

*Wednesday March 24, 2015*

*Hosted by the DEC*

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

**Attendees in Anchorage:**

Charley Palmer (DEC), Chris Miller (DEC), Rebecca Baril (DEC), Bill Kranich (WWC), David Schade (DNR) Jim Munter (Hydrogeologist/Consultant), Jeff Warner (DEC), Wayne Westberg (WWC), Roy Roberston (DEC)

**Attendees via teleconference line:**

Pamela Goode (Private Citizen), James Squyres (Private Citizen), John Craven (Public Water System Officer/Operator), Lee Ice (WWC), Chuck Ice (WWC), Jacob Dilley (DEC), Dan Brotherton (WWC), Jeff Ellison (WWC)

**Meeting Minutes**

**Facilitator:** Jeff Warner

**Introduction**

- Roll Call
- Other items
  - Jim Munter proposed adding an item to the agenda discussing septic system construction as it relates to groundwater.
    - Added to agenda after the Decommissioning BMP discussion.
- Clarification of BMPs
  - Jeff: During email conversations there was some confusion between the two BMPs and what systems they are intended to cover.
    - Chris: The confusion was between what was applying to private vs. public wells. Please note at the top of the documents it describes their intended use. Decommissioning BMPs are for all water wells and the Construction BMPs are for Non-Public wells.
- Review of minutes
  - No issues.
- Action Items:
  - Decommissioning BMPs
    - Charley: Need to determine our stance on Monitoring Wells. Current DEC Drinking Water regulations apply to all monitoring wells, but DEC Contaminated Sites has guidance for those associated with regulated sites. Contaminated Sites is concerned about this BMP being used for those monitoring wells associated with regulated sites instead of referencing their published guidance document.
      - The groups decision was to place wording within the scope referencing the DEC Contaminated Sites Monitoring Well Guidance document.
    - David: In 4.0 "Indemnity", there is an issue attempting to hold people liable based on a BMP document.
      - Jim proposed removing the section and adding wording into the purpose.

- **ACTION:** David agreed to provide some proposed wording for the document.
- Charley: Under “record of decommissioning” definition, the term “decommissioning log” was appended as it may be a term more people are familiar with. A circular definition was added for “decommissioning log” as well.
- Jim: In Part 5 Item D, we discuss Limestone Karst Aquifers. We currently recommend plugging with disinfected cuttings. In theory if bentonite is available and more easily accessible, it would also work. Should decide whether we agree it is ok to fill the whole thing with bentonite?
  - Dan mentioned that in Fairbanks there has been problems obtaining approval to use bentonite.
  - Jeff Ellison added that what if a well has a liner?
  - Bill replied that wording should be added to the effect of “if the well has a liner, every effort should be made to remove it” since it is a best management practice.
  - **ACTION:** Charley agreed to work with Jim to determine wording for the bentonite issue.
  - Jim: Item B discusses the same thing with unconsolidated aquifers.
  - **ACTION:** Charley also agreed to have a discussion via email about using bentonite chips to backfill with.

## Issues and Concerns

- Additional Issue from Jim Munter. Construction of septic systems.
  - Jim: Recent issue in an area of the Kenai where subdivisions are being developed and the unusual high water table has been causing problems with on-site septic systems. Some of the wells are possibly not grouted and most likely less than 50’. Issues and concerns of contamination with the potential lack of separation distances. Owners are trying to sell property and running into issues with having to install more advanced septic systems.
    - The group proposed adding this to a list of “additional issues” to be looked at when the original issues and concerns have been addressed.
- Construction BMPs
  - Definitions
    - Charley - The following changes were made between meetings:
      - Tremie definition was added.
      - Total Dynamic Head definition was added
      - Decommissioning Log/Record of Decommissioning added.
        - Jim: Suggest taking out “recommended” and use “suggested”. Add “and content” to “See ADNR for format”.
        - Charley: Removed “...produced by, or under the guidance of, a person knowledgeable and experienced in water well construction...”
      - Groundwater Professional: Was suggested and defined by Wayne from feedback from the Alaska Water Well Association. Charley added pump installers to the suggested definition.
      - Pump Install Log: Removed reference for format. The format is already in the BMP document.

- Record of Commissioning: Refers to “Pump Install Log” but will leave the “recommended format” wording.
- Record of Construction: Added as circular definition to “Well Log”, and will keep reference to recommended format.
- Riser Pipe was added from Wayne’s definition.
- David noted that we need to remove the “Indemnity” section and add wording to the purpose as per the Decommissioning BMP.
- 6.0 Well Site Selection
  - Part D was added from last meeting’s discussion.
- 7.0 General Practices
  - A(6) Drive Point Wells summary of discussion:
  - The difference in casing depth between drilled wells and drivepoint wells was discussed. In the February meeting the minimum depth for a drivepoint well had started at 15-feet, a suggestion to reduce it based on areal knowledge was suggested, and at the end of the discussion it was changed to 35-feet and further discussion was postponed until a future meeting. In this meeting the topic was discussed again. There was an argument made for reducing the minimum depth, possibly with conditions specifically for “remote” cabin sites. At the end of the discussion the decision, with a minority dissenting, was to leave the depth at 35-feet with one still recommending to reduce it and one recommending to increase it to match drilled wells. The basis for this decisions was that the main goal of the document is Best Management Practices to develop safe drinking water sources and a 10 to 15-foot drive point well was not the groups recommendation on how to achieve that purpose. Giving a 10 to 15-foot deep drivepoint well equal standing to a 40-foot deep, grouted, drilled well would give the wrong impression and could potentially provide a conduit to an aquifer that other nearby private homeowners had drilled wells deeper to access. A remote cabin site will not be prohibited by this document from installing a drivepoint well but the thousands of residential homes in developed areas will have the benefit of this document’s guidance for a reasonable minimum well depth.

### Wrap-up and next Meeting

- The next meeting was agreed to be held **Possibly April 28 or 21<sup>st</sup>? To be determined by email due to teleconference disconnection.**

### Action Items:

- Decommissioning BMP edits
  - David will write up wording to add to the scope to cover the “grandfathering” issue.
  - Charley will initiate a discussion via email as to how to address the bentonite backfill.
- Well Construction BMP edits
  - Indemnity section removal and rewording for scope.
- Create a table of additional issues.

**Next Meeting is TBD (possibly Tuesday April 21 or 28), 2015 6:00-8:00pm**