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Members of the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force Subcommittee A

Alec Davis

Threat Screening Conceptual Model

Following up to the productive conversation at the May 21 Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force Subcommittee "A" meeting focused on identifying threats to the aquifer, I agree with the Subcommittee's discussion about our work product and the importance of being able to differentiate between a "potential source" and a "threat." I propose that the Subcommittee members consider developing a conceptual model to help evaluate the universe of potential sources that do or may exist, so that we can prioritize and focus our attention on those that pose the greatest threat. This will facilitate our ability to direct the efforts of those performing threat analyses to maximize objectivity and consistency and produce a more useful end product to be utilized by the other Subcommittee. Finally, using a well-thought and documented methodology in making decisions about sources and threats will result in a defensible end product, and allow the Subcommittee to more clearly articulate why a particular source was defined as threat and how identified threats were prioritized.

Factors discussed by the group that I believe should be included in such a model include (but not necessarily be limited to):

- Existing Conditions contaminating aquifer
 - o Subject to remediation/evaluation
- Location
 - o Geography
 - o Geology
- The nature of the threat posed by the activity or condition
- Applicable regulations/protection
- Age of condition or activity
- Site-specific knowledge or lack thereof

Some of the above factors likely require additional discussion by the Subcommittee to further define how the model is intended to provide useful direction in performing the analysis. Using the conceptual model, the analysis could be performed on a case-by-case basis, or where there is sufficient consistency among a group of similarly situated activities or potential threats, to consider them all together. I welcome a robust dialog among the Subcommittee members about this concept and its further development.