



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUNDWATER (ICCG) MEETING MINUTES

February 24th, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Mississippi River Conference Room. Rick Cobb conducted the meeting of the ICCG. Rick welcomed everyone and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. The following were in attendance:

Bill Compton	Groveland Township Water Department/ GAC
Rick Cobb	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Jerry Dalsin	IDPH
Bob Kohlhasse	Farnsworth Group/GAC
Jack Norman	Kaskaskia Group of the Sierra Club/GAC
Paul McNamara	Southwest IL Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission/GAC
Allen Wehrmann	ISWS/University of Illinois
Vickie Broomhead	IDNR/OMM/LRD
Dave Larson	ISGS/ University of Illinois
Steven Gobelman	IDOT
William H. Olthoff	Regional Planning/GAC
Bill Morrow	USGS
Emily Sjostrom	Tazewell Co. Health - Environmental Health
Katie Traenkenschuh	Tazewell Co. Health - Environmental Health
George Czapar	ISWS/University of Illinois
Connie Tonsor	IEPA/ Division of Legal Council
Terri Blake Myers	IEPA/BOL
Anthony Dulka	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Michelle Wargin	IEPA Intern
Ed Wagner	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Bill Buscher	IEPA/ Groundwater Section

The following ICCG representatives were not in attendance:

Todd Rettig, DNR
Office of Water Resources, DNR
Shelly Bradley, OSFM
Dan Wheeler, DCEO - OCR
IEMA/DNS
IDA

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Approval of the October 20th, 2010 Minutes

Rick Cobb called for a review of the minutes from the October meeting. Jerry Dalsin had a correction to the minutes: there were less than 2,500 water wells constructed per year. Rick asked for a motion to approve. The motion was made by Paul McNamara and seconded by Bill Compton. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Reports and Updates

Round Robin

ICCG- Rick stated that it has been two years since our last self-evaluation, and it is now time to start looking at those goals we have set and see what we have accomplished and what we need to work on. We also need to establish the new recommendations, which should be written by the end of this year and will be published in January, 2012. This current period covers 2009 and 2010. Copies of those recommendations are on the Website. Links to those documents are supplied at this meeting in the form of a handout with links to current and past biennial reports. The handout also has future meeting dates for the ICCG/ GAC. Those dates are: April 28th, July 28th, and October 27th.

IEPA-

Fayette County Water District Maximum Setback Zone- The IEPA has prepared a draft regulation and is almost done with the statement-of-reason, at which time it will proceed to the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB.)

Ameren Hutsonville Ash Pond D- The IPCB adopted the site-specific rule-making for the closure of Ameren Hutsonville Ash pond D at their facility. The effective date of that regulation was January 28th, 2011 (Docket R09-21, 840 101-152). This is important because the impoundments are in “no-man’s” land, as they are not really landfills or surface impoundments. This gives us a template for those sites which ‘fall between the cracks.’ It was proposed by Ameren and we have worked with them on the contents of the rule-making.

Bill Buscher provided an updated on the ash impoundment strategy. There has not been any federal movement to regulate these facilities recently. The Hutsonville ruling is expected to be used as a model for future sites. Ameren is working on the Venice facility closing a pond; they no longer burn coal at that plant. The groundwater management zone has been approved and Ameren is working on the details of the construction.

Bill provided the strategy progress report. He highlighted the details, which can all be found in the report which is posted on the IEPA Website. One important note he made was that the Dynegey-Midwest Havana Station groundwater management zone (GMZ) has come back into compliance; one GMZ is done, showing progress.

The last IEPA update is that the Groundwater Quality Standards that were proposed to the Illinois Pollution Control Board two years ago are expected to be going to first notice in the near future.

ISGS- Dave Larson brought an invitation to the Naturally Illinois Expo, an annual event, which is on March 11th and 12th. ICCG members are invited. There is an archeological dig, turtles of Illinois exhibit, displays on carbon sequestration, groundwater, bio-fuels, earthquakes, and kids fossil dig. Further information can be found at www.inrs.illinois.edu/expo

IDPH- Legislative updates - The Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors Licensing Act is set to “sunset” January 1st, 2012. Three bills have been introduced to extend the Act another 10 years. Rick Cobb asked why the Act was set to sunset and Jerry responded that there are 10 other Acts also set on ten-year terms, in order to allow a chance to review them.

On the geothermal loop installation, two bills (Senate Bill 1682 and House Bill 308) have been introduced to require registration of closed-loop contractors and to permit the installation of closed-loop systems. It has been proposed before and has failed, but it looks promising this time.

