

## **GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES**

### **Thursday February 19, 2004**

#### **NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL**

The next Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) conference call will be Thursday March 18, 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.

The meeting was opened with a discussion of meeting notes formatting and it was agreed that the format currently being employed for posting on the website would be used. Ken Lovelace (OSRTI) said anyone having comments on the minutes should send them to him.

Guy Tomassoni (OSW) provided a summary of the meeting of the Agency waste and water managers that occurred on January 27 in Tampa Florida. The meeting produced a set of proposed next steps:

- A joint meeting with ASWAMO representatives and the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators should be set up;
- Program cross training efforts should be initiated so that staff become aware of potential opportunities for cooperation between programs;
- Success stories and pilot studies that show cross program cooperation should be captured and advertised;
- A program for data sharing should be setup; and
- More public outreach should be done.

#### **UPCOMING BRIEFING FOR MARIANNE HORINKO**

Ken sent a copy of the briefing notes he is proposing to give Marianne Horinko, the Assistant Administrator (AA) for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency and Remedial Response to task force members before the teleconference call. The briefing date has been changed several times and is now scheduled for March 1. A briefing will also be given to Ramona Trovato, the new One Cleanup Program lead on February 24. The briefing covers task force background, achievements, current activities, next steps, and schedule. The schedule Ken has proposed is:

- Options papers completed by March;
- Senior management review March/April;
- Stakeholder review draft by May;
- Stakeholder comment period and meetings into the Fall;
- Incorporate comments by November 04; and
- Present recommendations papers in early 05.

Both options papers will track on the same schedule. Send any comments on the briefing presentation to Ken as soon as possible.

#### **OPTIONS PAPERS**

Ken reported that he has gotten some comments back from his management that asked the task force to take another look at the options provided for the problem statements to ensure that they address all of them and that the options are better linked to the problem statements. Management also would like to see a broader range of options that goes beyond policy changes and guidance issuance as well as a presentation style that allows for a combination of options to be chosen to address a given problem.

Guy concurred with Ken saying his management thought the problem statements were adequately drawn but the options needed to be expanded.

The members discussed whether the options were broad enough and represented all points of view. Also discussed was whether the options should be broadly drawn to allow for specifics to be filled in later or should they lay out what actions will be taken by a guidance or policy now. In addition, a comment was made that the current draft options need to track with the Kavanaugh-Rao report findings.

It was decided that Ken and Guy would setup conference calls with their respective subgroups to further discuss the options and, with the DNAPL paper, how to reconcile the options with the Kavanaugh-Rao report.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

*Program Summaries.* EMS has edited and standardized the program summaries that were submitted as well as written program summary drafts for the programs that were not submitted. They have been in contact with all the program contacts and have provided drafts to them for their review. The two most difficult have been OECA and ORD, both of which have multiple roles in ground water protection.

*Website.* The website now has a number of cross resource links and it is planned to have a number of links from the program summaries to relevant areas on specific program websites. EMS will populate the program summary and minutes sections of the web as approved material becomes available.

*Meeting Notes.* All the meeting notes have been standardized and Ken has sent them out for review. Ken will check with his management as to whether they can be posted on the website.

*American Chemistry Council meeting.* Guy said the meeting went well. They talked briefly about the Ground Water Task Force. The Council representatives liked the idea of putting ground water issues into a public forum. Members from the petroleum industry would like to see light non-aqueous phase liquids considered in the same or similar forum.

*National Ground Water Association (NGWA) meeting.* The NGWA had requested a meeting to talk about the current Agency thinking on ground water cleanup with the idea that they may be able to be helpful in promoting it—especially with regards to innovative technologies. They talked about the idea of categorizing sites into groups where aggressive cleanup efforts would be appropriate and groups where it would not be appropriate. Ken said that while EPA would like to be able to do this, there is not enough site information available to support a guidance. He suggested to the NGWA representatives that they might try to encourage more authors of their journals to submit articles with accompanying data on source cleanup experiences.

## **ATTENDEES**

### **Regions:**

Felicia Barnett, OBCR Region 4  
Kathy Davies, GWF Region 3  
Joel Hennessy, RCRA Region 3  
Arnold Bierschenk, RCRA Region 6

### **States:**

Jennifer Kaduck, GA EPD  
Bob Pierce, GA EPD

### **Labs:**

Bob Puls, NRMRL-Ada

### **Headquarters:**

Matt Charsky, OSRTI

Linda Fiedler, OSRTI  
JoAnn Griffith, OSRTI  
Freeman Holifield, OSRTI  
Ken Lovelace, OSRTI  
Ellen Manges, OSWER  
Guy Tomassoni, OSW  
Hal White, OUST  
Ron Wilhelm, OAR  
**Contractor:**  
Bill Myers, EMS