

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Thursday March 18, 2004

NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL

The next Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) conference call will be Thursday April 15, 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 focus of this meeting was on the management briefings and the status of the options papers. Ken Lovelace (OSRTI) asked that anyone having comments on the February 19 conference call notes should send them to him. If he does not get any comments, he will be posting them to the website. Guy Tomassoni (OSW) said that as a result of the Tampa meeting between cleanup and water program management he has been invited by the Region 4 water program to give a cleanup program presentation at their state water directors meeting in April.

MANAGEMENT BRIEFINGS

A series of briefings on GWTF activities for senior management have been given over the past month or so. Mike Cook was briefed January 30, Ramona Trovato on February 24, and Marianne Horinko, the Assistant Administrator (AA) of OSWER, on March 1. At all of the meetings a desire was expressed to accelerate the schedule. The current schedule has a recommendation report being completed in spring 2005 after a series of stakeholders meetings in the summer and fall of 2004.

In addition to an expedited schedule, the AA also suggested several other activities she thought the Task Force should pursue. These included:

- A compilation of success stories for Superfund similar to those of the RCRA effort, and
- Formation of a strike team of experts to give site specific assistance to site managers on ground water cleanup issues.

There was some discussion on who would be on such a strike team—especially if it is cross program—and how specifically it would operate. Ken envisioned the success stories to be a sampling of sites chosen to illustrate cleanup approaches. Guy Tomassoni (OSW) said the RCRA effort was to demonstrate by illustration how their flexible cleanup policy was being used. Their website has categories such as:

- Aggressive extensive treatment to restore ground water to drinking water quality;
- Source control technologies that can improve the long term cost-effectiveness of the cleanup;
- Using a phased approach to cleanup where both short term and long term goals are articulated;
- Ground water cleanup in the context of land revitalization examples;
- Cleanup goals that acknowledge technical limitations; and
- Ground water use designations to set cleanup goals.

Guy will email the website URL to Task Force members. Ken said that the RCRA website should be taken as an example and the GWTF can certainly expand on the list.

Marianne Horinko holds periodic outreach meetings with various stakeholders - known as "Muffins with Marianne." These meetings are The next one is scheduled for May 6 (now scheduled for May 20at

10:00 am) and she wants the next one to focus on ground water issues. Ellen Manges will work with other OSWER staff in putting together an agenda for the meeting and sending out invitations to stakeholder groups. They intend to invite approximately 50 representatives. Ken will send an email to the GWTF program representatives asking them to submit to him a list of the stakeholder groups that they would like invited to this meeting or to later outreach meetings. OSWER will start with the list developed by the One Cleanup Program. Stakeholder groups might include industry, state organizations, environmental groups, water supply organizations, and technology development groups. The stakeholder suggestions should be sent to Ken no later than March 24.

It was suggested that Marianne might want to talk about the options papers as well as the success stories and strike team at the outreach meeting in May. This would mean that the AA will be expecting the latter two to be fleshed out by then. Ken will send an email to GWTF members asking for volunteers to staff workgroups on these topics with the goal of having something for the AA by May.

OPTIONS PAPERS

Guy has met with the ground water use subgroup and they have made several revisions. The revised paper was sent by email to GWTF members on March 17. Ken asked the members to look at this draft before it goes to the next review step. There are two major changes in the paper. The first is the inclusion of a matrix laying out the problems and options, and the second is the deletion of the no action option. They have also condensed the problem statements from seven to four. Comments to Guy by March 26.

Ken has incorporated comments on the DNAPL paper. He sent the revised draft to the DNAPL workgroup members on March 17. Major changes include consolidating problem statements one and two, rearranging and rewriting the options, and including in them recommendations from the DNAPL expert panel. A crosswalk matrix has also been added to the DNAPL paper. Ken will email the draft to all the members of the task force today (March 18). He would like comments back to him by March 26.

OPEN DISCUSSION

ITRC DNAPL Workgroup on Strategies for Measuring Performance of DNAPL Sites. This group will be meeting in Atlanta the week of March 22. It was agreed that the options papers should be brought up at this meeting and that the workgroup team leader should be suggested to Ellen Manges as a potential invitee to the meeting with the AA.

Water Resources Measures. Guy said the RCRA water outcome measure, “Long Term Water Resource Protection in the Context of a Cleanup Site,” was reviewed by senior management, and it has been restructured. The revision is called “Contaminated Water Under Control” and has a series of short term, intermediate, and long term outcome measures. Guy will provide an email copy to anyone interested in the document.

ATTENDEES

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