

Drinking Water Advisory Work Group September 11, 2001 Meeting Summary

Welcome/ Introduction - Buck Henderson

Recent Changes in Water Division - Buck Henderson

- Water Permits & Resource Management Division will be separated into 2 divisions
- Wastewater Permitting and Water Quality Assessment Sections will be in the Water Quality Division
- Public Drinking Water, Utilities & Districts, and Water Rights Permitting Sections will be in the Water Supply Division
- Division directors have not been appointed at this time

New Stakeholder/Advisory Group Procedures - Barbara Henry

- Sunset bill provides more guidance with procedures
- Stakeholder lists have more criteria to make it balanced
- Mailing lists for each meeting will be circulated through the Office of Public Assistance for additions
- Meeting announcement, minutes or summaries, and list of attendees will be posted on the Internet

State Revolving Fund Update(Handout # 1) - Bruce Crawford

- Table 8 of handout lists small communities that have gotten funding
- FY 2001 IUP - 2 entities have been sent letter to apply
- Board will be approving 2002 IUP in September
- Four significant projects up for funding approval in September: Eagle Pass, Del Rio, North East Texas, Burleson County
- 2003 - revising forms and getting solicitation letters together
- Solicitation letters to be mailed out 1st of November, 2001
- What is a SUD? Special Utility District
- Is there a cap on the amount the board can give to a system? No

Public Water System Fees (Handout # 2, #3, #4) - Tony Bennett

- HB2912 makes changes to fees charged by public water systems
- Fee stakeholder meeting was held on August 20th
- 20 largest water systems and trade associations were invited to the meeting
- Graphs: Blue line (existing fees); red line (fee as TNRCC proposed to stakeholders and plan to propose to registry; yellow line (straight line fee per connection basis)
- Where do fees go? Public health service fee goes to overhead
- Number of connections raised to .75(exponent) from .65
- No difference between surface and groundwater
- Published by end of September, 30 day comment period, final adoption scheduled for

December 2001

Status of Arsenic Rule - Tony Bennett

- Officially in its ninth month postponement
- EPA has been reevaluating data on arsenic
- The standards should be no less than 20 micrograms
- Federal register notice came out on July 19, 2001 on MCL levels comments will be taken until October

Update on Radionuclide Rule - Tony Bennett

- Regulations finalized by EPA on December 7, 2001
- TNRCC has until December 2002 to adopt radion levels excluding radon
- Stakeholder meeting met September 10, 2001
- Rule proposal in Texas Registry May 2002; goal for final rule is November 2002
- MCLs effective December 2003
- Monitoring time lines already in place
- Historical data will be used for grandfathering - sampling already done
- Calculation of MCLs will not take into account accounting errors
- Disposal is an issue

Update on Technical Corrections (Handout #5) - Jack Schulze

- Containment requirements for bulk storage facilities.
- All public water systems shall maintain a record of operations. (See Handout - 290.46)
- 290.45 Minimum Water System Capacity Requirements - eliminate exception from language; changed to alternative capacity criteria
- Operator certification will have additions
- Chlorine dioxide - has to have licensed operator
- Time frame: Target date November 7, 2001
- Proposal should be out mid-November; 30-day comment period
- 0.6 rule - staff looking at changing requirements

New Utility Rules from Legislature - Wayne Wiley & Randy Nelson

(291 Rules) (Handout #6)

(293 Rules) (Handout # 7)

Operator Certification Update (Handout #8) - Alexander Hinz

- HB 3111 created chapter 37 in Texas Water Code
- 30 TAC §325 repealed
- Creation of 30 TAC §30
- License will replace certificate
- Registration will replace Certificate of Registration
- Licenses and registrations valid for 2 years

- Application and renewal fees - \$70

Drought Update (Handout # 9) - Mike Lannen

- 56 systems carried over from 2000
- Systems using drought contingency plans (peak times): 352 in 1996; 317 in 1998; 226 in 2000
- Drought contingency plan and education have helped people become aware of water issues
- Planning guide for drought is complete; 2 copies will be mailed to each water system

Other Issues of Immediate Concern - Buck Henderson

- Out source concerns for CCR - Alicia Diehl
 - < Staff challenges - considering not producing data sheet or possibly out sourcing it
 - < Systems appreciate data sheet, but need it earlier
 - < Public water system info will be available on the web in the next 2 months
 - < Inventory date will be available first
 - < Contents of sanitary survey will not be provided
- Upcoming training, conferences, meetings & public forums
 - < Source Water Assessment public forum meeting to discuss how assessment info will be disseminated - 1st of November, 2001
 - < Will try running 1st assessments by April
 - < ASDWA - October 22-26, 2001 in Baltimore
 - < AWWA Teleconference - November 1, 2001
 - < TRWA - September 25, 2001 in Philadelphia

Next Meeting Date/Location/Topics

- Next meeting will be December 10, 2001 from 9:30am - 12:00pm
- Meeting location will be announced at a later date
- Suggested topics
 - < Arsenic update (EPA)
 - < Technical corrections
 - < EPA rules