

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

Ohio Department of
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8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Ohio Public Utilities
Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of
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8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-
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Ohio Department of
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Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

Ohio Department of
Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**To promote and guide the implementation of a coordinated,
comprehensive and effective ground water protection and
management program for the state of Ohio**

**October 15, 2015
ODNR Fountain Square Campus
Building E, Assembly Center East**

The October 15, 2015 meeting consisted of Agency announcements, a presentation by Mary Ann Thomas (USGS) on 'Arsenic in Ohio Groundwater' and a demo of ODNR's map-based well log search by Jim Raab

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke
ODNR: Jim Raab, Rick Trippel
ODH: Russell Smith
PUCO: Sue Daly

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health:

Rule Revision. The bureau is working on 5-year rule revision for private water systems. They have completed sections on well construction and development, and will next discuss continuous disinfection and treatment, and potable re-use.

HealthSpace. Progress continues on the development of a computer-based application (called "HealthSpace") for documenting all inspections of private drinking water systems and certifications of water well drillers.

Violations Library. Included in the computerization of records is a Violations Library, which will provide local health departments with information on the private wells that have accrued violations, and list the available corrective options, including variances.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

Max Walton Glen. The water supply issues have finally been resolved in this Richland County community, which was formerly served by a private water supplier who wanted to retire. All the former customers now have their own private wells.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Resources:

New Rules. Workgroups for draft rules for spill notification and secondary containment have met, and draft rules on facilities and remediation are progressing.

Oil and Gas Activity. There has been a significant reduction in Utica Shale drilling over the last 6-8 months, due primarily to lower oil and gas prices. However, production in the completed shale wells is increasing, now that the necessary infrastructure is in place. Currently 21-25 rigs are running, and 102 permits have been issued since August 15, 2015. To date, 2,041 wells have been permitted, 1,608 have been drilled, and 1,018 are producing.

ER Team. A team trained to provide quick emergency response in the event of a well pad spill or fire has been established in eastern Ohio, which is available to all county and local first responders.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources:
Defiance County Well Investigation. The division will be examining intermittent problems with water levels in a handful of domestic wells in Defiance County, which may be related to irrigation pumping during the summer months.

Reorganization. The division reorganization is expected to be complete by the end of December.

The Ohio State University Extension:

Certification website. OSU Extension has a website for anyone interested in information about the new agricultural fertilizer applicator certification. The website has information on who needs to be certified, what regulations are applicable to the state, and the new regulations in the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed. It is available at <http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu>.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). In summer 2015, many of Ohio EPA's ground water staff at the districts and in Central Office were recruited to assist with sampling and outreach to public water systems with a high susceptibility to HABs. Thanks to better preparation and early detection, no public water systems have been obliged to issue drinking water advisories based on cyanotoxins in 2015.

Draft Rules for HABs. DDAGW has drafted rules that would require all public water systems using surface water to sample their raw and treated water weekly for microcystins for one full year, after which reducing the sampling schedule will be considered. They must also submit weekly samples of raw water to OEPA's laboratory, to be screened for the presence of toxin-producing cyanobacteria via the qPCR method. During the first year, the laboratory will not charge for the qPCR screenings. If screenings identify cyanobacteria that produce toxins other than microcystins, Ohio EPA will handle sampling for those toxins. The draft rules are currently undergoing public comment and the final version is expected to be in effect by June 2016.

Analysis of Health Advisory Levels. DDAGW is analyzing all the Division's raw and finished ground and surface water data from public water systems for 19 inorganic constituents that have USEPA Health Advisory Levels (HALs). Health Advisory Levels can be found online at <http://water.epa.gov/action/advisories/drinking/upload/dwstandards2012.pdf>

Nutrient Reduction Strategy. USEPA's review of this draft strategy, which was produced primarily by the Division of Surface Water, included comments that it needed to address ground water and drinking water in more detail. DSW is requesting an extension to make revisions, and SCCGW is tasked with addressing the ground water/drinking water comments through a small workgroup. This will be discussed more at the December meeting, with a view toward starting the effort in 2016.

PRESENTATION

Mary Ann Thomas (USGS) gave a presentation on arsenic in Ohio ground water, based on two studies, both of which will be published soon by USGS: “Arsenic concentrations in groundwater of Licking County—Occurrence and relation to hydrogeology”, and “Effectiveness of water-treatment systems for arsenic used in eleven homes in southwest and central Ohio”.

PRESENTATION

Jim Raab (ODNR-DSWR) presented a demo of the division’s new map-based search application for well logs. This replaces and greatly improves upon the well log search functions provided in the Earth Resources Information Network (ERIN), which will soon be phased out. (However, ERIN provided additional hydrogeologic information, such as locations of floodplains, aquifer boundaries, and source water protection areas, which are not part of the new well log search application.)

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

The annual holiday meeting will be held December 18, at Panera, 300 W. Lane Avenue (across from ice rink/St. Johns Arena), 8:30-11:30. There is no charge but an expectation that folks purchase refreshments from Panera. Presentation to be arranged.

REMINDER:

Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW website at <http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/sccgw.aspx>