

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Thursday June 19, 2003

NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL

The next Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) conference call will be held Thursday, July 17, 2004.

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

Ellen Manges (OSWER) provided an update on area-wide pilot projects to be conducted under the OSWER One Cleanup Program (OCP) initiative. A memo was sent to regional administrators by Marianne Horinko (OSWER AA) requesting that each region identify an "area-wide contamination problem" and design a cross-program approach to "clean it up." The memo also announced that OSWER would provide \$40,000 to each region to assist in planning and implementing the pilot projects, and provided guidelines for conducting the pilots. The memo lists "regional ground-water contamination" and "multiple sources" as examples of problems that can be addressed in area-wide pilots. Regions have been asked to submit action plans by September 30, 2003. A copy of the memo will be forwarded to the GWTF.

Ground-water issues are expected to be part of many of the proposed pilots. The State of Nebraska is interested in using a source water protection area for such a pilot.

The group was informed that the Senior Cleanup Council recently was renamed and is now known as the Cleanup Program Council (CPC). The GWTF will need to provide briefings on its activities to the CPC. The OSWER AA also would like a briefing about once each year.

It was noted that a total of three task forces are envisioned as part of the One Cleanup Program: the GWTF, the Site Assessment Task Force, and the Long-Term Stewardship Task Force. The GWTF is the only one of these groups up and running.

OPTIONS PAPERS

Ken had developed a draft options paper entitled "Cleanup Goals for NAPL Source Zones." The group discussed the general format, problem statement, and description of options.

Regarding the paper's problem statement, there was general agreement that "NAPL" should be changed to "DNAPL," and that the problem of extensive DNAPL, rather than any DNAPL, should be specified. Also, the problem statement should be broadened to reflect multiple programs, with less emphasis on technical impracticability (TI) waivers. It was noted that establishing site-specific goals (such as partial mass removal or alternate concentration levels) for a DNAPL zone is a significant activity that could require a separate issue paper. There also were questions about how many TI waivers have been issued and the extent of regional differences in using such waivers. A portion of an Army Environmental Center (AEC) report that lists TI waivers used in the Superfund program through 2001 will be provided to GWTF members.

OTHER DISCUSSION

It was suggested that it would be helpful for members of the GWTF to have a better understanding of the EPA programs represented in the group. This understanding might be accomplished if GWTF representatives write a brief summary of the role their program plays in dealing with contaminated ground water. A format for this writeup will be developed and distributed to GWTF members.

Ken reminded the group that at a previous meeting the group had discussed an earlier suggestion to develop a "lexicon" of terminology used in each of the EPA clean-up programs. This would be used to compare the more important aspects of how each program deals with contaminated ground water. It could include aspects such as cleanup goals, regulatory basis, and terminology.

Ken mentioned a 1995 DOE document that compared clean-up requirements for ground water under Superfund and RCRA that he had sent the URL for to GWTF.

An attendee asked about the status of the GWTF mission statement, and suggested that the group revisit this issue in the near future.

ACTION ITEMS

Ken will send to the GWTF: (1) the most current list of GWTF members and their e-mail addresses; (2) the memo to regional administrators on area-wide pilots for the OCP [forwarded to the GWTF on June 19, 2003]; (3) the list of TI waivers from the AEC report [full report sent to the GWTF on June 19, 2003]; and (4) the URL for a DOE document comparing ground-water cleanups under Superfund and RCRA.

ATTENDEES

Headquarters:

Phyllis Anderson, OERR
Betsy Behl, OPPTS
Matt Charsky, OERR
Chuck Evans, OPPTS/OPP
Linda Fiedler, TIO
JoAnn Griffith, OERR
Mohamed Jalloh, OERR
Ken Lovelace, OERR
Ellen Manges, OSWER
Renee Morris, OGWDW
Tim Mott, FFRRO
Guy Tomassoni, OSW

Hal White, OUST

Labs:

Bob Puls, NRMRL-Ada

Regions:

Kathy Davies, GWF Region 3

Dick Willey, GWF Region 1

States:

Robert Pierce, GA EPD