

MEMORANDUM

To: Groundwater Advisory Council
From: H. Bokuniewicz
Concerning: Minutes of the meeting of 31 March 2003
Date: April 2, 2003

PRESENT

N. Bartilucci
H. Bokuniewicz
J. Naidu
B. Nemickas
M. Nofi
D. Paquette
G. Proios
W. Prospect
S. Robbins
W. Spitz
M. Stevenson
K. Willis

REGRETS

S. Jones
L. Koppelman
J. Milazzo
P. Ramirez
K. Roberts

1. There were no comments of the minutes of the December meeting. The minutes of the January meeting were distributed.
2. Kevin Willis was introduced. He is the EPA project manager for several superfund sites on Long Island (and one in Niagara Falls). Most perchlorate had been made at Kevin's site in Niagara Falls. One of his Long Island sites is in Garden City. As with all the superfund sites, the plume at Garden City has caused a great deal of site-specific information to be generated. In a post-remediation study of other sites, however, EPA has decided that they had difficulty verifying the efficiency of pump-and-treat systems. In general, monitoring of clean-up efforts needs to be improved. The EPA will soon be issuing guidance of determining capture zones. These are often now based on draw down maps without consideration of the three-dimensional aquifer characteristics.

Kevin also serves on a national groundwater group that meets twice a year (next month in Seattle) to discuss emerging issues. (He may be able to give us a report at our next meeting). A good deal of attention is devoted now to perchlorate and 1-4 Dioxane (an anti-oxidant stabilizer); natural attenuation of metals. Perchlorate is often seen as an east coast-west coast issue, but it is probably the case that it has just not been looked for in other parts of the country. On Long Island, it is detected in residential areas and associated with fertilizer from Chile (as well as fireworks) but it is also used in inflators for airbags, the tanning industry, may appear as residue around missile silos and elsewhere so that any problem is possibly more widespread. If MCL's are lowered, there may need to be treatment or well closures on Long Island. In addition, other stabilizers

are used that haven't been investigated. 1-4 Dioxide doesn't seem to be a problem on Long Island, but it is a significant problem in California and Chicago where they are using pump-and-treat remediation.

As we have discussed on other occasions, herbicide breakdown products are an issue on Long Island and probably at many other places where they have not yet been looked for. Concentrations on Long Island seem to be too low to be a public health concern but could have ecological impacts, for example, on algae. In some wells as many as 10 different breakdown products were found raising the concern for cumulative and synergistic effects.

3. The (very) preliminary agenda for the meeting on 6 June was discussed. Sy Robbins will be out of town but he will ask Paul Ponturo to give a presentation on post-SWAP water supply issues. Marty Trent should be able to do pesticides and golf courses. We will ask Joe Pokoray, Chief Engineer of the SCWA to give a talk on perchlorate remediation. The presentation on water transmission will be dropped, but something from the Ag and Markets' work on BMP should be considered. We need to identify someone from BNL to talk about the lab's remediation. George Proios would be willing to provide some closing comments calling for a similar meeting on policy issues.
4. The SWAP public sessions have been held. These were quiet and it may be that the audience couldn't assimilate all that was presented. The water suppliers had seen the report in advance and had the opportunity to comment on it. They seemed fairly comfortable with the outcome. There are no funds in SWAP for additional education but the SWAP results have to be included in the water suppliers' consumer confidence reports. There may be some guidance available from the Health Department for doing that, but there is no other required action on the part of the suppliers.

The Suffolk County legislature seems ready to pass a resolution soon for a Comprehensive Water Management Plan and the SCDHS plans to issue an RFP by the end of the summer. Funding (some \$800,000) remains an issue. Nassau County had a Water Management Plan done in 1999, which was never adopted. The Comprehensive Water Management Plan for Suffolk should (and will) consider how such technical information reaches decision makers and influence (land use) policy.

Everything needed for towns to control zoning for groundwater protection is in SWAP but SWAP doesn't enable a higher form of government to impose zoning regulations. It would be useful for someone (the Planning Board?) to provide towns with example ordinances to implement SWAP related zoning. There may not be a need to change zoning in some (most?) places, but there does seem to be the need to provide for the proper infrastructure (e.g. sewers) to protect groundwater especially in industrial areas. There has been a proliferation of small STP's to allow development at density; the cumulative effects could be cause for concern.

5. The desirability of a "neutral" centralized database and, perhaps, modeling clearinghouse was discussed. SWAP provides a good opportunity to launch this using its hydrologic framework, boundary conditions, and structure as a foundation. The County Legislature seems to be interested (\$200,000 plus \$80,000/year maintenance) but we'll see ... If funding again becomes an obstacle, perhaps, it (data base/model clearinghouse) should be funded as a "ministerial" office in the SCDHS with facility to run models to the

specification of potential developers, consultants, etc. In addition to staffing, however, there are liability issues and concerns about being in competition with consulting firms.

6. The next meeting will be on Monday 28 April, 9:30 – 11 AM at the offices of the Suffolk County Water Authority in Oakdale.

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