council's (OWRC) Infrastructure Planning Survey. The OWRC was established by law to collaborate on water resource policies and strategic planning. The Council, and two supporting groups, the State Agency Coordinating Group (SACG) and the Public Advisory Group (PAG), are trying to identify what can be done to support water resource considerations in local land use planning and development decisions. The groups are also trying to identify what can be done to support local water infrastructure planning. Examples of good local infrastructures plans need to be identified. A survey is being sent to aid in the identification of good examples of local infrastructure plans and to identify specific individuals to potentially help in the identification process.

F. Rules Update – Holly Kaloz*5 Year Rule Review*

A preliminary review for rules that are approaching their five-year review deadline and proposals for rulemaking actions in 2008 were provided. Please see attached Five-Year Rule Review document.

State and Federal Rules Update

Members were provided with status updates on recent state and federal rulemaking activities. Please see attached State and Federal Rule-making Update handouts for details.

G. Member Roundtable

Dave Thalman recommended developing a monthly or periodic newsletter to update the regulated community on DDAGW activities. Curtis Truss mentioned the small system newsletter developed by AWWA may be resurrected. This is a quarterly newsletter to which DDAGW could provide articles.

Dave Weihrauch asked DDAGW to review the Automatic Flush Hydrant Guidance document. Dave also asked if public water systems have access to the Grab-N-Go checklists for emergencies. DDAGW will make those available after initial site evaluation teams have been defined and the Grab N Go's have final review.

DDAGW Representatives:

Mike Baker
Kirk Leifheit
Dave Bornino
Beth Messer
Holly Kaloz
Susan Baughman
Gina Hayes
Dan Cloyd

DWAC Attendees:

Curtis Truss, Operator Training Commission of Ohio
Deb Martin, Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program
Steve Grossman, Ohio Water Development Authority
David Weihrauch, AWWA Water Utility Council
Jenn Klein, Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Dave Thalman, Ohio Manufactured Homes Association
Kent Scarrett, Ohio Municipal League

Handouts:

- State Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report
- Ohio EPA Depressurization Policy
- Depressurization Policy Presentation
- Compliance Goals Presentation
- 5 Year Rule Review Schedule
- State Rule Making Update
- Federal Rule Making Update

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Meetings for 2008:

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

All meetings are in conference room A (Autumn) in the Ohio EPA 5th floor conference center from 930 AM-12 Noon.