

Tuesday October 27, 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), Jeff Warner (DEC), Roy Robertson (DEC), Wayne Westberg (WWC), David Schade (DNR).

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

Absent: Dan Brotherton (WWC), Jeff Ellison (WWC)

Meeting Minutes

Facilitator: Jeff Warner

Introduction

- Roll Call
- Review of minutes
 - No issues
- Action Items/Summer Edits and Changes
 - The Comments Summary from internal review at the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was referenced throughout the meeting as we reviewed the Decommissioning BMPs and the Definitions document.
 - *Best Management Practices vs. Best Construction Practices*
 - Charley: Feedback given was that we should use ‘Construction’ rather than ‘Management’.
 - Jim: ‘Management’ is a pretty widely regarded term for these types of documents. Often found in AWWA documents.
 - Decision was to keep documents as “Best Management Practices”
 - Definitions:
 - Charley clarified that the yellow highlighted terms are those referenced in the Decommissioning BMPs, and that the green highlighted parts are changes made since the last meeting.
 - David: Is there a reason we removed the “A” from “ADNR” or “ADEC”?
 - Charley responded that it was changed to match the format in other DEC documents, but there is no reason it can’t be kept with the “A”.
 - David: In a national sense it’s good to have the preceding “A” as it helps distinguish between the different state programs. There are also those in the public who know it as “ADEC/ADNR” because we have the “ADF&G”.
 - General agreement with leaving the “A” in the documents.
 - Charley will make this change globally.

- 5.0.2(A)(2)
 - Charley: What if the liner can't be removed? What should be done?
 - Wayne: Continue with backfilling.
 - Charley: Isn't there an issue with the annulus not being sealed then.
 - Lee: The liner is usually well below ground surface and installed with a packer, so the annulus is not open near the surface.
 - Charley asked how do we define an appropriate "attempt" to remove the liner?
 - Wayne: An experienced professional will know whether or not a liner will be capable of being removed.
 - The group decided to leave as-is.
- 5.0.2 (B)(2)(a)
 - Charley: In reference to the comments summary document, (there is a type and it currently says "D.2.a" under "Bentonite depths") how are we ensuring that it is bridge-free, and what do we say if bridging does occur.
 - Bill: This is why we say use a qualified professional.
 - Wayne: Pouring slowly prevents the bridging problem. They should be backfilling in a bridge-free manner, monitoring fill level in the well to ensure it isn't occurring.
 - Wayne proposed a global change after the phrase "bridge-free" to add "as determined by monitoring fill level periodically as it poured".
 - No objection.
 - Chris: The consideration is also that we would like to use these BMPs as an alternative to regulation, and hopefully to someday replace regulation. With that in mind, we need to consider if this document is sufficient to be used for that.
 - Roy: I would ideally like to have something that says that if bridging occurs, they should have to repair the problem.
 - Jim: "bridge-free" is in the definitions, so if it is not placed in a "bridge-free" manner, than they are not adhering to these BMPs and a remedy should be discussed by the parties involved.
 - The group agreed.
 - Charley: This brings up a point that was made in an earlier meeting that words that have definitions should be identified somehow in the document.
 - Group agreed that Charley can propose style and make this change globally (i.e. italicize, make bold, underline, etc.).
 - Jim noted that in 5.0.2 (B), it should read "Backfilling: Different aquifer **types**".

- Agreed.
- John: In the Decommissioning document (5.0.2 (C)) we should be stating that it is required for the decommission record be submitted to the state agency.
 - Charley: We do state in the disclaimer that all applicable laws and regulations should be followed.
 - James: The disclaimer does cover the regulations pretty well.
 - Jim: We should keep with the wording from the Construction BMPs, where it states that the log should be provided to the owner and be carefully filed.
 - James: The Construction BMPs are still in draft.
 - Charley: In the decommissioning log, we don't specify who should be doing the work on the well, so we may have to reference the "responsible party" instead of the well driller.
 - No objection at this time.

Wrap-up and next Meeting

- Dates for the next meeting were discussed. The group agreed that the next meeting will be held **Tuesday November 24, 2015, 6:00pm – 8:00 pm.**

Action Items:

- Definitions for BMPs
 - Make suggested changes.
 - Charley, Wayne and Jim to add definitions for "Aquifer – unconsolidated", "Aquifer – consolidated/bedrock", "Confining unit/layer", if used in the BMPs.
- Decommissioning BMPs
 - Make suggested changes.
 - Charley and Jim to write up something to address triggers for when grouting the annulus should be accomplished.
 - Charley, Jim, Roy, and Jeff to discuss wording for high-risk situations that may "trigger" special attention.
- Construction BMPs
 - None, but please review the most current document in order to be ready to discuss at the next meeting. Changes made from the last version are highlighted in green.
- **Next Meeting is Tuesday November 24, 2015 6:00-8:00pm**