

PRIVATE WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Notes – October 23, 2014

Attendees: Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Tom McDermott, Jr., David Haupt, Dorie Turpin (DNR), Roger Lang, Jeff Kramer, Terry Marshall, Cindy Wachter, Randall Niffenegger, Rick Brehmer, Michael Hanten (for Rick Peterson), Bill Batten (WGNHS), Marty Nessman (DNR), Glenn Mueller (DNR), Ken Sweeney.

Minutes: June 2014 meeting notes were not available for approval.

Advisory Council Procedures and Membership

Liesa and Dorie presented a 2006 Advisory Council Procedures document, and asked for input on updating the procedures. Discussion included whether to add representatives from laboratories and the heat exchange community, and whether the National Drilling Contractors Association still exists. Tom indicated that he is stepping down from the Advisory Council and that this is his last meeting. The group thanked Tom for his contributions to the council and industry over many years. New co-chair will need to be elected. Attendees asked for the most recent membership list. Liesa agreed to send, and asked each appointing organization update their appointments and notify DNR by mid-December with a goal of having an updated membership roster by the next meeting. *(Note: membership list sent by email after the meeting)*

Private Water Supply Program Updates

Liesa Lehmann announced that she has been permanently appointed as the Private Water Supply Section Chief for DNR. The Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater is hiring a Private Water Field Supervisor to provide additional management support for the field program. Private Water program field priorities will continue to be inspecting wells during construction, enforcement of well construction and pump installation regulations, and responding to well contamination events. Other updates are in agenda items below.

NR 812 Code Change Update

Liesa reported that the revisions to NR 146 and NR 812 went into effect on October 1, 2014. In response to a Natural Resources Board request from February, DNR staff and Water Well Association representatives developed a one-page form to report Property Transfer Well Inspections. In July DNR sent email notification of the rule changes to laboratories so they could prepare for additional sampling requirements. In mid-September DNR sent email notification to licensed WD/PI that DNR has email addresses for. A couple attendees indicated that they did not receive the email. In late September DNR mailed printed copies of the revised NR 146 and NR 812, the new form and a couple information sheets on code changes to all licensed Well Drillers and Pump Installers. Code revision information is also posted on DNR's website at the following link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/codeRevisions.html> DNR conducted outreach to the state Realtors Association specifically about the new property transfer inspection requirements and form. NR 812 revisions will be a key topic at Continuing Education.

Heat Exchange License Update

DNR received approximately 50 applications for a Heat Exchange Drillers (HED) License by the October 17 deadline. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements to take the HED exam. Exams will be offered January–March in conjunction with Continuing Ed sessions so licenses can be issued before April 1. HED license is required to drill heat exchange system effective April 1, 2015.

2015 Continuing Education Preview

- DNR Program Updates – Liesa Lehmann
- NR 812 Revisions – Marty Nessman
- Property Transfer Well Inspection FAQ's – Dennis Crow/Rick Peterson
- Water Well Wiring – Joe Hertl
- Wire Rope, Rigging and Crane Safety – ATS Specialized

Future Continuing Education

Liesa reminded everyone that Jill Jonas asked at the June meeting for the group to identify ways to modernize and improve Continuing Education process.

Contamination Responses

Liesa reported that heavy September rains resulted in several reports of well contamination in northeastern Wisconsin.

Newly-Approved Products and Equipment

Marty provided information on a newly-approved filling and sealing product in addition to a filter that can be installed just below the well cap to prevent air-entrained bacteria from entering well.

Old Business

Latitude-Longitude – Ken repeated concern from last meeting that DNR applications and reports ask for different lat-long formats, and asked that DNR standardize to one format.

New Business

1. NR 812 code interpretation:
 - Sampling – clarify when a new well or pump becomes “existing” for purposes of sampling requirements
 - Pump work – if no WCR can be found, does casing have to be measured?
2. County Well Inspections – question about whether counties can conduct property transfer well inspections. Liesa summarized County Delegation program and offered to provide an overview at a future Advisory Council meeting.
3. High-Cap Well Approvals – update requested. Liesa summarized recent court decisions that require DNR to conduct additional evaluation. Methods are being developed. New applications that can be processed without the additional evaluation are being processed, others are on-hold.
4. Training for administrative staff – Comment that many WD/PI have administrative staff who handle much of the reporting and forms. Suggest that DNR provide some kind of continuing education or training for those folks.
5. Discussion on status of variances, including who can apply and criteria

Handouts

2006 Advisory Council Procedures

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 9:30 am, in Wisconsin Dells