

OKI GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday, December 11th, 2019
OKI Board Room- 10:00a.m.

<i>Committee Members in Attendance</i>	<i>Institution</i>
Ken Broberg	Navarro
John Bui	City of Hamilton
Dave Combs	City of Trenton
Andreas R. Eddy	City of Middletown
Andreas Eddy	City of Oxford
Mike Ekberg	Miami Conservancy District
Rick Fueston	Clermont County Water Resources Department
Doug Hunter	Cox-Calvin & Associates
Krystal Lacy	Miami Conservancy District
Mike Lippert	City of Wyoming
Megan Marhelski	Ohio EPA
Tim McLelland	Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium
Allison Reed	Ohio EPA
Adam Sackenheim	City of Fairfield Public Utilities
Clifford A. Shrive	Shrive Operations Solutions
Richard Stuck	Greater Cincinnati Waterworks
Jeff Swertfeger	Greater Cincinnati Waterworks
Jack Thornsberry	Butler County Water and Sewer Department
Bruce Whitteberry	Cincinnati Waterworks
Jenna Houdashelt	Ohio EPA
OKI Staff	
David Rutter	OKI
Mel Musie	OKI

Welcome/Introductions

Meeting opened at 10:00am by Bruce Whitteberry.
 Next meeting will be March 18th 2020.

Announcements

- New guest joining committee, Jenna Houdashelt, Ohio EPA
- Allison Reed, Ohio EPA, endorsed the City of Cincinnati for their Source Water Protection Plan

Update on Local Groundwater Management Efforts:

- No updates at this time

OKI Staff Update

- David Rutter welcomed Melat Musie, new OKI Water Quality Intern to the meeting.

Presentations: (For more in depth information on each presentation check out the Groundwater Committee website at <http://www.oki.org/about-oki/committees/groundwater-committee/>)

Jeff Swertfeger, Greater Cincinnati Waterworks
The NEW EPA Lead Rule: A Little Something For Everyone

Jeff provided the Committee with an in-depth overview of the history, importance and implications of the new proposed EPA Lead and Copper Rule. The purpose of the rule is to prevent lead from entering drinking water, and has been revised several times since 1991. Many systems have to treat the water entering these lead pipes in order to reduce corrosion, and keep the drinking water safe at safe levels to drink, but the issue often requires additional public education efforts and lead line removal to achieve maximum safety. He described the scope of the problem, how the issue of lead lines is pervasive nationally and described the adverse public health consequences that can ensue if this issue is not managed. Ohio contains the second highest number of lead lines in the US, and many of them are still in use. According to new research, the level of lead thought to be dangerous has been changed—no level of lead is safe, and adults are more susceptible than previously thought. Copper is included in this rule, but there is no emphasis on it.

The proposed rule focuses on gathering updated and reliable data, replacing known lead lines and enhancing risk communication as well as focusing more on schools, and other locations children regularly inhabit. Jeff described a way to track and manage these lines using an online inventory, as proposed in the rule. Agencies must develop an inventory within 3 years, if the rule becomes official, as well as establish goals within a comprehensive removal plan. This plan would detail intended methods of removal, customer notification process and education, as well as include a plan for funding replacements. One important update in the rule concerns action and trigger levels for sampling of homes with lead lines; while the required action level is still 15ppb, the required trigger level is 10ppb, however exceeding that is not a violation, but does require action to be taken. Jeff detailed the specific steps that would be required if these levels are reached, such as implementing studies, public education and notice, and line removal.

He also gave a detailed explanation of how agencies need to work with the public to handle these lines once they are identified, on either end. An established protocol must be followed for lead line replacements, including adequate notification for customers and owners, as well as providing adequate instruction. Agencies are required to replace the public end of lines, if customers replace theirs within 45 days if known, and within 3 months if discovered later. In order to make the lead line replacement process more efficient, good inventory is vital. He also emphasized the importance of sampling as it relates to places where children are, due to their higher vulnerability to lead impacts. He closed by giving a timeline of the new lead rule, and encouraging members to submit commentary to the EPA if they had issues to resolve.

Doug Hunter, Cox Calvin and Associates, Inc
PFAS Deep Dive

Doug educated the committee regarding an emerging contaminant, PFAS, and how it is negatively impacting our water quality nationally. PFAS is a chemical used in many consumer products, but there is not much awareness about the negative impacts on public and environmental health, and it is not currently listed on any national health advisory. It is man-made and has been in use since the 1940's, so the range of impact is vast. The state of Ohio is aware of the issue and OEPA/ODH currently have an action plan in place to mitigate the effects.

PFAS is unique because it has both hydrophobic and hydrophilic components within its molecular structure; additionally it repels fats and oils which make it very multi-functional in use in materials such as Teflon, waterproof clothing, non-stick cookware and a range of industrial uses. Similar compounds like PFOA and PFOS have been phased out in the U.S. however PFAS still persists due to lack of awareness. California, Michigan and Rhode Island are some major hotspots in the U.S. Other major sources of PFAS contamination to waterways include manufacturing facilities, airports, wastewater treatment centers, military bases, fire training facilities and residential septic tanks.

Doug then described the complexity of the laws surrounding the contaminant, and how it is vital to keep track of PFAS due to lack of knowledge and regulations. There are no current federal maximum contaminant level outlined for PFOS/PFOA, however the process of developing regulations to list them as hazardous has begun by the USEPA, coupled with the intent to issue interim groundwater cleanup recommendations in the meantime.

Doug then provided the committee with information regarding methods for sampling and tracking and provided data to show the different concentration value currently allowed across many states, as well as discussed the costs associated with remedying this issue. A number of challenges arise in sampling and tracking PFAS, such as low-detection limits, cross contamination and varying laboratory methods that yield different qualities of data. Doug explained the EPA Method 537.1 of detecting PFAS, and provided an explanation of a modified version to this method similar to the Department of Defense method, that some agencies prefer to use as it has a higher accuracy rate. Doug continued to go into great detail about proper procedure for sampling to maintain integrity of sample while out in the field, and provided suggestions of what type of equipment to use for these procedures.

To conclude the presentation, Doug asserted the importance of meticulous and consistent sampling/laboratory methods moving forward in order to make a difference and protect our health and safety. He then provided the committee with a resources to purchase PFAS-Free products.

Other Business

No other business. Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.