



Technical Guidance Committee

Minutes

June 25, 2009

**Department of Environmental Quality
Conference Room A
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho**

ATTENDEES:

Joe Canning, P.E., B&A Engineers
Bob Erickson, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, South Central Health District (SCHD)
David Hatt, Onsite Wastewater Coordinator, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
George Miles, P.C., Advanced Wastewater Engineering
Steve Pew, Environmental Health Director, Southeast District Health Department (SDHD)
Mike Reno, Environmental Health Supervisor, Central District Health Department (CDHD)
Dawn Shepherd, Administrative Assistant, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

ABSENT:

None

GUESTS:

Richard Huddleston, P.E., Wastewater Program Manager, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Mathew Gibbs, Infiltrator Systems

The meeting called to order at 9:05 am on February 4, 2009.

Dawn Shepherd introduced to the Committee. Dawn replaced Belinda as Administrative Assistant for the wastewater program.



OLD BUSINESS:

- TGC meeting minutes:

March 17, 2009 meeting minutes

Motion: Steve Pew motions to accept minutes as presented.

Second: Joe Canning

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes will post as final.

- ETP System Revised Testing Requirements/Enforcement:

Discussion: TGC members and guests discuss the history of, and the inherent problems that permeate the operation and maintenance entity structure (O&M). Discussion included points of view from the service provider, regulator, property owner, and O&M entity. Issues addressed ranged from property owner abuse of the treatment units and the need for the owners to take more of an active role to bring their systems into compliance; service providers who are not sampling or performing appropriate services needed to keep the systems in compliance; Health Districts inability to enforce on property owner or O&M in a timely manner as to protect the waters of the State; Property owners objections to the sampling and re-sampling of units without proper notice; Service providers inability to get the property owners to pay for services rendered; O&M entities inability to get the attendance and support from members at scheduled annual meetings. Other issues discussed what to do with property owners who have lost incomes and have lost the ability to pay for services or homes that have been foreclosed upon.

Wastewater Program Manager indicates the enforcement part of the ETP section should be separated from the TGM and sent through a different process for approval. TGC would like to have updated section in place for 2008 annual reporting; Onsite Wastewater Coordinator would like to accommodate request but does not see the time to permit this request. TGC would like a final draft presented at the next TGC meeting.

Motion: Mike Reno motions to approve changes to the ETP section recommended by the Water Quality Administrator (Barry Burnell) and Wastewater Program Manager.

Second: Joe Canning

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

- Setback to Permanent Water Bodies:

Subcommittee Update: Subcommittee lead unable to attend meeting and present current status of subcommittee. George Miles discusses some setback options and gives Otis air force base as an example.



Old Business Continued

Joe Canning recommends the solicitation for participation from the Realtors Association and the Building Contractors Association. Joe will contact some of the people he may know in order to seek out an active participant to sit on the subcommittee.

Motion: No motion brought forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGN BASED ON ADEQUATE WASTEWATER FLOWS AND PROPER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE:**

Mike Reno introduces to the committee and guests a handout titled: **RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGN BASED ON ADEQUATE WASTEWATER FLOWS AND PROPER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE** and asks if anyone present objects to the introduction to the agenda item; No objections made. Mike Reno request a copy, sent to the Administrator and the Director.

Bob Erickson inquires if the 2010 proposed rules will go back to the Legislature this year. Rick Huddleston responded to the inquiry, indicating not this Legislative session but maybe the 2012 session.

- **Update American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 (ARRA):**
Rick Huddleston presented an update to the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 (ARRA). Rick indicates the work plan for the Health Districts and the QAPP for phosphorus sampling of septic tanks statewide is currently in process and the timeline to finish, will be within in a few weeks. Rick would also like to know the man hours involved to pull a single sample from a septic tank.

Steve Pew EH Director for Southeast District Health will inquire in his District and amongst the other Health Districts, provide an estimation of how long a single sample from a septic tank may take. Steve also noted that the drive time to pull a sample will be an issue, and may not be cost effective if long drives will be involved.

- **Basic and Complex Installers Test:**
Onsite Wastewater Coordinator in process of collecting all the basic and complex installers test throughout the district. David indicates many years have past by since DEQ created and distributed a standardized Basic and Complex installers test statewide. Two options are presented.



- Enlist the help of NEHA to administer the basic and complex tests and set up a process in which NEHA can revoke an installer's license if installer is found negligent or on a consistent basis shows disregard for the rules.
Or;
- Pull together the various tests throughout the Health Districts and the Department; distribute to the TGC to review questions for relevancy; write new questions to accommodate the revisions to the TGM over the years. The next step will be to solicit from the Health Districts questions for submission to the revised basic and complex installers test. Test will be updated on a regular basis yet to be determined.

TGC opts for second option and requests Onsite Wastewater Coordinator to provide copies of all variations of the basic and complex test to the TGC for review..... Coordinator will provide tests.

Motion: George Miles motions to table item until the next TGC meeting as to allow TGC review of test questions, supply feedback and guidance for taking and distributing Installers test in the future.

