

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Thursday April 15, 2004

NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL

The next Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) conference call will be Thursday, May 20, 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 primary topics of discussion for this meeting were task force outreach efforts and the next steps for the options papers. Ken Lovelace (OSRTI) asked that anyone having comments on the March 18 conference call notes should send them to him. If he does not get any comments he will be posting the notes to the website.

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OUTREACH MEETING

The outreach meeting was scheduled for May 20 between 10 and 11:30. (Note: This meeting with Marianne will be rescheduled, but the new date has not yet been determined (as of 4/21/04).) The theme will be the One Cleanup Program with an emphasis on ground water and the Ground Water Task Force. Stakeholder groups under consideration for invitations are those generally involved in drinking water issues, ground water protection efforts, and cleanup. Ken provided a list of his stakeholder nominees to the Task Force and invited them to submit any additional names that they thought appropriate. He will email the list to all the members. In addition to outside groups, a number of offices within OSWER have also been invited. Ken hopes to have drafts of the options papers ready for distribution at the meeting. A list of the stakeholders who will receive an invitation should be available the week of April 19th. Ken will distribute that list to Task Force members when it becomes available.

OTHER OPTIONS PAPERS OUTREACH EFFORTS

There is a RCRA Corrective Action National Meeting May 10-12 in Orlando Florida. A two-hour slot has been set aside at the end of the meeting for discussing the two options papers. Ken said they are trying to identify other existing meetings that they might use for outreach and asked Task Force members to send him any candidates. It was suggested that the Optimization meeting in Dallas in mid-June would be a good opportunity to reach a wide variety of stakeholders.

Ken said OSWER management is still discussing who needs to review the options papers before they are released to the public and what the process is for keeping management at various levels informed of outreach efforts. Ken also hopes to solicit stakeholder comments by posting the papers on the Ground Water Task Force webpage which should be functional in the not too distant future. It was mentioned that the One Cleanup Program is developing a communications/outreach strategy. The contact person for the task forces is Monica Rodia. Ken will add her name to his agenda email list.

NEXT STEPS FOR OPTIONS PAPERS

Both options papers will be sent to the Cleanup Programs Council for review this week. A conference call with Council members to discuss the papers is scheduled for the end of the month.

OPEN DISCUSSION

May conference call. The members discussed whether to have the May conference call since it would occur on the same day as the meeting with the Assistant Administrator. It was decided that a room and speaker phone could be reserved at the EPA west building, and the teleconference could be held from

there. The time of the call may be later than usual and if it is, Ken will inform the members when he sends out the Agenda. (Note: this is no longer an issue since the AA meeting will be re-scheduled.)

Program summaries. EMS has drafted most of the summaries and sent them for review to the designated Task Force representative. Ken will send an email out to the program representatives asking them get back to EMS as soon as possible so the summaries can be posted on the website. He reminded the members that the summaries will probably also require management approval from each program or office before being posted.

Website. EMS was asked to identify an appropriate place on the One Cleanup Program website to place a link to the Ground Water Task Force Cluin website and provide Ken with the appropriate documentation to give to the One Cleanup webmaster to make the change. Kate Sijthoff is the contact for the One Cleanup Program web site.

Strike Force. During the March 1 briefing of the Assistant Administrator, Task Force representatives were asked to develop ideas for a cross-program Ground Water Strike Force. At the last teleconference several members agreed to form a group to discuss the potential makeup and purpose of the strike force with Ken, but they have not gotten together yet.

Success Stories. A second request that came out of the March 1 briefing was to develop short descriptions of successful ground water cleanups. Ken envisions these as providing examples of restorations where clean closure and MCL goals were met, of program flexibility where technology limitations were recognized and alternate cleanup goals were set, and, if possible, examples involving cross-program coordination that led to more effective cleanup. Ken will discuss developing a list of categories and example sites with EMS.

ATTENDEES

Regions:

Felicia Barnett, OBCR Region 4
Kathy Davies, GWF Region 3
Ruth Izraeli, GWF Region 2

States:

Marty Link, NB DEQ

Headquarters:

Matt Charsky, OSRTI
Chuck Evans, OPP
Linda Fiedler, OSRTI

Ken Lovelace, OSRTI
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Guy Tomassoni, OSW
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Contractor:

Bill Myers, EMS