

**Drinking Water Quality Institute
Environmental Infrastructure Trust
December 16th, 2005 - Meeting Minutes
Lawrenceville, NJ**

Members present: Mark Robson, Leslie McGeorge, Perry Cohn, Russell Ford, Paul LaPierre, Carol Storms, Eileen Murphy, Barker Hamill, Jean Matteo, Ray DiFrancesco, Steve Jenniss, Ann Marie Fournier, Dave Pringle

Members absent: Eugene Golub

Non-members in attendance: From NJDEP - Michele Putnam, Linda Walsh, Suzanne Shannon, Gloria Post, Diane Pupa, Karen Fell, Lee Lippincott, Syed Rizvi, Drew Sites, Jill Lipoti, Jenny Goodman, Pat Gardner. From USGS: Zoltan Szabo. From Garden State Labs - Harvey Klein. From NJ Water Assoc.-Rick Howlett. From Monmouth County Health Dept.- Bill Simmons.

1. Call to Order and Administrative Business

Chair M. Robson opened the meeting at 1:12 p.m. M. Robson introduced & welcomed two newly appointed members of the Institute: Russell Ford (MWH Americas, Inc.) & Ann Marie Fournier (Monmouth County Health Department). M. Robson also thanked Bruce Chorba (Mercer County Community College) who rotated off the DWQI. An updated list of DWQI members was distributed which depicts a few members still remain in expired positions, and one vacancy still exists.

2. Dec 16th Agenda

The proposed agenda for the day was reviewed & approved without changes.

3. Minutes of the October 7th, 2005, DWQI meeting

The minutes from the Oct 7th, 2005 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes.

4. Private Well Testing Act Program

Perchlorate

E. Murphy provided an explanation as to why perchlorate is on the agenda again with regard to including it in the Private Well Testing Act (PWTA) Program. Since the DEP is about ready to propose an MCL of 5 ppb for Public Water Systems (PWS), PWTA tests *for most of* the same parameters as PWSs and the MCL would also be applicable to private wells. She also discussed perchlorate sources nationwide vary from point sources (military bases) to widespread sources (fertilizers) and that

research in NJ shows perchlorate is likely a widespread issue not limited to point sources.

D. Sites from DEP's-Site Remediation Program provided some details about a short term study his group is conducting with L. Lippincott from DEP's Division of Science, Research & Technology and NJ Institute of Technology on various media to better understand treating perchlorate, esp. point of entry options. Further details will be available in about one month. Longer term studies will begin in Jan 2006 and should be ready in about one year, which would likely coincide with the effective date for perchlorate testing once the rule proposal goes final.

K. Fell presented detailed perchlorate occurrence data to the DWQI that BSDW has collected under various circumstances (e.g. UCMR, private citizen requests, targeted sampling, etc) which seems to indicate a widespread distribution of perchlorate in NJ.

A motion was made that the Department act to include perchlorate in the PWTA. After discussion of various issues (treatment, costs, etc), the motion was seconded and voted upon. All were in favor with the exception of one new member abstaining.

5. Health Effects Subcommittee Recommendation on Existing MCLs

Health Effects Subcommittee Chair, Dave Pringle discussed a handout distributed to the members that outlined the MCL review and referral of twenty-two A-280 contaminants. Referring to the handout, Table 1 contains contaminants where there has been no change in health effects information therefore, the health based MCLs should remain unchanged. Table 2 contains health based MCLs still in need of further review, and Table 3 (a subset of Table 1) contains those contaminants that the subcommittee is referring to the Testing Subcommittee because the MCL is higher than the health-based MCL due to analytical limitations which existed at the time the MCL was first established. D. Pringle stated that the HE Subcommittee will continue to evaluate Table 2 contaminants in 2006 as well as to provide a final recommendation to the DWQI in 2006 also.

Testing Subcommittee Chair, Steve Jenniss agreed to have the Testing Subcommittee review the Table 3 contaminants.

6. Radon in Drinking Water

B. Hamill provided an overview of NJ's Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) with regard to authority for regulating various contaminants and pointed out that although radionuclides were not specifically identified by the legislature at the time the Act was written in 1986 (nor are any chemical contaminants specifically identified), it is recognized that radon is an issue in drinking water. He also presented evidence as to why radon does not fit into the typical 3-subcommittee approach for recommending an MCL.

Jill Lipoti, Director of DEP's Radiation Protection Program, discussed the need for the DWQI to consider regulating radon in drinking water and provided health related statistics & occurrence data as support. In addition, several approaches were discussed as to "how" to regulate radon in drinking water, including forming an Ad Hoc Committee for evaluating possible regulatory options.

Legal authority for DEP to set a drinking water MCL was raised and B. Hamill agreed to getting an informal legal opinion by next meeting (Jan 2006).

A discussion ensued, and a motion was made to form an Ad Hoc committee. Russell Ford, Carol Storms, Jean Matteo, Steve Jenniss, Dave Pringle, Eileen Murphy, Barker Hamill, and Leslie McGeorge volunteered for the committee. Pat Gardner and Jenny Goodman from the NJDEP's Radon Program will also be part of the ad-hoc committee. A committee chair will be decided at the first committee meeting likely in Jan 2006.

7. Schedule and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for February 10th at 1:00. February 17 at 1:00 was set as a backup if the February 10 meeting has to be cancelled due to weather. It was agreed the radon program would provide additional information to the Institute so that it can be reviewed before the next meeting. M. Robson stated he would personally solicit new members for their participation in one or more subcommittees before the next meeting.

NOTE: FEBRUARY MEETING- POSTPONED until March 31st, 2006, same place & time.

8. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by

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Amended January 31st, 2006 & April 2nd, 2006