

On-Site Wastewater Technical Advisory Group

June 15, 2017
Kittitas County Courthouse
County Commissioners Chambers
Ellensburg, WA

Meeting Summary

MEETING ATTENDEES

Core Group Members Present

David Jensen, P.E., Jensen Engineering
Bob Monetta, Windermere Real Estate –
Methow Valley
Justin Hartmann, CPSS, Wahkiakum County
Department of Health
Dave Hilton, EHD, Okanogan County Public
Health
Chris Plager, Benton- Franklin Health District
Alex Paysee, sitting in for Cindy Waite, Mason
County Public Health
Eric Knopf, Indigo Design

Group Core Not Present

Cindy Waite, Mason County Public Health
John Wolpers, Whatcom County Health
Department

Guests

Dave Lowe, Lowridge Technologies
Jeannie Yackley, Delta Environmental
Buster Niesche, Orenco
Randy Marx, Jefferson County Public Health
Paul Vandervelde, Glendon

DOH Staff

Jeremy Simmons
John Eliasson
Leslie Turner

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the new TAG core group members; Dave Hilton, Eastside EHDs, Chris Plager, Eastside LHJ field staff, and Justin Hartmann, Certified Prof. Soil Scientist, Wahkiakum County. Cindy Waite will be retiring and a new Westside LHJ field staff representative will be solicited from the Westside LHJ Coordinators. Peter Lombardi is retired from Orenco. WOSSA recommended Dave Lowe as the new proprietary product manufacturer representative. He will begin his official duties after this meeting.

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

Technical Issue Topics Regarding the Effectiveness of the Rule Revision

Background

WAC 246-272A requires rule review every 4 years to evaluate its effectiveness and determine if revisions are needed. The resulting report is presented to the State Board of Health. The last rule review was in 2013. A survey was sent to the LHJs and other stakeholders. The summary result was to not reopen the rule for revision at that time.

It is now 4 years later. The first step for the 2017 rule review is discussion with the

Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The final step is the State Board of Health in November, 2017

Technical items submitted by the industry. The morning segment of the meeting consisted of a priority ranking of several technical issues that had been identified by the industry as items of interest to review in the event of a rule revision. For items previously identified by the TAG to be reviewed, please refer to the April 3, 2013 meeting summary.

The items in today's agenda were technical items from setbacks, construction, definitions and wording clarification, and some miscellaneous items.

UV project update

The project is underway. DOH has hired a UW student intern, Meagan Jackson. We are also partnering with Thurston County Public Health (TCPH) and Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD). Systems using UVs are selected from homeowners who volunteered for the evaluation.

The objectives of the project are:

1. Was the UV unit installed correctly?
2. Is the unit working correctly?
3. What treatment level is being achieved? This evaluation is dependent on free fall sampling following the UV unit.

Funding for this project comes from the National Estuaries Program.

Alternative synthetic media for LOWeFLOW treatment system

Two alternative synthetic media for use in the LOWeFLOW treatment unit were presented by Dave Lowe of Lowridge Technologies. Growstones which is a glass/pumice product from Albuquerque, NM and EZ Flow synthetic aggregate from Portland, OR are the alternatives proposed. The sizing and porosity, buoyancy, and life expectancy of the materials were discussed. The media used in the NSF testing was pea gravel. Dave is finding that the pea gravel has an inordinate amount of fines that may lead to clogging of the treatment unit. The TAG unanimously approved the use each of the alternative media. Dave Lowe offered to test some installations and report back to the TAG in about a year.

WRAP UP:

The next meeting will likely be after the State Board of Health Briefing and the UV study report finalization.