

Thursday January 29, 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 Ellison (WWC), Jeff Warner (DEC)

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

Meeting Minutes

Facilitator: Jeff Warner

Introduction

- Roll Call
- Review of minutes
- Action Items:
 - Decommissioning BMPs
 - Jeff reported that the Decommissioning BMPs have been reviewed by the Drinking Water Program Management. They have passed them onto the Drinking Water Engineers to review and identify any “fatal flaws”.
 - Chris added that it has been generally agreed to use the BMPs as an internal accepted alternative procedure for a year or so before it is considered for another role.
 - Jeff added that if there are any changes proposed from the review process they will be brought back to the workgroup to revise and discuss.
 - David also responded that DNR has been going through many changes within the Department, with a new Commissioner and a possible changing atmosphere, which hasn’t allowed for a good chance to provide the BMPs to upper management to review. When things have settled he will pass them on.
 - Wayne asked that if possible, he receive any updates by February 17th. He will be presenting at AWWA on the status of these meetings and would like to have some final documents to present and discuss.
 - Jim Munter encouraged any engineers from the DEC to attend the AWWA meeting to be part of the discussion.
 - Wayne added that the forum will be open to anyone who would like to attend.

Issues and Concerns

- Construction BMPs
 - Charley updated the group on revisions made on the BMPs since last meeting that included edits from the last meeting as well as suggestions and conversations since.
 - Number references to other sections have been changed to reflect the new numbering.
 - Comments from Wayne’s email from the day previous.

- Charley continued with proposed edits to discuss
 - Scope: changes were proposed to remove potable and instead just say “sources of water”
 - In Section 4.0 add “driven or rotated” for the Casing definition.
 - Engineers: Whether the state “licenses” or “registers” engineers, and which term to use.
 - Roy added that the ALS website says “licensed”.
 - Agreed to remove registered and instead say licensed.
 - Dry grouting: Comment was whether there needs to be a cone depression dug as part of the method. Should that be in definition or methods?
 - Wayne clarified that in dry grouting, the grout is heaped up against the casing and allowed to tremie down.
 - Agreed to leave the cone depression out of the definition/method.
 - Hydrogeologist: How to properly define this.
 - Jim added that there is a regulation defining a hydrogeologist. They are licensed by the State of Alaska. The requirement is to maintain status as a certified geologist with American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)
 - Charley proposed rewording the definition to reference the regulations.
 - **Jim was asked to propose a new definition for hydrogeologist.**
 - Protective well radius: A prescribed horizontal distance around the well head in which there should be no potential sources of contamination.
 - Jim asked to back up to Non-Public water well, and proposed that it should add “A well serving...” to the beginning of the definition.
 - Charley moved on to Public Sewer System definition.
 - Discussion involved how to define Public Sewer System and Public Water System, since they are defined in regulation, but the group was unsure as to whether they were referenced in the current document. Agreed to postpone review of these definitions until the rest of the document had been reviewed.
 - Charley: Surface Water
 - Group discussion asked whether it was used in the document and to also come back to this definition later.
 - Jim proposed that if it is used in the document to instead say “water on the surface”.
 - Roy updated the group that after looking through regulations, everything seems to say “registered engineer” rather than licensed.
 - Bill agreed that the term is usually “registered engineer licensed in Alaska”
 - The group agreed to return to the term “registered” in the definition.
 - Water table: Proposal that the definition accounts for water table changing with atmospheric pressure. Proposed: and changes with atmospheric pressure at that time.
 - Jim added that there’s nothing that says that atmospheric pressure doesn’t change.
 - The group agreed to leave the definition as is.
 - Well rehabilitation: Instead of using “alter” in the definition, use “improve”

- Section 5.0 Well Site Selection
 - James commented that Subsection D in 5.0, does not readily apply to rural Alaska with wells that are not easily accessible. He proposed removing the section.
 - Bill added that the reasoning for D is that we don't want wells placed behind a garage and surrounded by fencing where they can't be reached, if they need to be checked or fixed.
 - Roy: Or in a basement where it can't be pulled.
 - Jim proposed "future access to the well should be considered in well site selection.
 - Group agreed to Jim's suggestion.
 - Ted: Subsection A 5.0. "Well should be located at highest point" – that is not going to be the case in a lot of places.
 - Charley proposed removing "located at highest point".
 - Roy noted that in the table of separation distances, the asterisked footnote, should say the greater distance not the lesser distance.
 - Jeff asked if the cleanout for sewers included septic cleanouts. Some private wells will meet separation distance for the septic system, but not the cleanout. We should define whether that's a cleanout for a private septic or a public sewer system.
 - Charley noted that the separation distances table is from the Municipality of Anchorage and will slightly differ from state regulations.
 - Jeff added that we should make sure our distances meet or exceed state regulations.
 - Charley proposed adding an indication as to which measurements are from state regulations.
 - The group agreed to add a note for which distances come from state regs.
 - Agreed to add "public" in front of "sewer trunk line" and "sewer manhole or cleanout".
 - Agreed to add after "private sewer line, "(including cleanout)".
 - Charley asked if any others distances should be added.
 - Bill suggested outhouses or pit privy and a 100-ft distance.
- Section 6.0
 - Charley asked for consideration of specifying a minimum annulus.
 - Bill responded that the standard drive shoe is 1/2" larger than the casing.
 - Jim added that if we threw in a minimum annulus, we would have to throw out the dry grout.
 - Agreed to leave out minimum annulus.
 - Ted proposed that in sub-section A-4, we remove potable water as that is not always possible in some remote locations.
 - James proposed the use of "suitable water"
 - Jeff responded that that kind of wording is open to interpretation.
 - Jim added that ideally the water being used should be from a source that won't contaminate the aquifer.

- David responded that we shouldn't be wrapped into defining a source.
- Jim proposed: "Potable water if reasonably available or water that will not result in a contaminated well."
- Part B "Well Casing"
 - Charley asked the group if a part on plumbness and alignment should be added here.
 - Wayne said it's not needed.
 - Bill noted that in our table of specifications, it only applies to steel casing.
 - Wayne added that we added PVC and HDPE and we should have the information for that included in the table. Wayne volunteered to edit the table to include all the casing types.
 - **Charley added that the Well Casing section needs to be subdivided better, and that he would work with Bill and Wayne to fix that.**
 - Joints and Grouting
 - Jim noted that in these subsections "surface waters" should be changed to "shallow non-potable groundwaters or waters on the land surface..."
 - Charley added that he would take that phrasing and apply it across the document.
 - Pitless Adapters
 - James noted that "licensed pump installer" needs to be removed as we had discussed in a previous meeting.
 - Perforating or slotting
 - Charley asked whether this would be an appropriate place to talk about grain size analysis or screen size.
 - Wayne said grain size analysis is not needed here.
 - Wayne suggested "screens should be installed per standard industry practices."
 - Agreed to continue discussion next meeting.

Wrap-up and next Meeting

- The next meeting was agreed to be held **Tuesday February 17, 2015 6-8pm.**

Action Items:

- Well Construction
 - Edits discussed in meeting to be made (Charley)
 - Jim propose Hydrogeologist definition
 - Charley, Wayne and Bill edit casing table
- **Next Meeting is Tuesday February 17, 2015 6:00-8:00pm**