

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Thursday July 17, 2003

NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL

The next Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) conference call will be held Thursday, August 21, 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 the recent ASTSWMO Board meeting and area-wide pilot projects. OSWER's One Cleanup Program (OCP) was the main topic of discussion at the meeting. ASTSWMO discussed the GWTF during the meeting and expressed interest in becoming more involved with the group. It is expected that the board will develop recommendations for greater ASTSWMO participation in GWTF activities.

Region 10 has discussed conducting an OCP area-wide pilot project at a large FMC site. Also, the State of Nebraska is very interested in using a source water protection area as a pilot.

A member asked how the group can become more involved in regional proposals for area-wide pilots. It was suggested that the GWTF regional participants contact their OCP regional contacts. A list of OCP contacts will be sent to GWTF members.

OPTIONS PAPERS

Ken developed a rough draft of an options paper entitled "(Setting Appropriate) Cleanup Goals for NAPL Source Zones," which was discussed at the previous meeting. Also, Guy Tomassoni (OSW) developed a draft options paper entitled "Groundwater Use, Value, and Vulnerability as Factors in Setting Cleanup Goals," which he sent to everyone just prior to the meeting (on July 14).

Ken suggested that members take the time to review both papers and send comments to him with copies to other GWTF members prior to the next conference call.

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Most of the remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the program summaries suggested during the group's last meeting. At that time, it was suggested that members of the GWTF would benefit from having a better understanding of the EPA programs represented in the group. It had been suggested that representatives of each program write a brief summary of the role their program plays in protection and/or cleanup of ground water.

The group discussed potential outlines for the summaries, based on a draft outline developed by one of the GWTF members for the Superfund Program. After much discussion of topics that should be included, the following outline was suggested for the program summaries:

- Program.
- Statute—full name and acronym, overall purpose, program role in protecting and/or cleaning up

- ground water.
- Regulation—full name and acronym, implementers, goals (expectations, etc.) with respect to ground water, whether regulation preamble can be used as guidance.
- Key Policy/Guidance—key concepts or definitions, how state ground-water classifications or designations are used in the program, areas of flexibility related to ground water, how contaminant sources are defined.
- Current (major) program initiatives.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Ken reminded the group that a suggestion was made during a previous meeting to develop a “lexicon” of terminology used by each of the EPA cleanup programs. This tool would be used to compare the more important aspects of how each clean-up program deals with contaminated ground water. There was some discussion of how this “paper” would differ from the program summaries previously discussed. One suggestion was that they could be one and the same, but the issue was not resolved.

ACTION ITEMS

Ken will send to everyone on the GWTF: (1) the lists of regional OCP and Land Revitalization Initiatives (OCP/LRI) contacts; and (2) the suggested outline of program summaries, as developed during the July 17 meeting (see above).

Regional GWTF members will contact their OCP/LRI contacts to discuss area-wide pilots and suggest that ground-water issues be considered in the pilots.

ATTENDEES

Headquarters:

Phyllis Anderson, OERR
 Matt Charsky, OERR
 Chuck Evans, OPPTS/OPP
 Linda Fiedler, TIO
 JoAnn Griffith, OERR
 Ken Lovelace, OERR
 Ellen Manges, OSWER
 Rene Morris, OGWDW
 Tim Mott, FFRRO
 Debbie Sherer, OSW
 Rich Steimle, TIO
 Guy Tomassoni, OSW
 Hal White, OUST

Regions:

Harry Ball, Superfund Region 9
 Arnold Bierschenk, RCRA Region 6
 Kathy Davies, GWF Region 3
 Ruth Izraeli, GWF Region 2
 Dick Willey, GWF Region 1

Labs:

Bob Puls, NRMRL/Ada

States:

Robert Pierce, GA EPD