

# GROUNDWATER *Communique* NEWSLETTER

## The Ground Water Protection Council Newsletter

February 12, 2009

Dear Mike,

### Upcoming Meetings



[GWPC Spring Meeting at the NGWA Summit April 19-23 Tucson AZ](#)



[USDOE Water/Energy Symposium at the](#)

[GWPC Annual Forum September 13-17 Salt Lake City](#)

For more info about The Ground Water Protection Council:  
[www.gwpc.org](http://www.gwpc.org)

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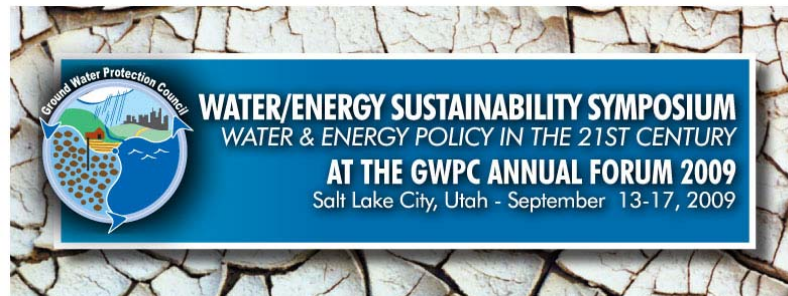
Welcome to the new Ground Water Communique! We hope that you find this newsletter informative and interesting. We welcome your feedback & suggestions. Please send comments to Sherri Henderson at [shenderson@gwpc.org](mailto:shenderson@gwpc.org).

Please note: the GWPC's website has been updated with a Google news search function for the latest ground water-related information.

### GWPC Spring Meeting

- As previously announced, we've made a change this year: the **GWPC 2009 Spring Meeting** (formerly the Policy Meeting) will be held in conjunction with NGWA's **Ground Water Summit**. Just click on the link at left for details.

### GWPC Annual Forum at the Water/Energy Symposium



- Check out the [Call for Abstracts](#) for the [GWPC Annual Forum at the Water/Energy Symposium](#). The due date for abstracts has been extended to April 1, 2009. Don't miss your chance to participate in this cutting-edge and innovative event!

### High Praise for New Ground Water DVD



A documentary which tells the story of what happened in Walkerton, Ontario, in 2000. Seven people died and thousands were sickened when municipal well water was contaminated. Read more at Kingston, Ontario's [CKWS Television's web site](#). View the film produced in collaboration

between local environmental and academic groups, at watershed protection group [Quinte Conservation](#).

### GWPC Division Update



Remember--the *Ground Water Report* is always available online for your use, unabridged, and at no cost. You may download copies, or just call Brenda Short at the GWPC office (405.516.4972) if you would like hard copies shipped to you.

As the new year begins, the Ground Water Protection Council has initiated a process to implement the Division reorganization approved by the Board of Directors in 2008. Chairs have been appointed by the Board to head each of the three new Divisions: **Water/Energy, Water Sustainability, and Water Quality**. In the upcoming months the Chairs will select vice-chairs and additional members of the Division Oversight Groups, and begin holding monthly conference calls to set agendas and priorities.

Throughout that period, we'll be communicating the progress to you in the Ground Water Communiqué. We'll also be asking you to participate in one or more divisions to help set priorities and ensure the success of the reorganization process. The purpose of GWPC Divisions are to:

- Act as a forum for discussion and debate of pertinent issues
- Promote knowledge transfer of technical and policy issues between states
- Develop potential projects for the GWPC that aid state efforts
- Develop resolutions and suggested action items for the GWPC Board of Directors
- Develop sessions for GWPC meetings

The first face-to-face meetings of the new divisions will be at the 2009 Ground Water Summit, April 19-22, in Tucson, AZ. GWPC's presence at the summit will be in lieu of holding a Policy and Leadership Meeting (previously held each March in D.C.). The GWPC agenda for the Summit will include several sessions familiar to you from our annual Spring meeting as well as Division and Committee sessions.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and participate in April.

