

PRIVATE WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Notes – June 12, 2014

Attendees: Jill Jonas (DNR), Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Mary Ellen Vollbrecht (DNR), Dorie Turpin (DNR), Bob Smail (DNR), Eileen Pierce (DNR), Tom McDermott, Jr., Jeff Kramer, Terry Marshall, Cindy Denman, Randall Niffenegger, Rick Brehmer, Bill Batten, Ken Sweeney, Gary Kuhn, Dan Steffes

Minutes: January 2014 meeting notes were approved.

Words from Jill Jonas, Bureau Director, Drinking Water and Groundwater

- We appreciate your work and your leadership for the industry.
- Program Direction – Agency direction is to operate efficiency and consistency, LEAN government. Private Water program focus is to prioritize staff work on acute health risks: unannounced inspections of wells under construction, getting unused wells filled and sealed, enforcement of WD/PI regulations, contamination response. Efficiencies include expanded use of electronic tools for communication and record-keeping, one-page Property Transfer Well Inspection form to document compliance/noncompliance (see handout), DNR not involved in real estate transfers.
- DNR counting on continued industry leadership in providing technical assistance to homeowners so DNR staff can focus on regulatory responsibilities.
- High Cap Well Approvals – priority to reduce backlog, new staff being hired.
- Continuing Education – Time to take a careful review of the current process. DNR in-person time and financial investment is high, we are looking at ways to scale back DNR time investment and still be effective. Jill asked the group for input. Comments included: presence of section chief important to reinforce enforcement, important to have regulators present, on-line options can put you to sleep, is there a role for UWEX?, perhaps DNR present every other year, increased role for technical schools and industry organizations?

Private Water Supply Program Updates

Liesa Lehmann introduced as the Acting Private Water Supply Section Chief through early September. Steve Ales recently promoted to DNR's South District Water Leader position.

High Cap Application Changes

Bob Smail, Water Use Section explained on "LEAN" process and provided overview of new application form for High Capacity Wells (see handout). He also gave a status report on the high cap review backlog.

NR 812 Revision Update

The Natural Resources approved the rule package and now it needs approval by the relevant legislative committees and the Joint Committee. After that it needs to be laid out in rule form and proofed by DNR before printing. At this point we are expecting an effective date of September 1. The private water program will be focusing on staff training, web updates and outreach materials during the next few months.

Heat Exchange Rule Update

Mel Vollbrecht, Groundwater Section Chief, gave overview of heat exchange drilling rules and licensing process (see handout). HED license will be required starting April 1, 2015 in order to

drill heat exchange system. WWSWA representatives asked DNR to offer heat exchange license exam at their Wisconsin Dells conference.

2014 Continuing Education Recap

Dorie Turpin and Cindy Denman provided summary of all the evaluations from 2014 CE sessions (see handout). Positive feedback on DOT regulations talk. October 16, 2014 is CE make-up session. A planning meeting for 2015 CE will immediately follow today's Advisory Council meeting.

Contamination Responses

Residents of the Town of Jackson will be connecting to the Village of Jackson water system. DNR staff responded to several well contamination events this spring that were determined to result from livestock waste runoff. Residential community near Brownsville in Dodge County had several wells impacted.

Special Well Casing Depth Areas

Dorie distributed list of 4 new Special Well Casing Depth Areas established in April and May (see handout).

Newly-Approved Geothermal Products

Dorie Turpin distributed approval letters for several geothermal products (see handouts).

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Latitude-Longitude – Ken noted that DNR applications and reports ask for different lat-long formats, and asked that DNR standardize to one format.
2. Coated bentonite pellets (slow-release hydration) - Terry Marshall requested that a future meeting include a discussion of these pellets to fill and seal 2-inch diameter wells.
3. Municipal well regulation – question about authority. Municipalities are not authorized to regulate well construction, only the state can.

Handouts

- Property Transfer Well Inspection form
- Non-Potable High Capacity Well Approval Request
- Overview – Wisconsin Heat Exchange Drilling Rules
- Special Well Casing Depth Areas
- Product Approval Letters

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 9:30 am, at DNR office in Fitchburg