

GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Thursday, August 19, 2004

NEXT GROUND WATER TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL

The next Ground Water Task Force (GWTF) conference call will be held Thursday, September 16, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM Eastern Time.

INTRODUCTION

Guy Tomassoni (OSW) asked that anyone having comments on the June 17 conference call notes should send them to Ken Lovelace (OSRTI). If Ken does not get any comments, he will be posting the notes to the website. Guy said there was one update to the June 17 notes which is the Federal Register Notice asking for comments on the options papers will not be published.

The primary objective of this meeting was to lay out a plan for developing recommendations based on comments on the Task Force options papers

NEXT STEPS

Guy said that the Assistant Administrator's Office wants the One Cleanup Task Forces to complete their work by this fall.

Briefing for senior OSWER management on draft recommendations. Because of the tight schedule, Ken and Guy prefer to brief senior management on the draft recommendations in early to mid-November.

Reconvene Subgroups. Guy said they want to reconvene the DNAPL and Ground Water Use subgroups. He asked that current members of these subgroups who would like to remain members and anyone who would like to volunteer for one or both to contact him as soon as possible. He asked that subgroup members commit to reviewing the comments on the options papers before the next Task Force teleconference (September 16) so that they can be discussed during the call. Sometime during the week following the September 16 conference call he will schedule a 2-hour conference call to formulate initial draft recommendations.

Ken and Guy hope to be able to distribute drafts from both subgroups to GWTF members during the week of October 1. Guy said they would like the members to review the comments with an eye to developing recommendations from the options. Members should be prepared to discuss the recommendations during the October 14 teleconference.

Guy said he expects to have the draft recommendations reviewed by the Task Force at some point in time but does not know how this review will fit in with the senior management briefing. Also, given the desire of management to wrap up the Task Force efforts this fall, it is unlikely that the recommendations will be available for external review. There was a strong feeling among the Task Force members that the draft recommendations be vetted by ASTSWMO, the EPA regions, and the EPA labs.

Recommendations Format. A question of what format the recommendations should take was raised. Should they be a simple list or should the GWTF produce a recommendations report that would be drafted by the contractor? It was suggested that while a full blown report may be unnecessary, there should be some context in which to place the recommendations.

In answer to a question from a Task Force member, Guy said the expectation of OSWER management was that the Task Force recommendations would present solutions to the problem statements. A number of the comments received were on how to revise the options papers rather than agreeing with or suggesting alternative solutions. They are not planning on revising the papers, but will take into consideration those comments that addressed the options in formulating the recommendations.

COMMENTS ON THE OPTIONS PAPERS

Comments from ASTSWMO were mailed August 13 to Ken and are not included in the comments table that was sent to Task Force members. Guy asked Jennifer Kaduck to forward the ASTSWMO comments to him since Ken left before he had a chance to distribute them.

The comments came from a wide range of stakeholders consisting of environmental consulting firms, industry, states, and EPA regions. Guy noted that no comments were received from community groups or environmental advocacy organizations.

Posting of Comments.

There was a discussion on what portion of the comments should be readily available on the website with options ranging from generic descriptions by sector (State, EPA, Industry) to posting the full comments as received. A decision on which option to take will be made by OSWER management.

Discussion of Comments. Guy said the Ground Water Use paper received a wide variety of comments, several of which emphasized protectiveness over current use. One Task Force member observed that a number of the comments were not directed at improving the options as much as improving the papers.

The Task Force members suggested that the comments might be easier to review if they had the original submissions, Guy said he would work with the contractor to determine what would be the best way to do that.

ATTENDEES

Regions:

Meghan Cassidy, Region 1
Dick Willey, GWF Region 1
Kathy Davies, GWF Region 3
Joel Hennessy, GWF Region 3
Felicia Barnett, Region 4 Brownfields
Harry Ball, Region 9
Howard Orlean, RCRA Region 10
Bernie Zavala, CERCLA Region 10

States:

Jennifer Kaduck, ASTSWMO and GA EPD
Bob Pierce, GA EPD
Marty Link, NB DEQ
Eric Hausmann, NY DEC

Bill Wurster, NY DEC
Jack Gelting, SC DHEC

Headquarters:

Matt Charsky, OSRTI
Chuck Evans, OPP
JoAnn Griffith, OSRTI
Steve Mangion, ORD HSTL Region 1
Gregg Sullivan, OECA
Guy Tomassoni, OSW
Tim Mott, FFRRO

Contractor:

Bill Myers, EMS