

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Fourth Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2009

Meeting Date: June 11, 2009
Meeting No.: 22

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Affiliation

Bruce Lesikar (Co-Chair)	Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Leslie Savage	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Mel Davis	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

Agency Staff

Affiliation

Program

Ben Knape	TCEQ	Radioactive Materials Division
Chip Morris	TCEQ	Water Quality Planning Division
David Murry	TCEQ	Radioactive Materials Division

Interested Parties

Affiliation

Rob Ries	HillCo Partners
Dee Lurry	United States Geological Survey (USGS)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. June 11, 2009 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. March 10, 2009 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, June 2009
4. Draft *What is the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)
5. Draft In Situ Uranium Mining and Groundwater Quality FAQs
 - *Where Can Uranium Be Found ?*
 - *How Were the Uranium Deposits in South Texas Created ?*
 - *How Is Uranium Mined in Texas ?*
 - *What Is the Quality of Groundwater Within the Uranium-Mineralized Zone ?*
 - *Once In Situ Uranium Mining Is Complete at a Site, Is the Mine Operator Required to Clean Up the Affected Groundwater ?*
 - *How Much Groundwater Is Required for an In Situ Mining Operation ?*
 - *Is the Uranium Recovered from Mining Ready to Be Used ?*
6. Alan Cherepon's feedback on the draft In Situ Uranium Mining and Groundwater Quality FAQs
7. Texas Mining and Reclamation Association April 1, 2009 press release – Historic Database Shows High Concentrations of Naturally Occurring Uranium in South Texas Water Wells

8. Ned Meister's feedback on the draft In Situ Uranium Mining and Groundwater Quality FAQs
9. Draft *Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?* FAQ
10. TAES *Drinking Water Problems: Radionuclides* (B-6192),
http://agriflifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=2182
11. 2009 Water-related Conferences in Texas, June 2009
12. TGPC refrigerator magnets

MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 11, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bruce Lesikar (TAES), Co-Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:05 PM CDT. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. STATUS REPORTS

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – TAES Water Well Screening Events, TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures, TGPC Booth

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the Outreach Events Status Report (available on the TGPC POE Subcommittee webpage,

<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm>, under “Additional Resources”):

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
 - Five since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (468 samples)
 - Two planned through August 2009
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - One since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (13 attendees)
 - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
 - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (1,824 attendees)
 - One planned through August 2009

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) indicated that there should be another abandoned water well closure in Belton (Bell County) in December 2009.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2009, at 1:30 PM, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 2210.

4. WATER DOWN THE DRAIN VIDEO

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) demonstrated the features of Hamline University’s Center for Global Environmental Education “Water Down the Drain” website

(<http://cgee.hamline.edu/WDD/>). Segments include:

- The Water Cycle
- Streets to Streams
- What’s Your Watershed Address ?
- Watershed Watchers
- Journey of a Raindrop
- Rappin’ with Alex

Some of these segments are also available on the “TWDB Kids” webpage (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/kids/index.htm>).

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE FACT SHEETS AND POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES

TAES Fact Sheet Reprints

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) reported that the TAES *Questions about Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* publication (B-6120, http://agriflifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=1588) was in short supply. Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the reprinting of this publication within the funding limits of the TCEQ/TAES Public Outreach and Education contract.

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

The *How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?*, *What are the Construction Standards for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?*, and *What is the Permitting Process for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?* FAQs were not discussed at the meeting.

Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

Revision of the TAES *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* publication (L-5413, http://agriflifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=1514) was not discussed at the meeting. Representatives from TCEQ, TDLR, TAGD, and TAES are scheduled to meet on June 16, 2009 to discuss the TCEQ *Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* publication (RG-347, http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-347.html). Once the revision of TCEQ RG-347 is complete, TAES L-5413 will be updated accordingly.

Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

Revision of the TCEQ *Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* publication (RG-347, http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-347.html) was not discussed at the meeting. Representatives from TCEQ, TDLR, TAGD, and TAES are scheduled to meet on June 16, 2009 to discuss this document.

What Is the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report ?

David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *What Is the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report ?* amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

In addition, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved that the following sentence be added to the end of all previously approved and posted FAQs:

“For additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to groundwater quantity, groundwater quality, septic systems, water wells, administrative entities, and publications, visit the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee’s FAQ webpage at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/FAQs.htm>.”

In Situ Uranium Mining and Groundwater Quality

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *Where Can Uranium Be Found ?* amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Leslie Savage (RRC) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *How Were the Uranium Deposits in South Texas Created ?* amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

The following in situ uranium mining FAQs were not discussed at the meeting:

- *How Is Uranium Mined in Texas ?*
- *What Is the Quality of Groundwater Within the Uranium-Mineralized Zone ?*
- *Once In Situ Uranium Mining Is Complete at a Site, Is the Mine Operator Required to Clean Up the Affected Groundwater ?*
- *How Much Groundwater Is Required for an In Situ Mining Operation ?*
- *Is the Uranium Recovered from Mining Ready to Be Used ?*

Although not on the agenda, the POE Subcommittee also briefly reviewed the draft *Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?* FAQ and provided preliminary feedback to the author, Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB). After proper public notice, a more complete discussion of this FAQ will take place at the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred the POE Subcommittee to the handout regarding 2009 Water-related Conferences in Texas (available on the TGPC POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm>, under “Additional Resources”).

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:52 PM CDT.