

Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Municipal (RCIM) Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

2014 Task List Items

Working Group Members

Robert Farrell – Chair (Port of Sunnyside), Dr. Kefy Desta (WSU), Elizabeth Sanchez (Yakama Nation), Gordon Kelly (Yakima Health District), Jan Whitefoot (Concerned Citizens of Yakama Reservation), John Van Wingerden (Port of Sunnyside), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co), Tom Ring (Yakama Nation), Kathleen Rogers (Citizen), Sanjay Barik (Ecology), Dan DeGroot (Yakima Dairy Federation), Donald Gatchalian (Yakima County)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Where: KDNA Granger Conference Room – 121 Sunnyside Avenue, Granger, Washington

When: 10:00am – 11:30am Thursday, May 22, 2014

Call: (509) 574-2353 - PIN# 2353

Participants

Robert Farrell (Chair), Charlie McKinney (Dept of Ecology), Dan Degroot, and Kathleen Rogers

Key Discussion Points

Welcome and Meeting Overview

The Chair of the working group welcomed the members and provided a brief overview of the agenda.

Agenda:

Ecology Addresses Known Nitrate Plume Concern Raised in Last Month's RCIM Meeting

The purpose of the Working Group meeting was to provide Ecology the opportunity to address the issue of known nitrate plumes or nitrogen spills within the GWMA. A Work Group member had inquired about the information the Department could provide to the GWAC at the April 24th RCIM Work Group meeting.

Ecology noted that there are two programs within the Department which deal with these sorts of discharges to the environment: The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), and the Environmental Report Tracking System (ERTS). Ecology stated that the ERTS database began in 1995. The Department cautioned, however, that gleaning useful information from either of these databases may require delving into follow-up reports. The initial report to Ecology may appear as though a release to the environment occurred that would be important for the GWAC to know. The follow-up investigation by the Department, however, may have determined that if any release actually occurred, it was not properly characterized. A discussion among the various programs of Ecology will attempt to determine the best way to access information that is relevant to the GWAC.

A participant wondered if the GWAC should be focusing on wells that are in the vicinity of known nitrate plumes. This participant suggested that the GWAC should not be attempting to identify or develop BMPs for the affected area since the source of the plume would not respond to the sorts of best management practices that the GWAC has been considering. It was also suggested that it would be useful if Ecology could provide information concerning the effect that its actions has had on spills and plumes.

Resources Requested

None at this time

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time

Deliverables/Products Status

- Internally developing education and outreach strategy, and moving towards a meeting with the EPO Working Group to hone and deliver such a campaign.

Proposed Next Steps

- Raise the groups concern for an abandoned or improperly decommissioned well outreach program to the GWAC
- Ecology will work on tracking down actions the Department has taken, spills, etc. that could affect nitrate levels in nearby wells