

Meeting Minutes

Drinking Water Advisory Group Wednesday, August 21, 2013

Location: Kent, WA with video conference to Spokane regional office

Time: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

1. Denise Clifford: **Meeting format updates**

- We'll keep working on technical issues.

2. Denise: **Announcement**

- She is going to the Department of Ecology as their government relations director.
Note: Her last day with the Office of Drinking Water was 9/5/13.
- Process for moving forward:
 - Dan will be acting director for one month.
 - Heather will be acting director the following month.
 - Hopefully by mid-November there will be a new office director selected.

3. Denise: **Emerging issues**

- EPA and the FDA hosting web training about the interdependencies of drinking water and food.
 - Will have a link to the training on our website when available. **Note:** We have not been able to track this down. If we find it, we'll send out a notice.
- Met with hospital inspection programs and hospital associations to talk about protecting against legionella.
 - Ensure hospitals know they're considered public water systems if they treat their water to prevent legionella.

Note: Visit the [Washington State Hospital Associations website](#) for hospital contact information. When contacting the hospitals, ask for either the engineer or infection control specialist.

4. Heather Bartlett and Scott Torpie: **Engineering program review**

- Outline purpose for assessment, program staffing, and fund sources.
- Why an assessment?
 - We embrace constant quality improvement.
 - Take a proactive approach.
 - Want to know how stakeholders value our program.
 - Brief program history and how the program is run currently.
- Regional engineers are the face of the organization to our customers.
- Hope to move forward with a time accounting system to better track regional engineer's time.
 - Are there things that engineers spend their time on that they shouldn't be and vice versa?
 - Will help us to explain how we charge fees.

Comment: Will the summarized comments from the assessment be available once the final report is done? **Yes, the information will be made available on our web when it's completed.** We'll send out a notice when it's available.

5. Dave Christensen: **Revised total coliform rule**

- Discuss the difference between TCR (total coliform rule) and RTCR (revised total coliform rule).
- Not much change between the two for monitoring.
- In terms of assessments, “the motto is find it and fix it.”
- New elements:
 - There is an obligation to correct issues/defects after doing a self-assessment.
 - The state must look at the assessment once it's complete.
 - Brand new requirements for seasonal systems.
 - New rulemaking will affect everyone in April 2016 and we will receive further guidance from the EPA in spring 2014.

Note: We update our [rule-making website](#) to include additional information about RTCR.

6. Dave: **Rules and policy update**

Op Cert Rule

- The op cert rule incorporates legislative changes that happened in 2009.
- There are a number of things in the op cert rule guidance document that we are putting in our rule.
- Public hearing for rule at 10 a.m. in Tumwater, September 27, 2013.

Lab Certification Rule

- Received approval through the Board of Health to continue rule making.
- Less emphasis on certification because Ecology handles this.
- We'll hope to schedule public meetings in October or November to show an informal draft of the rule.
- Looking at electronic data reporting and phasing that in over time.

Group A Rule Review

- Direction from management to move forward to our assistant secretary in hopes we'll get approval to enter rulemaking.
- If we get necessary approval, we will start rulemaking in the next few months.
- An 18-month to 2-year process.

7. Dave: **Next meeting topics**

- Fee structure and rules.
 - We want to bring our decisions for these forward for feedback.
- Satellite Management Agency Program
 - Old program we want to assess; want to bring current thoughts and solicit feedback.

8. Denise: **How did this work for you today?**

- We will try to have speakers keep Spokane engaged.
- Will proof our materials more before posting to the web.
- Too cold in the room (Kent).

Feedback:

- Look into call-in or video link options.
- Spokane would like the PowerPoint to be put up on a separate projector screen versus pushed through.
- Put related links to detail and background for RTCR and TCR from the EPA on our DWAG webpage. **Note:** The new information is located at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/RegulationandCompliance/RuleMaking.aspx#current>