

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL

The next Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) conference call will be Thursday, July 15, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM Eastern Time.

INTRODUCTION

The primary topics of discussion for this meeting were outreach efforts, comments on the options papers, and the status of the “success” stories. Ken Lovelace (OSRTI) asked that anyone having comments on the May 20 conference call notes should send them to him. If he does not get any comments he will be posting the notes to the website.

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 a membership of ground water professionals that includes industry, government, and consultants.

TechDirect News Letter. Ken has also placed a one-paragraph description of GWTF activities and the options papers in EPA’s *TechDirect* email newsletter that has 17,000 plus subscribers.

Internet Seminar. Ken and Guy presented an Internet seminar June 8. The 2-hour seminar discussed the GWTF and the options papers. It had over 100 participants who represented a broad cross section of state, EPA, and industry interests. This seminar will be repeated June 23 from 12:00 to 2:00 PM EST. There are currently over 70 registrants.

Direct Email Notices. Direct email notices requesting review of the options papers have been sent to Superfund regional branch chiefs, EPA Ground Water Forum, EPA Engineering Forum, EPA Federal Facilities Forum, ATSWMO DC Office (who forwarded it to their state remediation managers), other federal facilities (via FFRRO), and a list of over 100 stakeholders identified by Ken.

FUTURE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR OPTIONS PAPERS

Federal Register Notice. A notice asking for comment on the options papers will be published in the Federal Register the week of June 21-25. This notice is to ensure the widest possible group of stakeholders will be reached.

Cleanup Programs Council (CPC). Ken is planning on holding a conference call with the CPC. That call has not been scheduled.

ASTSWMO Meetings. There is an ASTSWMO Board meeting July 26-28 in Burlington, VT. The group discussed the possibility of getting on the agenda. It was noted that at the April Board meeting the papers in their current form were discussed and comment solicited. It was decided that until there is more to say about them, it would be best not initiate further discussion with the Board.

There is a RCRA ASTSWMO meeting in July, but there does not appear to be a good place in the meeting structure for a GWTF discussion. If the task force does want to get on the agenda the contact person is Steve Cobb of the State of Alabama. Also, there is a ASTSWMO Superfund meeting August

16-18, in Scottsdale, AZ. To inquire about getting on that agenda, Ken should contact Jerry King of the State of Illinois.

Conference Calls. The idea of targeting conference calls to groups like the EPA regional programs, other federal agencies, environmental groups, etc. is still alive. Ken is working out the details.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Recommendations. As currently planned, the options papers and comments on them will provide the basis for developing a set of recommendations that will be presented to senior EPA management. A question was asked: Will the recommendations only include actions that EPA can take or will they also include state actions? There may be recommendations that come out of the process that are not EPA policy or guidance oriented and that may be directed at other groups, but the emphasis will be on EPA actions.

Comments Received to Date on Papers. So far, four people have sent comments to the dedicated email address. The DNAPL paper has 1 set of comments from a Ground Water Forum member. The ground water vulnerability paper has 3 sets of comments—1 from EPA headquarters, 1 from the State of Utah, and 1 from the State of Washington.

Program Summaries. EMS has drafted all of the summaries and sent them for review to the designated Task Force representative. Most of the drafts have had program comments incorporated into them and await program management approval for posting. To date, approval for posting has been given by the Brownfields Program, Underground Storage Tank Program, and Technology Innovation Program. Ken reminded the members that they need to actively pursue management approval for posting the descriptions on the web site.

Site Examples of Ground Water Cleanup. There are five site descriptions that have been completed. Ken will send them out to task force members for comment. He is looking for format and content emphasis suggestions.

ATTENDEES

Regions:

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States:

Jennifer Kaduck, ASTSWMO and GA EPD

Laboratories:

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