

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Wednesday January 16, 2003

NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL

The next conference call of the Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) tentatively will be held February 27, 2003.

INTRODUCTION

Notice: It is very important to note that this meeting summary has been prepared by EPA staff and/or contractor for informational purposes only. This paper may contain summaries and discussions of EPA's statutory authorities and regulations. This paper, itself, however, does not constitute an EPA statute or regulation and does not substitute for such authorities. In addition, the statements in this summary have not been reviewed or endorsed by Agency management, and thus do not constitute official statements of EPA's views and are not binding on EPA or any party.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Ken Lovelace (OERR) summarized the previous GWTF meeting, which was held November 5, 2002. An outstanding issue is the involvement of state program offices and EPA regions in the task force activities. Although the group agreed that these entities should be involved, it did not agree on the best method for doing this while maintaining a "workable" size. OSW reiterated its desire for state programs to participate in the group's issue identification and "brainstorming" sessions as soon as possible.

Background information on the OSWER Senior Cleanup Council (SCC) was provided. Marianne Horinko (OSWER AA) has asked that the SCC serve as a "champion" for OSWER's One Cleanup Program (OCP) initiative. The SCC has established a subgroup to address ground-water issues within the OCP. OSWER's intention is that the SCC will provide input and advice to the GWTF and will serve as a "sounding board" for cross-program ground water issues and for GWTF work products.

PROJECT IDEAS

OERR suggested that the GWTF develop potential plans for short-term projects which can be initiated soon to benefit multiple programs. Initiation of one or more of these projects will help the task force to identify other issues needing resolution and to clarify how EPA regional and state programs can be involved.

The GWTF identified and generally agreed on three projects:

1. Developing a policy on the role of state-defined source water protection areas in OSWER cleanup programs.
2. Holding one or more national conferences and/or roundtable discussions as a means of obtaining a wide range of viewpoints from across the country.
3. Developing a summary of current practices in federal and state cleanup programs, including regulatory goals and requirements and areas of flexibility.

NEXT STEPS

OGWDW will provide to the group selected background information describing source water protection areas (SWPAs), including examples and an update on state progress in delineating SWAPs.

OERR will provide more detail to the group on the three GWTF projects identified (above) during the

meeting, including alternative methodologies, scopes of work, and work products.

ATTENDEES

Headquarters

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