

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Thursday November 20, 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.

Ken Lovelace (OSRTI) opened the call by saying that he wanted to focus on the GWTF options papers and their progress to date.

BACKGROUND ON OPTIONS PAPERS

The OSWER One Cleanup Program (OCP) initiative included a cross program groundwater group, which became the current GWTF. The OCP initiative also brought an existing senior management group under its jurisdiction. This group, now called the Cleanup Programs Council (CPC), was asked by the Assistant Administrator to "champion" the One Cleanup Program initiative. The CPC asked Guy Tomassoni (OSW) and Ken to suggest groundwater topics for their discussion. As a result of the March 2002 meeting, discussion of the CPC and discussion of the GWTF, Ken and Guy selected topics for the first two options papers.

POLICY ISSUES RAISED BY INDUSTRY GROUPS

OSWER has received a letter from the American Chemical Council (ACC). They argue that the groundwater cleanup program should be much more risk-based and should focus on site specific risk. Their position is protection goals can be met without fully restoring the aquifer to its pre-site condition and that EPA should promote state development of enhanced groundwater classification systems and criteria for site specific groundwater evaluation. Many of these comments reflect industry opinions that the Agency hears on a regular basis.

Guy asked the GWTF for feedback in preparation for the January meeting with ACC. He said he would recommend to his senior management that a state member of the GWTF be included in the ACC meeting.

STATUS OF DNAPL SOURCE ZONE OPTION PAPER

Ken lead the discussion on the option paper: "*Cleanup Goals Appropriate for DNAPL Source Zones.*" The paper is structured as follows:

- Introduction—explanation of why the paper is being written.
- Background—discussion of what DNAPLs are, why they are a problem, and cleanup goals.
- Seven Problem Statements—These are issues that are being voiced by specific stakeholders (e.g., industry, federal and state cleanup programs, etc.)
- Options—Actions that can be taken by the EPA to address the identified problems.
- Attachment—cites existing guidance relevant to cleanup goals for DNAPL source zones.

The paper describes how different interest groups view DNAPL source cleanup and outlines options for addressing the issues raised. The discussion of each option outlines its advantages and disadvantages.

STATUS OF GROUNDWATER USE/VALUE OPTION PAPER

The discussion of this paper was postponed to allow time to discuss ideas for a GWTF website. The group has already decided that both options papers should be sent out to everyone on the GWTF within the next few days. The title of this paper is: “*Groundwater Use, Value and Vulnerability as Factors in Setting Cleanup Goals.*”

WEBSITE

Ken, Guy, and Linda Fiedler (OSRTI) are recommending the establishment of a separate website for the GWTF with a link to the information currently included under the OCP site. The website might include meeting minutes, relevant GWTF documents, public comments, member program descriptions, upcoming events, etc. It was also suggested that a section be set up that would contain any previous OCP correspondence pertaining to the GWTF.

ATTENDEES

Regions:

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

States:

Jennifer Kaduck, GA EPD
Marty Link, NB DEQ
Bob Pierce, GA EPD

Labs:

Bob Puls, NRMRL-Ada

Headquarters:

Chuck Evans, OPPTS/OPP
Linda Fiedler, OSRTI
Ken Lovelace, OSRTI
Renee Morris, OW
Tim Mott, FFRRO
Debbie Sherer, OSW
Guy Tomassoni, OSW

Contractor:

Bill Myers, EMS