

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL

The next Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) conference call will be Thursday, June 17, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM Eastern Time.

INTRODUCTION

The primary topics of discussion for this meeting were the current status of the options papers and the next steps for outreach efforts. Ken Lovelace (OSRTI) asked that anyone having comments on the April 15 conference call notes should send them to him. If he does not get any comments he will be posting the notes to the website.

OPTION PAPERS

During the last week of April, the options papers were sent to OSWER office directors, regional division directors and the Cleanup Program Council to give them a last chance to make comments. Some minor comments were received, but nothing that would delay making the papers public. The comments were incorporated and the papers were posted on the GWTF website (<http://gwtf.cluin.org>) on May 10 under "discussion papers." Comments are due by July 31 and should be sent to gwtf@emsus.com.

GWTF WEB SITE

The web site is live and efforts are being made to populate it. The Task Force Meeting Summaries section now contains meeting notes through March 2004. The April notes should be posted next week. The web site is now configured so that an internet search on "Ground Water Task Force" using Google or other search engine will return the task force web page. The GWTF web site provides links to the One Cleanup Program web site and Ken has asked them to link their site to the GWTF site.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES TO DATE

RCRA Corrective Action National Meeting. Ken and Guy Tomassoni (OSW) gave presentations on the options papers during a two-hour session that was held at the end of the RCRA Corrective Action National Meeting. The session was well attended (100+) by a broad range of interest group representatives.

Ground Water News and Views. Ken has written a short article on the GWTF and the options papers for the National Ground Water Association's June issue of *Ground Water News and Views*. This on-line publication reaches ground water professionals from industry, government, and consulting.

TechDirect Newsletter. Ken has also placed a one paragraph description of GWTF activities and the options papers in EPA's *TechDirect* email newsletter, which has 20,000 plus subscribers.

Internet Seminar. Ken and Guy have scheduled two internet seminars in June to discuss the GWTF and the options papers. The dates of the seminars are June 8 and June 23 from 12:00 to 2:00 PM EST.

Ken asked members to suggest other national meetings where they might try to get on the agenda and talk about the task force and the options papers. He asked that the suggested meetings be more focused as to audience than large multifaceted meetings such as the Battelle DNAPL conference in Monterey, CA. He gave the ASTSWMO national meeting as an example.

It was suggested that the outreach effort should have two parts: (1) getting the word out that the GWTF is developing options papers, and (2) seeking direct comment on them. The former might be better served by large conferences to get people's attention, while the latter might be better served by talking directly with stakeholder groups at their conferences.

OUTREACH STRATEGY AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES FOR OPTIONS PAPERS

Ken has put together a list of approximately 20-30 groups that represent various stakeholders. He intends to send an email to them indicating that the options papers are up on the website and that EPA would like comments from them. Also in the notice is a discussion that EPA is planning follow-up conference calls on the options papers but the calls have not been scheduled yet.

The outreach meeting with the OSWER Assistant Administrator (AA) has been delayed because she is leaving the Agency June 1. Also leaving June 1 is Ramona Travolta, the current lead for the One Cleanup Initiative. Robert Springer, the current OSW Director, will replace Ramona.

About 5 times a year, the Office of Pesticide Programs invites state pesticide program directors to Washington to discuss regulatory issues. They often invite outside speakers to talk on relevant topics. It could be arranged at the next meeting to have a member of the GWTF speak on the options papers. The ground water use paper would be of particular interest to this group.

At previous meetings, holding a large face-to-face conference with all stakeholders involved has been discussed. Ken said that this meeting has been replaced with conference calls, Internet seminars, and the postponed meeting with the AA.

OPEN DISCUSSION

June conference call. The members discussed whether to reschedule the June conference call since it occurs on the last day of the Dallas Optimization Conference. It was decided that most of the members would not be attending the Dallas meeting so the June 17 call date should remain.

Program summaries. EMS has drafted all of the summaries and sent them for review to the designated Task Force representative. Ken reminded the members that they need to obtain management approval for posting on the web site.

ATTENDEES

Regions:

Harry Ball, CERCLA Region 9
Felicia Barnett, OBCR/ORD HSTL Region 4
Arnold Bierschenk, RCRA Region 6
Kathy Davies, GWF Region 3
Dick Willey, GWF Region 1

States:

Jennifer Kaduck, ASTSWMO and GA EPD
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