Central Region Groundwater Planning Committee- Emily Sjostrom reported that East Peoria has an electronics recycling coming up. Also, the Clean Water Celebration is April 10th and 11th. They also developed a pharmaceutical drop-off at Pekin at the Police Department. There is also a new drop-off at Hopedale, which is teamed with Illinois American Water. The Pekin one accepts all types of drugs but Hopedale is over-the-counter, uncontrolled substances only.

Emily also attended the McHenry Snow and Ice Operators Meeting last fall. They are trying to make that a national certification. Tazewell County is working to establish a similar meeting in the fall of 2011.

Guests and Presentations

National Groundwater Monitoring Network-

Allen Wehrmann updated us on the NGMN. The report has been turned in to the group. The ISWS, ISGS, IEPA, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, and Indiana Department of Environmental Management are all involved in this project. The USGS has been assigned by the Office of Management and Budget to be the lead agency and to work with the other organizations that fund, collect, or use water resource information.

The Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) has a number of subcommittees, one of which is the Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW). SOGW was tasked to, “develop and encourage implementation of a nationwide, long term ground-water quantity and quality monitoring framework that would provide information necessary for the planning, management, and development of ground-water supplies to meet current and future water needs, and ecosystem requirements.”

The tasks being tackled right now are to see if the field practices, data, and data management meet the NGWMN criteria. All the data has to be in a form that will interface with the NGWMN Data Portal. A cost analysis is also being run to identify the ballpark estimates for what is needed to operate the wells, interface with the portal, and fill in data gaps. Mahomet wells were found and then the well histories were examined to find those with long records, exclusion of odd behaviors, wells with natural fluctuations, and wells representative of surface water/ groundwater influence. The wells are then

classified as either unstressed or targeted. A series of maps and hydrographs of wells were then presented, showing the data collected thus far.

The costs for the network are as follows:

- IL-IN participation in Pilot: **\$32,500**
- O&M of the water-level sub network: **\$16,500**
- O&M of the water-quality sub network:
 - **\$45,000** for semiannual sampling
 - **\$22,500** for annual sampling
- Data Gap Closure
 - Drilling new wells: **\$135,000**
 - O&M for water-level sub network: **\$8,400**
 - O&M for water-quality sub network: **\$23,000-46,000**
 - Temporal gaps: **\$62,000+** for dataloggers/telemetry
 - Other expenses (e.g., surveying, downhole geophysics, data management): **\$14,000**

The press release is available at www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2417

The data portal is available at: http://cida.usgs.gov/gw_data_portal/

Chromium-6

In the news lately is the issue of Chromium-6. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) did some sampling across the country at private residences and businesses. It must be noted that they did not sample from the distribution system, which ends at the service connection. They used a lab in California which has a tweaked method for Chromium-6 with a detection level of .02 parts per billion. In the Chicago area they had a concentration of less than 0.18 ppb. In the State of California they currently have a draft health advisory goal of 0.02 ppb. The goal has not been finalized yet and it would have to be approved by the California Department of Health.

USEPA has been revising their health advisory for Chromium-6. They are now looking at the ingestion mode to see if it is also carcinogenic via that pathway. The USEPA has issued a factsheet which includes a tweaked wastewater analytical method which purportedly can achieve a 0.02 ppb detection level. However, this is not an approved method. Illinois EPA has been in contact with Alan Stark in Chicago and they are going to use the lab in California. They are going to test at numerous parts of the system, all the way from the raw water, through the different treatments at the plant, all the way to the end of the distribution system.

Illinois EPA has developed a draft Chromium strategy and a draft factsheet on the total chromium sampling we have done in surface water and groundwater. The current standard is 100 ppb total chromium and the current method detection limit is 5 ppb for drinking water and 0.24 for surface water. There are no supplies in Illinois which exceed the total chromium standard. Those documents are under review right now in the Director's office.

In response to a question from Jack Norman, Rick stated that we are not only sampling, but also looking for the source of the chromium. We are watching what is happening at the federal level and also trying to get a handle on it from a scientific method.

Chloride Trends-

The IEPA has looked at what we can do to help with the chloride problems. We have a good inventory of salt piles which may be in setback zones and are regulated under Part 615 and 616 of the Technology Control Regulations, adopted in the 90's. We are looking back at those now to see what we can do.

There was a Section 43 case involving a salt pile located within the Class III area of Bluff Springs Nature Preserve.

Cassandra McKinney gave a presentation to the ICCG last year on deicing agent application training. We are now encouraging the Regional Groundwater Committees to do something similar in those areas. The Central Committee is working on setting up a workshop on that, scheduled to take place this fall. The first step in this process is taking what has already been done and educating. IDOT already has covered domes for their storage and calibrated systems for road salt application.

Rick proposed having a small meeting between Cassandra and the Regional Committee chairs to look more at the chlorides issue.

