

NOTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2014 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Members Present: Steve Ales, Rick Brehmer, David Haupt, Roger Lang, Tom McDermott, Jr., Terry Marshall, Dennis Crow, Tim Neleson, Randall Niffenegger, Rick Peterson, Bill Batten. Others present: Marty Nessman. The minutes from the April meeting were not available for approval.

Private Water Supply Staff Update

Steve Ales announced that Jim Kasdorf and Greg Roanhouse will be starting as water supply specialists stationed on Monday, January 13. Jim will be stationed in Horicon and Greg will be stationed in Sturtevent. Jim is a current DNR employee working in the Remediation and Redevelopment program who has an environmental consulting background that involved working with drillers to install monitoring wells. Greg is coming to the DNR from Giles Engineering where he worked as a drilling supervisor for monitoring well drilling.

Well Inspection and Geothermal Rule Revision Update

Steve Ales reported that a statewide hearing was held on the geothermal and real estate inspection rule revisions to NR 146 and NR 812 on December 16 and 17, 2013. Ales thanked Terry and Dennis for their comments at the December 16 hearing. There were two comments that will require some attention. On the Geothermal rule, comments from Gateway Technical School regarding the pathway for a license will need to be addressed. Mel Vollbrecht and Randell Clark will meet with Gateway to discuss their comments. Terry Marshall asked that Jeff Beiriger be allowed to attend that meeting. On the Real Estate inspection rules, the Real Estate Association asked that the DNR perform an Economic Impact analysis on Housing for the rule and remove the sunset date for wells completed below grade. DNR does not believe we need to perform the analysis and we're going to keep the sunset date in the rule. *(Added note—sunset date was not kept in rule)*

The comment period ended on December 21 and Dorie Turpin will be compiling them for a response and presentation to the Natural Resources Board on February 25 or 26. Our goal is still to get the rules to the State Legislature before they break in April. If all goes well, the rules could take effect July 1, 2014.

Well Construction Report Numbers

Tom McDermott shared data on the number of wells constructed by year. Through late December 6824 well construction reports had been submitted to the DNR. Although drillers have until the end of January to get their December WCRs in to the DNR, the number of wells drilled in 2013 will be below the 7626 drilled in 2012.

High Capacity Well Update

Steve Ales reported that 360 high capacity wells had been approved in the last 12 months, which is higher than the 225-260 that have historically been approved in most years. In the last year, 600 applications came in for approval. There are currently about 200 applications in central office awaiting approval. DNR is attempting to prioritize them based on emergency needs and will work with applicants/drillers to get high priority projects done. Submitting a complete and accurate application is important to allow a quicker turnaround.

Newly-Approved Products and Equipment

None

Special Well Casing Depth Areas

Nessman reported that a special well casing depth area was created in the Town of Grafton in the area of the Denow Landfill. The casing requirement calls for extending casing to a depth of 150 feet and be grouted in place with neat cement.

Handouts

Town of Grafton Special Casing Area

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2014 in Madison. *(Note: changed to June 12, 2014)*