### **Could Ice-like Cages Be Used to Trap CO2?**

Two University of Calgary researchers are investigating the potential for permanently storing carbon dioxide in geological reservoirs, by locking the global-warming gas within solid, cage-like structures called hydrates. [Science Daily](#).

### **RBDMS Makes Local News**

Updating data management systems may not seem interesting to some. But here's why it matters: It saves time and money. Lori Wrotenbery, director of the OK Corporation Commission's oil and gas conservation division, said agency workers knew for years that data being held within their computerized records were hard to obtain. [Daily Oklahoman Online](#)

### **USGS Findings--Drinking Water at Nine Public Water Supply Systems Across the U.S**

USGS has released findings on USGS studies of drinking water at nine community water systems, including on the White River in Indiana; Elm Fork Trinity River in Texas; Potomac River in Maryland; Neuse River in North Carolina; Chattahoochee River in Georgia; Running Gutter Brook in Massachusetts; Clackamas River in Oregon; Truckee River in Nevada; and Cache La Poudre in Colorado. The nine community water systems serve populations of 3,000 to over a million. Monitoring at surface-water intakes and after drinking-water treatment covered about 260 commonly used chemicals, pesticides, solvents, gasoline hydrocarbons, personal care and domestic-use products, disinfection by-products, and manufacturing additives.

Call Pixie Hamilton, 804-261-2602 (pahamilt@usgs.gov) or Donna Myers, 703-648-5012 (dnmyers@usgs.gov)  
For more information visit [the USGS Site](#)

### **Sanitary Survey Guidance Manual for Ground Water Systems**

EPA has developed the Sanitary Survey Guidance Manual for Ground Water Systems to provide States, Tribes, and other primacy agencies with a brief review of the sanitary survey regulatory provisions of the Ground Water Rule (GWR). The manual describes the details of a comprehensive sanitary survey, addressing the minimum eight sanitary survey elements required under the GWR, and provides specific examples of what constitutes a significant deficiency. Sanitary surveys are a proactive public health measure that can identify deficiencies in drinking water systems before any contamination of the public water supply occurs. The manual also helps surveyors understand how each set of Safe Drinking Water Act regulations applies to sanitary surveys.

[EPA Sanitary Survey Guidance Manual](#)

### **The Obama Administration's New EPA Agenda**

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has issued a memo to all EPA staff describing how the agency will function within the environmental philosophy and agenda of the Obama administration.

[View the memo at the GWPC site.](#)

### **EPA Seeks Advice on Perchlorate in Drinking Water - Agency Issues Interim Health Advisory**

Include articles on topics of interest to your readers, relevant news and events. If you find an interesting article on the Web, you can easily ask the author's permission to summarize the article and link to it from your newsletter. Drive traffic to your website by entering teaser text for the article with a link to your website for readers to view the full text. [EPA Perchlorate Article](#)

### **Models Simulate Nitrate Dynamics In A Watershed**

A new study details the first European application of two models that simulate the daily flow and dynamics of nitrogen in a watershed, which will help researchers prevent the over-enrichment of fresh, transitional, and marine waters with nitrogen, as well as understand the impacts of environmental change.

[Science Daily Environmental News](#)

### **Tennessee toxic sludge spill could have been avoided**

The people of Harriman, Tenn., got coal in their stockings three days before Christmas. That's when 1.1 billion gallons of coal plant sludge loaded with pollutants such as lead and arsenic burst from a containment pond at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston Fossil Plant and spread over 302 acres, destroying three homes and damaging more than three dozen others. As bad as this disaster was, what made it worse was the revelation that such pools of pollutants aren't federally regulated. Correcting this stunning lack of oversight must be a high priority for the Environmental Protection Agency.

[Press Democrat.com](#)

All of us at the GWPC appreciate your participation very much.  
Please contact any of our staff if we can be of assistance.  
Thank you for your interest in the Ground Water Protection Council

and our mission!

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