

PRIVATE WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL--DRAFT
Meeting Notes – April 29, 2015

Attendees: Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Marty Nessman (DNR), Dorie Turpin (DNR), Jeff Beiriger, Rick Brehmer, Dennis Crow, Bill Hanser, Michael Hanten, David Haupt, Alan Hoyer, Jeff Kramer, Terry Marshall, Rob Spence, Kenneth Sweeney, Bruce Walker and Cindy Wachter.

Minutes: January, 2015 minutes were approved.

Advisory Council Procedures and Membership

Council approved an updated Advisory Council Procedures document dated April, 2015. Bill Hanser, pump installer, was welcomed as a new DNR appointee. Alan Hoyer, well driller, was also welcomed as a new DNR appointee. DNR has also appointed Eric Schuette, well driller, to the council. Liesa mailed thank you letters to all retiring council members. A proposal to change the by-laws to allow members to serve additional terms was tabled.

Election of Council Co-Chair

Terry Marshall agreed to serve as co-chair until his current membership term expires, at which time another election will take place.

Private Water Supply Program Updates

1. Heat Exchange Licensing

Dorie Turpin updated the council on the status of heat exchange driller license applications.

HE exam was offered at all continuing education sites. Most applicants passed on the first attempt. A couple questions were not counted as a miss for anyone who took the first exam in the Dells. Overall, scores ranged from the 60s into the 90s. Only one individual failed twice. In the future, HE exams will be offered quarterly with the PI and WWD exams.

34 applicants passed the exam and either had received or would be receiving licenses.

8 applicants are eligible to take exam (2 newly eligible, 6 failed previous exam)

3 individuals withdrew application

4 applications are incomplete

8 applicants will receive denials, either for inadequate experience, or their state does not have HE license substantially similar to Wisconsin's

7 Minnesota applicants could become licensed if they obtain a MN HE license or submit Wisconsin experience

Several applicants became licensed under the alternative eligibility requirements in effect until April 1, 2016, allowing experience going back more than 5 years, if driller license has been held continuously.

One individual became licensed under alternative eligibility requirement allowing fewer than 10 heat exchange projects if significant heat exchange footage was drilled in Wisconsin (This applicant had >100,000 feet).

Turpin evaluated HE programs in IA, IL, MI, SD, ND and MN for out-of state licensing provision. Minnesota is currently only state with substantially similar HE licensing program and HE construction standards. Having experience, but not an HE license in another state, does not qualify an individual for a Wisconsin license.

2. Heat Exchange Drilling Notification

Effective April 1, 2015, heat exchange drillers are only required to obtain advance approval for constructing heat exchange projects if:

- a. The project involves 10 or more drillholes
- b. The project involves more than 4000 feet of drillhole depth
- c. Any heat exchange drillhole is greater than 400 feet in depth
- d. Any heat exchange drillhole is within 400 feet of a municipal water supply well

For all other heat exchange drillholes or projects, a well notification number must be obtained. There is no cost, except for \$1.00 online convenience fee. Lehmann demonstrated the online notification system for heat exchange projects.

3. License Renewal "Lean" Project

DNR has conducted numerous lean projects in past few years. The lean process involves looking at current procedures and identifying areas for improvement. Renewal of well driller and pump installer licenses is first process to be looked at in Private Water Program. In addition to Liesa, Dorie, and Judy Gifford, three others are on team. Project goals are to increase customer satisfaction and reduce DNR costs.

A Customer Survey was issued on April 28. Well drillers and pump installers with e-mail were sent online survey. The remaining licensees received paper copy. DNR received 145 online responses by afternoon. Next steps are to analyze survey results and current process, then develop new process and implementation plan. Our recommendations are to be ready by June 30. Implementation will be in fall of 2015. Lean project will likely result in optional online option for renewal.

4. DRAFT NR 812 Inspection form

Nessman provided copies of draft form that could have multiple uses, among them, documentation of verification of casing depth, and possible replacement of noncomplying features form. Please submit comments to Marty by May 15. We will also seek broader public input. Marshall noted that form may be useful for Property Transfer Well Inspections, (although it may not be used in place of Form 3300-221). Haupt asked about using the form for reporting Hydrofracturing.

