

MEMORANDUM

To: Groundwater Advisory Council
From: H. Bokuniewicz
Concerning: Minutes of the meeting of 24 September, 2001 (REVISED)
Date: October 24, 2001

PRESENT

H. Bokuniewicz
J. Dillon
L. Famiglietti
S. Jones
J. Milazzo
B. Nemickas
M. Nofi

G. Proios
W. Prospect
P. Ramirez
S. Robbins
K. Roberts
W. Spitz

REGRETS

L. Koppelman
M. Lo Grande
D. Paquette

1. There were no comments on the minutes of the last meeting.
2. Louis Famiglietti, Chief of the Office of Water Supply Regulation addressed the committee concerning the Nassau County Groundwater Data Report. This report presents the laboratory analyses of tap water in Nassau County from 54 water systems. Thirty public water supply wells were sampled and five golf course wells. All golf courses are self-supplied by irrigation wells. All MCL's were met. Arsenic was not detected; Pb/Ca was detected in one sample and there were six microbiological violations. VOC's were detected in about half of the samples and MTBE in eleven samples. No pesticides were detected. Only ten systems in Nassau are not chlorinating and no one has applied for new waivers. A report of the 2000-2001 data is in progress.

The report also lists those systems that have recently started to chlorinate. The Suffolk County Water Authority is interested in learning the nature and extent of any consumer complaints when chlorination was started.

3. CDM has the contract to do the SWAP analyses for Long Island. For the most part, their staff is located on the Island. The money has been allocated but it is still in the "administrative process" six months behind schedule. It seems likely that there will be a request for an extension of the 2003 deadline.

At the 23 August SWAP meeting Sarah Meyland brought up the issue of pharmaceuticals and endrochronic contaminants. Monitoring may be done around Twin Labs but the concern is not so much over industrial use as it is over normal use of these compounds. Monitoring can occur around treatment plants, medical facilities, and nursing homes, but not "super cesspools" (i.e. old, passive

denitrification systems). Medical radionuclides (barium, thallium, iodine) may also be considered.

It was also suggested that historical land use be documented, perhaps, by local groups, like historical societies. Old telephone books and maps might be used to identify former gas station sites, dry cleaners, etc. Present contamination could be the result of discharges thirty to fifty years ago.

Sarah Meyland also brought up the concern over synergistic effects. As new concerns are added to the list, there is the danger that the SWAP product will appear to be absolute even before it's complete.

4. Paul Misut (USGS) will be offering a "hands-on" modeling course at Stony Brook in the spring. This would provide experience in the use of MODFLOW and other models and in the interpretation of model results. We are also looking into a short course (probably 5 days) in January on modeling run by a professional group.

We need to get access to the DYNFLOW code in order to include it in our advanced modeling course. Sy Robbins may be able to help with this.

5. The disinfection rule is moving ahead. Some viral indicator may be required instead of bacterial test and there will be a need for waivers of monitoring requirements.
6. Pesticides remain a concern as multiple trace concentrations continue to be detected. It is not known, however, if there is a health impact perhaps due to synergistic effects, especially involving untested chemicals for which 50 ppm is the standard. Trace levels are getting into Long Island bays and may be a contributing factor to problems like the brown tide.

There is not a comprehensive program to deal with the problem. The county might seek to use the "quarter percent" tax revenue for funding of, for example, concrete mixing pads for agricultural uses of biocides, or a renewal of the pesticide amnesty program, or economic incentives to eliminate crops, like potatoes, that require high levels of pesticides.

7. Pesticide and fertilizer issues were also discussed at the meeting on golf courses in August. On tightly matted turf, a primary need is to keep out fungus. Courses would like to have methods to maintain their turf without pesticides. Organic practices, however, bring complaints about softer fairways and other public perception problems. Golfers should be educated about the reasons for organic practices. There have been presentations at the Cornell Cooperative Extension on organic gardening and there is increasing interest in getting the word out (Mike Degains, Julian Burns, Ed Matthews). There is even a "Professor of Turf Grass", Frank Rossi, at Cornell. We may consider a golf-course issue of the Newsletter including the SCWA's involvement with the Golf-Course-at-the-Bridge. There has been some discussion of water reuse at Yaphank where a sewage treatment plant is near two proposed courses. This is done in other places, but not on Long Island.

8. The next newsletter will be produced on arsenic. This had been discussed earlier and apparently it was on John Marburger's agenda as the anticipated, presidential science advisor (at least before all our other problems).

We might also consider an "Energy and groundwater" issue of the newsletter. Long Island produces more greenhouse gases than anywhere else (25 tons/person). Although the largest users of energy in Suffolk County are the Community College, the Medical Examiner's office and the County Farm, all because of refrigeration, SCWA spends \$13 million in energy costs. One of the reasons to institute controls on irrigation systems would be to reduce the need for energy to the pumps.

The water purveyors considered using their emergency generators to provide energy to LIPA during peak load periods. The DEC required permits on air emissions for any facility providing energy to LIPA. Most water purveyors did not want to get involved in the permitting process for their emergency generators which now can operator 500 hours/year unregulated.

9. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services has gotten some calls about security of our water systems after the terrorist attacks. The SCWA will discuss this issue at a future meeting.
10. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 22 October at the offices of Dvirka and Bartilucci (Woodbury) from 9:30 – 11:00 AM.