

Drainfield to Surface Water Setback Distance Subcommittee  
Teleconference Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, 12/02/2009, 10:00 am

Teleconference  
Date: 2009-12-02  
Start: 1000 hours  
Attendance:

Boise: AJ Maupin, PE; Joe Canning, PE; Bill Holder, PE; Dr. Jim Ippolito, Ph.D. USDA  
Coeur d'Alene: Dick Martindale; George Miles, PE; John Corcoran (Realtor Association Representative);  
Allen Worst  
Idaho Falls: Nathan Taylor

Missing: Brett Skidmore (Building Contractors Association Representative);

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am.

The October 29, 2009 meeting minutes were presented for acceptance to the subcommittee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The draft subcommittee Goals and Objectives were presented for discussion. Recommendation made to include reference to protecting the beneficial uses of surface water. This recommendation was accepted. A motion was made to accept the Goals and Objectives as modified, was seconded and passed unanimously.

STRATA Engineering offered their FTP (file transfer protocol) website as the receptacle for articles. The articles will be available to download from this site. Articles will need to be uploaded by STRATA. Subcommittee members will need to either email or physically send files in electronic format to Bill Holder.

A draft Timeline and Milestones for the Subcommittee's activities was discussed. The draft timeline included a milestone for recommended changes to the TGM and Rules. Some members voiced concern about potential loss of the TGM due to inclusion in Rule. That is not likely due to the Rule requirement to maintain a TGM for alternative treatment systems. It was identified that the TGM provides guidance for both ground and surface water separation distance modification. Furthermore, it was noted that any technological solutions identified by the subcommittee would be best documented in the TGM's alternative treatment system section. Additionally, the draft timeline attempts to include negotiated rule making efforts to support the 2011 legislative session. Inclusion of tasks associated with negotiated rule making were perceived as particularly difficult to coordinate with other tasks and maintain a viable schedule. Additionally, it was pointed out that at this point in the subcommittee's efforts it is not known whether negotiated rule making will be a recommend course of action. The draft Timeline and Milestones were tabled for additional work and presentation at the next meeting. The TGM may be obtained as a PDF from DEQ's website at [http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist\\_business/septic/tech\\_manual\\_updates.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist_business/septic/tech_manual_updates.cfm). The Individual / Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rules (IDAPA 58.01.03) may be obtained in a PDF from the Department of Administration's website at <http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa58/58index.htm>.

Members were asked to express their position concerning the subcommittee's activities and provide any pertinent reasons supporting their position. Some members stated that they had not yet formed an opinion on whether the drainfield setback distances needed to be changed. Others voiced desires to see the Rules and TGM changed. It was generally accepted that any recommendations must be based on the available science. It was pointed out that the US EPA has segregated Idaho into 2 ecoregions, the Xeric West (Region III) and the Forested Mountain West (Region II); see US EPS report EPA/822-B-00-007 which can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/nutrient/ecoregions/lakes/index.html>. The ecoregions differ in the nutrient load carrying capacity of their surface waters. This information is good for the subcommittee to keep in mind during any recommendation development. It was also pointed out that studies currently reviewed for pathogen sequestering and transport have reported greatly varying information. Information was reported that indicated virus transport between 300 ft and 1500 ft has been documented. Other reports indicated that bacteria were sequestered within the first 60 cm (23.6") of soil beneath the drainfield. Concerns were voiced about hydraulic, nutrient and pathogen loading, impacts of any disinfection efforts and secondary impacts on drainfield biomat generation.

The subcommittee discussed the proposed variables for any matrix methodology to modify setback distances. It was pointed out that the current listing did not contain any aquifer attributes, such as hydraulic conductivity and ground water gradient. These aquifer attributes, along with mixing zone depth, will be added to the matrix variables. Additionally, it was pointed out that the soil attributes addressed only soil type, based on particle size. It was recommended that attributes be added for soils that addressed mineralogy. A member asked if the intent was to apply this matrix to every site seeking a subsurface sewage disposal permit. It is anticipated that any resulting matrix

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would be used for site evaluation if surface water interactions were possible, but that a flowchart may be necessary to address which matrix would be applicable. These variables will be added to the matrix variable listing and discussed at a future meeting.

Meeting 3 scheduled for Wednesday, 6 January 2010, from 10:00 am MST (9:00 am PST) to 12:00 pm MST (11:00 am PST). The subcommittee members were asked to submit topics for the agenda. The main topic of discussion was determined to be the focus group findings. Discussions within the focus group were encouraged over the holidays in preparation for the early January meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

End: 12:12 pm

DRAFT