2015 Continuing Education Summary

Liesa provided a condensed summary of the comments received from 2015 Evaluation Forms. We received over 600 surveys, well above usual response, likely because form was in the envelope instead of CE booklet, and Liesa promoted them heavily. Page 4 summarizes responses in regard to internet access; obtaining information about regulations; and submitting information to DNR.

Future Continuing Education

At June 2014 Advisory Council Meeting, Jill Jonas identified that DNR needs to consider other CE approaches, and address significant DNR staff time and monetary investment with current

CE approach. DNR handles mailings, booklet printing and presents at least two talks. WWWA handles registration, facility logistics and arranges for other speakers. CE content is planned jointly.

DNR goals are to ensure there is quality, relevant training for license holders; improve customer satisfaction; and to be cost effective. Evaluations indicate that some customers are looking for other options to obtain CE credits. DNR plans to send a Customer Survey to all license holders by July 1 and analyze results. WWWA will be given opportunity to review survey.

Members of council stated: working as a team on CE had improved relationship between Private Water Program and WWWA; value of in-person training; and importance of face-to-face contact with DNR staff.

Following the Advisory Council meeting, DNR will meet with WWWA to discuss 2016 CE.

Contamination Responses

Drinking water staff responded to an incident in northeastern Wisconsin involving a release of manure to groundwater at a calf raising operation that is a permitted confined animal feeding operation. To date, no private wells are impacted. The release was discovered when manure started flowing out of the side wall of a drainage swale. The owners of the operation have taken action to contain the release and find the source of the impacts.

Newly-Approved Products and Equipment

With Nessman's change in duties, Turpin is handling product and equipment approvals with his input.

A CETCO product named "Grounding Grout" is on the verge of being approved by DNR for use in cathodic protection drillholes. It has received department approval for a specific case involving loss of cattle due to stray voltage.

Old Business

There was no old Business

New Business

1. *Coated Bentonite Pellets for Filling and Sealing Point Wells (Sweeney and Nessman)*

Sweeney proposed that department allow use of coated bentonite pellets to fill and seal driven point wells and possibly to seal around liners installed to deal with non-health related water quality issues. Currently code only allows neat cement grout to fill and seal two-inch diameter and smaller wells. Use of neat cement can be problematic in basement wells. Purpose of coating is to prevent bridging when bentonite hits water surface. There was discussion during code revision about allowing 8 mesh bentonite granules or 3/8 bentonite chips for sealing small diameter wells, but it was tabled due to concerns that these products could bridge, and lack of time to study issue more fully.

Liesa proposed that the Department consider approving the coated pellet product temporarily, so it, and possibly 3/8-inch bentonite chips may be evaluated in field test. Code change would

be required for their use in smaller diameter wells in general. Marty will be lead on this. Anyone having knowledge of driven points that could be used in field study should contact him.

2. *Drill Cutting Samples*

Drill cutting samples are required to be taken and submitted to WGNHS for high cap, school and wastewater treatment plant wells. Samples are received for areas where geology is already well characterized. Compliance is inconsistent between drillers. Proposed rule change would only require samples where there is a shortage of geologic data. There was consensus to support such a rule change. A question was raised whether the current rule would allow the driller to call and ask whether drill cuttings are needed on particular wells.

3. *Well Notification Numbers*

DNR has historically issued refunds when more than one notification is filed, or when well is never drilled. Question has been raised concerning legal authority of DNR to issue refunds. Liesa and program attorney will be looking into issue.

4. *Other*

Sweeney asked that the department consider using a term other than "Well Surveillance," because of the connotation that noncompliance is occurring, even if it isn't.

Walker mentioned difficulty of determining whether heat exchange drillhole is within 400 feet of municipal well.

Marshall is concerned that some contract county staff tell noncommunity water system owners not to bother with upgrading "minor" violations. Then license holders are the "bad guys" when they do pump work or perform a property transfer well inspection and say that upgrades are needed.

Handouts

Continuing Education Evaluation Survey: Condensed Summary

DRAFT Multi-Use Inspection Form

Rule Language: Use of bentonite to fill and seal small diameter wells

Next Meeting

October, 2015 on a Tues, Wed, or Thurs—Date to be determined