

Tuesday January 26, 2016

Hosted by the DEC

1st floor conference room 555 Cordova St. Anchorage with teleconference

Attendees in Anchorage: Charley Palmer (DEC), Chris Miller (DEC), Roy Robertson (DEC), Wayne Westberg (WWC), David Schade (DNR), Angela Bolton (AWWU), Jim Munter (Hydrogeologist/Consultant), Dan Brotherton (WWC)

Attendees via teleconference line: John Craven (Public Water System Officer/Operator), Jacob Dilley (DEC), Pamela Goode (Private Citizen), James Squyres (Private Citizen), Lee Ice (WWC), Chuck Ice (WWC), Ted Schacle (WWC), Craig Seime (WWC)

Absent: Jeff Ellison (WWC), Rebecca Baril (DEC), Bill Kranich (WWC), Jeff Warner (DEC)

Meeting Minutes

Facilitator: Chris Miller

Introduction

- Roll Call
- **Other Business**
 - Charley: DEC employees worked with some of the well drillers to write up an “Earthquake Factsheet” for well owners to reference after the recent 7.1 earthquake. The factsheet was posted on the Private Well Owners website. Please notify the DEC staff if you have comments.
- **Definitions:** Green highlights are changes made from the previously distributed version.
 - Jim: Struggled with the definitions for “hydraulic head”. Situations that make it difficult to define. We need to look at how this term is used in the document and its intent.
 - Charley: We are talking about the open annulus between confined and unconfined aquifers. We were discussing how puncturing the confining layer or in an unconfined aquifer, how that may change the pressure and head. Let’s finish the Decommissioning BMP and let that dictate the definitions.
 - Wayne: For permeability, suggested edit: “...ability to transmit fluid **which is** a function of porosity...”
 - Agreed
 - Wayne: There are probably technical definitions for all of these, but we need to make sure that any well owner can pick these up and understand, and that the definitions are relevant to the documents.
- **Decommissioning Document:** Green highlighting indicates changes from previous distribution of the document.
 - Charley: Changed title in 4.0 to match with definitions.
 - 5.0.2 (B) *Backfilling*
 - Charley: Added examples of problematic open annular spaces. We then add that if it is problematic it should be sealed, and how it should be done.
 - Wayne: In the final document, it may help to mention at the top of the page what section it is continuing from.

- Jim: The way this is handled in the Municipality of Anchorage, is through the separation distance checkboxes.
 - Dan: The reality is, also, that you may not know what's going on unless you were the one who drilled the well.
 - David: Since we are planning on changing the "Decommissioning Log" form from the DNR, so this discussion could be had for edits to make to the form.
 - Charley: We currently don't require the DNR form, so is there something we want to add in these BMP's that asks for documenting discretionary judgements made.
 - David: I think we've documented everything we need to document here. We want to get these out to the AWWA for them to review. I don't think there is much more we need to consider and change.
 - Jim: The alternative is to start creating a large paper work process and possibly review process. The document as it stands now, seems to get the point across of what needs to be recorded.
- David: Is everyone ok with proceeding ahead with providing the document to the AWWA group to review and accept.
 - Agreed.
- Charley: Jim Rypkema made some changes with the APDES permits. He specified the intent of the permits in order to ease the burden of those who were unclear of whether the process is necessary.
 - Wayne: That email should be disseminated to engineering firms and similar, as they are not aware of these requirements, or lack of.
- Charley: Do we want to set up a meeting for after the AWWA meeting to discuss the feedback? The next step is the discussion on licensing, which the group may not be ready to discuss. We could discuss the feedback and possibly plan on moving on to the next steps after this summer's hiatus. Possibly having the next meeting Tuesday February, 23, 2016.
 - Jim: Could the DEC and DNR have feedback ready for the next meeting as well?
 - Charley: Yes DEC could have feedback ready for the 23rd.
 - David: We could mix these documents in with the regulatory review, and could most likely have some feedback ready for the 23rd.
 - Charley: Will set up a finalized document in the next week, and will send out for signatures and comments.
- Wayne: Is there any discussion in DEC for public well construction standards or BMP's?
 - Charley: There has not been any discussion because that would mean changing regulation.
 - John: I think this group has gone above the current regulations and the Public Water System's need help for construction standards.
 - Charley: Agreed, and a consultant could use these BMP's that we've created as a guiding standard.
 - Wayne: I would agree that the regulations for Public Wells could use revision. There is also a problem with engineering knowledge and education. The lack of knowledge with water wells, has caused issues with construction.
- David: Could we put together a list of issues that have been thrown to the side along the way that we could move forward on?
 - Chris: Yes, we have kept a pretty good list that we can bring to the next meeting.

- Charley: Would like to keep the collaboration on this group going, even if it means going down to quarterly meetings.

Wrap-up and next Meeting

- The group agreed that the next meeting will be held **Tuesday February 23, 2016, 6:00pm – 8:00 pm.**

Action Items:

- Definitions
 - Permeability definition edit
 - Remove unused definitions
- Decommissioning BMPs
 - Underline words found in the Definitions document
 - In 6.0 References – add line that clarifies “or newest version”
- Construction BMPs
- Other
 - Finalize documents and send to group for before AWWA meeting
 - Next meeting to discuss feedback from representative groups (i.e. AWWA, DEC, DNR and others)
- **Next Meeting is Tuesday February 23, 2016 6:00-8:00pm**