Rick Cobb thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 11:38.

GAC Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11:46 am at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Mississippi Conference Room. Bill Compton conducted the February 24th, 2011, meeting of the Groundwater Advisory Council. The following were in attendance:

Bill Compton	Groveland Township Water Department/ GAC
Rick Cobb	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Jerry Dalsin	IDPH
Bob Kohlhasse	Farnsworth Group/GAC
Jack Norman	Kaskaskia Group of the Sierra Club/GAC
Paul McNamara	Southwest IL Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission/GAC
Steven Gobelman	IDOT
William H. Olthoff	Regional Planning
George Czapar	ISWS/University of Illinois
Anthony Dulka	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Michelle Wargin	IEPA Intern
Ed Wagner	IEPA/ Groundwater Section

Bill Compton opened the meeting. The October 20th, 2010 minutes were approved. Rick Cobb reminded everyone to sign their ethics forms and submit them to Rick. John Kim is now the Ethics Officer for the GAC. Following, there was discussion about how the Open Meetings Act has applied to the GAC meetings. Rick stated that the ICCG and GAC minutes have been audited and that he just got done responding to that audit.

Citizen Suit

Rick walked through the summary of the suit. In August, plaintiffs in Clinton County filed a case in the Circuit Court seeking injunctive relief that Exxon-Mobil remove coal waste from Monterey #2 mine and that IDNR and IEPA re-issue the permit to comply with Illinois statutes and regulations. The plaintiffs want the land restored to a usable form for crop production and to remove the impoundments.

The refuse disposal units were sitting on top of the Pearl Aquifer. The company knew they were out of compliance with the groundwater standards and hence came to the IEPA asking for assistance. We required them to have an extensive flow model done to determine the best approach. We made them determine what the background levels were as well as the levels in the areas with contamination. Exxon hooked the local well owners up to the public water system, even though there was no contamination in their private wells caused by the mine site. There is no off-site contamination due to the hydraulic containment in place.

Rick then went over the details of the groundwater modeling and all the counts and motions that been filed.

PWSLP Advisory Committee

Bill Compton reported that the IEPA released its draft regulations regarding the State Revolving Fund programs in January. There are more applications than there is funding, so a ranking system needed to be developed. The Federal people want changes made to the program to allow for 30% to be for capitalization projects, i.e. for subsidies and loan forgiveness and 20% for green projects (also called

sustainability projects). There was a lot of discussion about how these new rules would apply. One point discussed was what a 'green project' is, and how far that definition extends. The new rules need to take effect before the 2013 application deadline.

The full report summary by Bill Compton will be available on the IEPA Website.

Perc. Task Force

The report on the Clean Technology Task Force for Commercial Clothes Cleaning, pursuant to House Resolution 1174, was summarized by Paul McNamara. He outlined the proposed schedule for the phasing out of the older generations of Perc machines. The alternative technologies need to be examined by the industry to assess their feasibility.

The full report will be available on the IEPA Website.

HHS/ USEPA Fluoridation Proposal

Bill Compton asked Rick Cobb to present an update on the fluoride issue, and issue raised by a Wall Street Journal article. This and other articles proposed reducing the fluoride concentrations in drinking water.

The addition of fluoride to drinking water is a decision made by state or local governments with technical support from the Department of Health and Human Services. It is not governed by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) is 4 mg/L, a level established to protect against crippling skeletal fluorosis. The MCL was then established at 4 mg/L, which requires some systems to remove some fluoride if the natural level exceeds this amount.

In Illinois, fluoridation is regulated as follows:

- Public Water Supply Act (415 ILCS 40/7a) – Illinois Department of Public Health(IDPH)
- 35 Ill. Adm. Code 611.125
 - **fluoride content of not less than 0.9 milligram per liter nor more than 1.2 mg/L**
- 35 Ill. Adm. Code 611.301(b) - MCL for Inorganic
 - **Fluoride MCL = 4.0 mg/L**
- Subpart G of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 653

A number of new studies on the health effects of ingested fluoride incited the EPA asked for another NRC review in 2003. The 2006 NRC panel concluded that the present MCL of 4 mg/L was not stringent enough to prevent severe dental fluorosis, but the report did not deny the beneficial effects of fluoride at the normal levels of fluoridation programs. This has prompted Health and Human Services to propose lowering the fluoride exposure levels from 0.7 - 1.2 mg/L down to a maximum level of 0.7 mg/L. The USEPA has a new risk assessment and will be evaluating whether any standards need to be changed. Illinois will await any federal actions before making any changes.

A pdf of Rick's PowerPoint presentation will be available on the IEPA Website.

Bill Compton thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 pm. The next ICCG/ GAC meeting date was set for July 28th, 2011.