

On-Site Wastewater Technical Advisory Group

April 18, 2018
Kittitas County Courthouse
County Commissioners Chambers
Ellensburg, WA

Meeting Summary

Meeting Attendees:

Core Group Members Present

Bob Monetta, Windermere Real Estate –
Methow Valley
Eric Knopf, Indigo Design, Inc
Justin Hartmann, Wahkiakum County
Department of Health
John Wolpers, Environmental Health
Manager, Whatcom County Health
Department
Dave Hilton, Environmental Health Director,
Okanogan County Public Health
Department
Eric Evans, Kitsap County Health District
Chris Plager, Benton-Franklin Health District
David Jensen, P.E., Jensen Engineering
Dave Lowe, Lowridge Onsite Technologies,
LLC

Core Group Members Not Present

All present

Guests

Steve Bowers, Norweco Products
Ken Morse, NET Septic
Robert Lrzach
JR Inman, Flo Hawks
John Thomas, WOSSA
Allison Blodig, Infiltrator Water Technologies
Curtis Johnson, Bravo Enterprise
Sheryl Ervin, Bio Microbics
Jeanie Yackley, Goode Septic Design
Jennifer Russell
Evan Cusack, Kelly Earthworks
Preston Hopkins, KIE Supply
John Poppe, Kitsap PUD
Cindy Aliva
Rick Petro, Orcas Design
Ed Schloss, Jet Incorporated
Matt Swanson, Cowlitz County
Betsy Howe
Nick Noble

DOH Staff

John Eliasson
Leslie Turner
Jeremy Simmons
Randy Freeby
Lisette Anson – Note taker

INTRODUCTION:

The meeting began at 9:30 AM on April 18, 2018. There was a brief summary of the agenda because of the large crowd. Ground rules were laid which included that the TAG group members would have their round of discussion, then the audience could ask questions and make comments. Today's meeting was John Wolpers' last meeting. The position of Environmental Health Director of a Westside LHJ will need to be filled. It is also John Eliasson's last TAG meeting before his retirement.

WAC Revision update:

Jeremy Simmons discussed that in late 2017 the Washington Board of Health filed for a CR-101, a Notice of Intent for Revision, of WAC 246-272A. Key Issues to be addressed in rule revision will be design, maintenance and monitoring, definitions, local management plans, application of treatment levels, UV effectiveness and approval, horizontal set back and O&M service provider licensing. Jeremy explained that the On-Site Sewage Rule Review Committee (ORRC) is being formed. Inside of that committee will be a sub-groups for technical advisory. If the technical advisory groups in the ORRC needs additional options or opinions then the issues would be taken to the TAG for advice. He explained the timeline of the rule revision. The first meeting will be June 25, 2018 in Kent, WA. At the first meeting, DOH will establish the charter and set all ground rules and timeframes of involvement. DOH will have at least 8 meetings starting in June 2018 and wrap things up in 2020. Also at the initial meeting, DOH will decide how many stakeholders will be present and how many votes will be given. After all the stakeholders and committee members have reviewed and voted, the public will get the opportunity to have a group comment period. It was suggested by the TAG that more scientific information be presented to the rule review committee for quality and current information. They advised looking at IPACMO, NSF 40 and MARPOOL as reference information.

UVD Project Summary:

Randy Freeby presented a PowerPoint presentation about the UVD Project Study that DOH conducted with Master's candidate, Meagan Jackson, University of Washington. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the operation of UV disinfection units. The study was conducted because of annual proprietary field feedback requests from DOH to the LHJs. The study area was in Thurston and Pierce Counties due to the proximity to DOH, and the availability of a large number of OSS with UVD units, some with free fall sampling ports. Thurston County had free fall sampling ports for post UVD effluent collection. TPCHD did not, so only the functioning status of the UVD unit was analyzed there. Meagan Jackson will have her study published hopefully in May/June 2018. The full report is in final review at Ecology. Posting of the study report on the DOH website is expected by the end of 2018.

UVD Study questions addressed:

1. Was the installation done correctly?
2. Is the UV light on?
3. Is the UVD unit functioning correctly?
4. What treatment level is being achieved (Thurston only)?

UV Project Study Issues:

John Eliasson brought up some issues from the study conducted by DOH. He suggested that DOH address the differences between the reporting and the actual maintenance of the UV units in the rule revision or the probability of the issues might remain. He believes that operation, maintenance, oversight and enforcement should be addressed at the local level. The manufacturers recommend that the bulb be cleaned and changed every year to every other year but from the study, there were bulbs that had not been changed or cleaned to

recommendations. Is it that the homeowner is not able/willing to obtain the recommended maintenance or the O&M provider is not servicing the units per the recommendations? Maybe education or enforcement could solve this issue. The TAG recommended that perhaps at the point of sale the homeowner should disclose if the system is in compliance and that DOH should define compliance better in the rule revision. John stated that by not getting samples from the effluent, there is not a clear indication of how well the UV light is working towards the goal of final disinfection. How does NSF retrieve their samples to conduct their study? Are the systems designed for influent and effluent sampling in the field? These are things to think about for the rule revision.

Pressure Distribution Worksheet:

This worksheet is proposed to be added in the revised Pressure Distribution RS&G. The TAG made some recommendations and Leslie will make changes to the worksheet per the TAG recommendations.

Vegetated Denitrifying Woodchip Bed

John Eliasson presented a PowerPoint on a study of vegetated denitrifying woodchip bed. The TAG requested more information pertaining to the bacteriological treatment vs Treatment B. John made himself available to provide that information via email. The full study can be found on the DOH website.

WRAP UP:

The next meeting is TBD.