

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Thursday April 17, 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.

DISCUSSION OF OCP PILOTS

Ken Lovelace (OERR) reiterated that cross-program pilots in source water protection areas (SWPAs), as discussed in earlier conference calls, would be useful for the Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) to explore. He expressed his belief, however, that the group should not take the lead role in establishing or tracking pilots under the One Cleanup Program (OCP) initiative.

Ellen Manges (OSWER) provided an update on the OCP, the newly created OCP web site, and the OCP pilot projects. Completion of a headquarters action plan for the OCP pilots is anticipated by the end of FY 2003. Each region may be asked to propose one or two area-wide pilots.

The GWTF role in the OCP pilots would be to review proposals to ensure that adequate consideration is given to ground-water issues, and to help resolve cross-program issues that are identified during the pilots. The group discussed various aspects of the OCP and potential methods for initiating the area-wide pilots. The general consensus was that a directive from the OSWER AA to regional division directors would be needed to initiate cross-program pilots. In addition, OSWER probably would be expected to provide pilot funding for activities such as travel and meeting support.

DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS PAPERS

Ken discussed the possibility of the GWTF developing draft "options papers" on issues affecting multiple cleanup programs, such as those in an issue list earlier compiled and distributed to the group. Ken suggested the first two options papers should address: (1) the use of state ground-water classifications in cleanup programs, and (2) cleanup goals for NAPL source zones. The group generally agreed to pursue a series of options papers. Ken volunteered to draft the first paper in order to give the group a better idea of his vision of the document's contents and format, and to facilitate discussion of a particular issue.

The Ground Water Forum voiced an interest in working with the GWTF to develop the second options paper, which would address clean-up goals for NAPL source zones. Guy Tomassoni (OSW) may be available to help draft one or both of these issue papers.

ACTION ITEMS

With help from the Ground Water Forum members, Ken will develop a rough draft options paper on the use of state ground-water classifications in setting cleanup goals.

ATTENDEES

Headquarters:

Matt Charsky, OERR
JoAnn Griffith, OERR
Ken Lovelace, OERR
Ellen Manges, OSWER
Tim Mott, FFRRO
Rich Steimle, TIO
Hal White, OUST
Kathy Yager, TIO

Regions:

Arnold Bierschenk, RCRA Region 6;
Kathy Davies, GWF Region 3
Ruth Izraeli, GWF Region 2
Dick Willey, GWF Region 1

States:

Robert Pierce, GA EPD