Second: Mike Reno

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

- **ASTM 33 Sand Adjustment:**

TGC is reviewing the sieve requirements for ASTM 33 sand requirements. Bob Erickson TGC member reports on the history of; and the need to adjust the requirements found in the guidance and keep the manual up to date, new technologies or findings when made available. Bob has also provided to the TGC and the Department, findings by well known soils scientist Jim Converse and studies performed by OSI. The discussion centered around the current guidance for filter sand, which is a modified ASTM C-33 with 2-10% through the 100 sieve and <2% through the 200 sieve. Bob indicated Blaine County – specifically Walker Sand & Gravel – has a product known locally as “fill sand” that is used in golf course green construction, and it just happens to meet the ASTM C-33 criteria, but with fewer fines; specifically < 2% through the 100 sieve and <1% through the 200 sieve.

Discussion by TGC focuses on how many gravel plants have the capability statewide to produce the revised sand requirements. Discussion also led to updating the soils section by removing the Outdated USDA soils table and the relevance of some of the items currently in the soils section.

Overall agreement among TGC members was to strive to keep the Manual technically up to date whenever possible.

Motion: Steve Pew motions to remove from manual item 2, USDA definition of medium sand; clarification for item 3, sand particle size; bring recommendation to next meeting.



Second: Bob Erickson

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

- **Technical Guidance Manual:**

- Jeanna Burrup from Tech-Pubs presented to the committee a brief past history of what the goals were for revising the manual, type of revisions completed and what revisions are still in process. Jeanna indicates no content was changed during the revision and when completed the manual will be geared more as a web based document; easier to use, clear and consistent.
- Section Update Discussion:

Motion: George Miles motions to table item until the next TGC meeting as to allow TGC review of revised TGM.

Second: Mike Reno

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

- **Pump–Vaults/ Basins/ Chambers/ Tanks:**

Discussion: TGC members discussed issues surrounding pump; vaults, basins, chambers and tanks. George Miles noted that an electrical permit should be required and on file w/HD for all the various pump tank configurations that are permitted statewide. Mike Reno indicated that each individual Health District should make this decision.

TGC inquired about the pressurized dosing section and why the corrections voted on last year had not been updated into the TGM. Coordinator explained that the TGC voted last year to take a different direction regarding the pressurized dosing section; coordinator will apply previously approved section with a vote from members.

Joe Canning inquired about the wording shall and must in the TGM and pointed to some other revision that should be edited in the section.

TGC agrees that if any variations of basins, chambers, tanks and vaults will need to be placed on the states approved list before a permit can be written.

George Miles indicated that pump basins should be allowed only when there are site constraints that do not allow for sump pumps.

Motion: Mike Reno motions to reinstate previously approved changes to the pressurized distribution dosing section.

Second: Steve Pew

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.



Motion: Bob Erickson motions to revise approved septic tank list to include pump basins, dosing and pump chambers.

Second: George Miles

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Mike Reno motions to amend pg 59 of the TGM to read:

Volume of dosing should allow for one days flow above the high water alarm unless duplex pump are used.

Second: Joe Canning

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

- Vertical Separation: ETP System/Pathogen Reduction
TGC discusses the reasoning for ETP systems, granted the same separation distances to limiting layers as sand and gravel filter.

Motion: Mike Reno motions to table the vertical separation agenda item until the next meeting so more data can be accumulated to support any recommendation that may made for increasing or decreasing the vertical separation distances.

Second: George Miles

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

- Soils and Large Fractions:
Discussion among TGC members centered on definition of large rock fragments, TGC agreed to Table discussion until Onsite Wastewater Coordinator sends, TGC information gathered at the SORA (State Onsite Regulators Association) conference this year.

Motion: George Miles motions to table Soils and Large Fractions until the next TGC meeting.

Second: Mike Reno

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

PRODUCT REVIEW / APPROVAL:

- Elgin Geotextile Sand Filter (MASSTec Data):
TGC discussed the Elgin Sand filter and what category this product should be placed into according to rule and guidance, if approved. TGC decides to approve the Elgin Geotextile Sand Filter as a gravelless component and grant a 25% reduction to drain field sizing as outline in the guidance manual. TGC could not find justification at this time to grant Elgin's request that the product gain approval as an ETPS system due to the ongoing maintenance requirements for an ETPS system.



Motion: Mike Reno motions to approve the Elgin Geotextile Sand Filter as a gravelless component.

Second: George Miles

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

- Aero-Tech Aerobic Treatment Units:
 - Model: AT-500/500 GPD thru AT-1500/1500GPD

Motion: Bob Erickson motions to approve the Aero-Tech Aerobic Treatment Unit Models AT-500/500 GPD thru AT-1500/1500GPD and add the Areo-Tech product to the approved treatment unit list for BOD₅ and TSS reductions.

Second: Steve Pew

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

- EZ Flow:

Matt Gibbs from EZflow by Infiltrator presented to the committee the easy flow gravelless product to the committee for approval. Matt indicated to the committee, corrections have made to the manufacturing process and the geotextile covering incorporated into the product now covers the entire top portion of the product to meet current rule. The product will be identified with the nomenclature GEO (geotextile fabric).

Motion: Bob Erickson motions to approve the EZflow geotextile product provided the fabric encompasses the entire surface of the product are according to rule.

Second: Steve Pew

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

- Next Technical Guidance Committee meeting will be a teleconference meeting held November 4, 2009.

Motion: Steve Pew motions to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Bob Erickson

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously.