

**GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES**  
**Thursday January 15, 2004**

**NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL**

The next Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) conference call will be Thursday February 19, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM Eastern Time.

**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.

This meeting will focus primarily on discussing the February 3 briefing of the Assistant Administrator (AA) and comments on the two options papers.

**PREPARATION FOR FEBRUARY 3 BRIEFING FOR MARIANNE HORINKO**

There will be a briefing with Marianne Horinko, the Assistant Administrator (AA) for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency and Remedial Response on February 3. The purpose of the briefing will be to provide the AA with a status report on Task Force activities including their plans for action items, and their schedule. It also is an opportunity for the Task Force to convey key messages to her. Task Force members discussed the schedule and potential problems with setting one. Originally the goal was to have the options papers go to the Senior Programs Council in February, with final products ready by summer. Given that there will need to be a period set aside for stakeholder input and they have not set up a mechanism or schedule for that to happen, it is not really possible to plan a hard and set schedule with milestones.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January there will be a joint meeting of the water program directors with the waste program directors from the regions and headquarters to discuss cross-cutting issues. Coordination between the Office of Water and Superfund on Total Maximum Daily Loads is a high priority. One of the recommendations that will be coming out of the meeting is that the task force have a surface water representative.

**SUMMARIZE COMMENTS RECEIVED ON "OPTIONS PAPERS"**

Ken asked the members if they thought, with the incorporation of the latest comments, the papers were ready to be submitted as drafts to the AA as background for the briefing and to the Senior Cleanup Programs Council for their review. He said he was concerned that for the DNAPL paper the comments were mainly technical in nature and added very little to the options themselves. Have they fully identified all the viable options? Also were the options too heavily weighted towards the policy/guidance side of the activities equation and not enough towards other kinds of activities.

It was decided that Ken and Guy would setup conference calls with their respective subgroups to reconcile comments. Ken also will include Bob Puls and Felicia Barnett on his subgroup conference call.

For the AA briefing Guy and Ken will prepare one page summaries for the two papers.

A question was asked as to whether there should be at least a reference to the Kavanaugh-Rao report ("The DNAPL Remediation Challenge: Is There a Case for Source Depletion") since it also makes recommendations concerning DNAPL source zones. Kavanaugh-Rao is an ORD funded report that sought expert opinion on the state of knowledge on source zone issues both in terms of research and cleanup and, in particular on how cleanup success is measured. The report was written by a panel of 12

internationally known experts, mostly from the US but also from Sweden and Germany. The panel was chaired by Suresh Rao of Purdue University and Mike Kavanaugh of Malcolm-Pirnie. The report took approximately 1.5 years to complete and is now final. A discussion of the report and its impact on the DNAPL options paper ensued and it was decided that there should be some crosswalk between the options paper and the relevant parts of the report.

For the Groundwater Use paper, the most significant comment was that the problem statements could be condensed into fewer statements. Guy did not see this as a significant hurdle to finishing the paper.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

National Ground Water Association (February 10). Chris Reimer set up a meeting at EPA with Ken to talk about Superfund (technical impracticability, technology development). Because they want to talk about technology issues, Ken has informed Walk Kovalick so he can provide someone from his staff to participate. He also sent a note to Steve Smelling in case ORD/Ada wanted to call in. As part of the One Cleanup Program outreach, Ken also plans to discuss the Ground Water Task Force with her.

American Chemistry Council (February 3). The ACC sent a letter in August to OSW asking for a meeting to discuss a list of ground water issues. This meeting is in response to the letter. Guy will attend the meeting and provide the Task Force members with a summary of the meeting. A question was asked whether OSW intended to provide the ACC with a formal written response. Guy said that was still the plan and if such a response is developed he will provide it to Task Force members.

### **POTENTIAL NEW MEASURE OF CLEANUP PERFORMANCE**

One of the current goals of EPA cleanup programs is to figure out better ways to measure cleanup outcomes. The RCRA program has developed four broad areas in which to measure success. The areas are human health, ecological, revitalization/redevelopment, and long term water resource protection. They are planning on presenting their ideas at the RCRA National Conference in May in Orlando, FL. A working draft on the long term water resource protection piece should be available within the next few weeks and it would be shared with the Task Force.

Bob Springer (RCRA) has sent an email to the 10 regions and ASTSWMO informing them of the development of the papers. There will be a meeting in March that will solicit input from the regions and ASTSWMO.

### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

*Meeting Notes.* Ken has sent out the meeting notes for review. They have a slightly different format and the contractor is in the process of standardizing all of the previous notes for posting on the web site. There was agreement that the November and December notes could be posted.

*Program Summaries.* EMS is in the process of editing/standardizing the program summaries that were submitted as well as writing program summary drafts for the programs that were not submitted. They may be calling the program contacts to solicit information. All edited and draft summaries will be given to the program contacts for their review and approval before posting on the website.

*Website.* A question was raised about having resource links. While serious duplication is to be avoided there should be an area that people can use to directly access other groundwater related webpages. The current plan is to have hyperlinks from the program summaries to: the program's main website, to any groundwater related section of that website, the implementing Statute, and the relevant implementing regulations. In addition, there will be a general resource area that may contain selected documents and will have hyperlinks to groundwater specific resources such as those found on the Superfund website and the publications area on the Ada website. It was also suggested that there be links to tools used by each program as well as water related standards such as MCLs and secondary drinking water standards.

ATTENDEES

**Regions:**

Felicia Barnett, OBCR Region 4

Kathy Davies, GWF Region 3

Joel Hennessy, RCRA Region 3

Ruth Izraeli, GWF Region 2

Harry Ball, Superfund Region 9

**States:**

Bob Pierce, GA EPD

Marty Link, NB DEQ

**Labs:**

Bob Puls, NRMRL-Ada

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