

**Clark County OSS
Technical Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2009**

I. INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF 04/08/09 MEETING MINUTES

Tom Gonzales opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. The following people were present: Mark Collier, Matt Wiard, Carla Sowder, Pat Ries, Pete Roberts, Bob Sweeney, Keith Barto, Basil Rotschy, Dale Waliezer, Steve Keirn, Tom Gonzales and Maureen Walker.

April 8, 2009 OSS TAC meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without change.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- ♦ Agenda was approved unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CURRENT OSS PROGRAM STAFFING & ASSIGNMENTS

There were three environmental health specialists laid off effective July 6. Because of these layoffs there has been a shifting of staff, with 3.5 FTEs assigned to the OSS program:

Matt John and Steve Keirn – field staff

Carla Sowder – Design review, release requests, some field work

Mark Hill – OSS technician and O&M

Discussion regarding an article in *The Columbian* today about the formation of a new Clark County Environmental Services Department:

- ♦ Mark is concerned the county is losing the focus on public health.
- ♦ Bob likes the idea of a holistic approach, while maintaining public health focus.
- ♦ Basil stated it is important to remain abreast of this matter, but it is too early to comment or make decisions until it is known if this new department will effect the CCPH OSS program.

IV. INSPECTION FREQUENCY FOR TL E – Pressure Systems

In other states PDs are not considered alternative systems. CCPH is considering submitting a formal waiver to DOH requesting an inspection frequency requirement of every two years for PDs.

Discussion:

- ♦ Pat stated the O&M program is still fairly new and we are already backing off of requirements. Where do we draw the line?
- ♦ Pete stated he thought this requirement was appropriate for newer systems but older systems are questionable.

Suggestion: Develop policy - If an inspector notes that system has issues, CCPH can then determine if the system needs an annual inspection. Specific deficiencies would need to be identified as indicators of need for annual inspection.

Action: Tom will draft letter to DOH re: PD inspection requirement waiver and will submit to TAC for review.

V. O&M PROGRAM UPDATE

- ♦ **O&M Specialist Workshops (April 14 & 16)** – The workshops were very successful, and the new O&M field manual was distributed and reviewed.
- ♦ **Field Audits** – All OSS environmental health staff perform O&M field audits.
- ♦ **Follow-up on critical deficiencies** –
- ♦ **Realtor Education** –

Carla mentioned we need positive testimonials. These could be added to our Web pages.

Action: eOnsite issues with correcting owner name.

VI. DOH CLASS B WAIVER PROPOSAL – Cinebar Silt Loam Loading Rate

Discussion tabled due to absence of Nathan Ek, EK Engineering.

VII. UDATE ON WAC 246-272c – Septic Tank Rule

Bob Sweeney distributed a “Frequently Asked Questions” handout regarding the draft OSS Tank Rule currently being reviewed by DOH. The 2007 Guidelines are still in effect until new WAC is approved. This issue will be discussed at the State Board of Health hearing scheduled for October 14th.

VIII. SUMMARY OF NEW INFILTRATOR GENERATOR

Basil provided information regarding a new infiltrator generator. He stated this new flat, 8” tall meets the same requirements as the 12” profile, it is stronger (H10 rating), meets vertical requirements with less cover material. This product will be available in October 2009.

IX. GRINDER PUMPS

Mark had a concern regarding sewage ejector pumps (grinder pumps). Does CCPH have any jurisdiction? Tom believes this is a plumbing code issue, but he will check into it.

Action: Tom will contact Clark County Bldg. Dept. to clarify jurisdiction over this issue.

X. NEXT MEETING

To be determined.