

Meeting Summary
DEQ Water Resource Impact Work Group
Thursday, September 12, 2002
DEQ – Piedmont Regional Office

The DEQ Water Resource Impact Work Group met at 1:00 p.m. on September 12, 2002 at DEQ's Piedmont Regional Office. In attendance David Nelms (USGS), Kurt Stephenson (VA Tech), Patti Jackson (James River Association), Brooks Smith (VMA), Marc Tufaro (SCC), Nikki Rovner (Nature Conservancy), John Kauffman (DGIF), Tim Hayes (Hunton & Williams), Tom Botkins (Mead Westvaco), Jud White (Dominion Power) and Jane Cain (VA Water Well Assoc.). DEQ staff present included Allan Brockenbrough, Mike Scanlan, Joe Hassell, Ellie Irons and Terry Wagner. The meeting was facilitated by Frank Dukes and Tanya Denckla of the Institute for Environmental Negotiation.

Allan Brockenbrough of DEQ reviewed revisions to the regulatory review chart made following the August meeting. Additional information concerning broader regulatory authorities and Regulation 11 reporting was added to the footnotes. He also reviewed two new charts created in an attempt to simplify the presentation of the first chart. Some form of the charts will likely be included in the final report.

Tanya Denckla and Frank Dukes led the group through discussions of a list of 13 issues which were drafted by IEN from input during past meetings and homework submittals from the previous meeting. The group agreed that the entire group wanted to review all the options and not split up into separate teams as the air advisory group had done. Tanya explained that now was the time for anyone on the group to submit ideas to be included. There is no need for the group to form a consensus as to whether a particular option should be included but it was important that all possible options be captured at this point in the process. Issues discussed included:

- Lack of comprehensive water supply planning
- Only 2 instream use analyses have been performed statewide
- Barriers to designation of surface water management areas
- Gaps in ground and surface water monitoring stations
- Absence of DEQ control over new withdrawals from grandfathered or otherwise unregulated water withdrawal structures
- Environmental Impact Review deficiencies
- No incentives or requirements for use of water conservation technologies
- Regulation 11 reporting deficiencies
- Lack of understanding of ground water flow in fractured rock and karst terrain
- Lack of understanding of ground and surface water interactions
- Lack of ground water data
- Barriers to designation of additional ground water management areas
- Absence of DEQ control over agricultural withdrawals through unregulated water withdrawal structures

The issues were presented on charts which were distributed to the group. Comments on each of the issues were recorded for incorporation in the final report. Many of the issues are related and can be combined by category. The final report will probably be in a narrative format rather than the charts used during the meeting.

Tanya reviewed a proposed final report format. It will include an Executive Summary, a discussion of conditions leading to the formation of the group, the charge of the group, and several categories of various issues, options and costs. The Appendices may refer to a website depository of presentations and materials developed by the group. The website would be maintained for one year. IEN hopes to distribute a draft final report approximately 2 weeks prior to the next meeting.

Allan Brockenbrough asked for comments on the draft minutes from the August meeting by September 18th. The floor was opened for any comments from the public and none were received. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on October 10, 2002 at DEQ's Piedmont Regional Office.