

# GROUNDWATER *Communique* NEWSLETTER

## The Ground Water Protection Council Newsletter

December 28, 2009

### 2010 UIC Conference



The 2010 UIC Conference will be held January 25-27 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Austin Texas. For further details go to our [website](#).



### Joint GWPC/ NGWA Meeting

The Ground Water Protection Council will hold its 2010 Spring Meeting at the National Ground Water Association Annual Summit in Denver, CO from April 11-15, 2010. To see more information about this meeting click [HERE](#).

### GWPC Wants a Piece of You: Discussion Briefs

Before all events, the GWPC solicits discussion briefs to collect additional topics for discussion from participants. Inability to attend a conference does not limit any state, agency,

Dear Mike,

Welcome to the the Ground Water Communique! This issue highlights a proposed drilling ban in the New York City watershed, an EPA study on CO2 contamination risk, selection of pilot areas for a ground water monitoring network and more.

We welcome your feedback & suggestions. Please send comments to Mike Nickolaus at [mnickolaus@gwpc.org](mailto:mnickolaus@gwpc.org).

### Ban on drilling requested in New York City watershed

New York City urged the state to ban natural gas drilling in its watershed on Wednesday, becoming the most powerful opponent to date of a process that critics say is poisoning drinking water.

Shale gas trapped deep underground is considered one of the most promising sources of U.S. energy, but environmentalists and small-town neighbors of drilling operations -- and now the biggest city in the United States -- are seeking to limit its exploitation. Read the full article [HERE](#)

### Subcommittee On Ground Water Selects Pilot Areas

The Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW) has selected pilot areas to test implementation of the National Framework for Ground Water Monitoring, which was presented at the February 2008 Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) meeting. A number of excellent Statements of Interest were submitted from across the U.S., and making a decision was difficult. Deliberations ultimately resulted in five pilots being selected:

Minnesota  
Illinois-Indiana  
Texas  
New Jersey  
Montana

The next step in the process is for SOGW to issue an announcement to partners, to thank them for their submissions, to let them know they were selected, and to confirm their commitment; that process is underway right now. There will be a "kick-off" conference call in mid January including all the pilots that were selected.

program, or individual from participating in discussions of national importance. Any interested individual may offer ideas, concerns, or suggest potential projects to the GWPC Board of Directors, Divisions, or any open discussion-based forum at GWPC events. Download the [discussion brief form](#) here (Scroll to the bottom of the page). Send completed discussion briefs to [Ben Grunewald](#).



**Join Our Mailing List!**

### **Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Bill Introduced**

U.S. Reps. Donna F. Edwards (D-Md.), Russ Carnahan (D-Mo.), and Steve Driehaus (D-Ohio) introduced the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act of 2009.

The bill would establish up to five Centers of Excellence for green infrastructure in the United States charged with conducting research on green infrastructure that is relevant to the geographic region in which the center is located, and provide communities with training and technical assistance on how to implement green infrastructure best management practices. The legislation would also provide incentive funding to help communities develop green infrastructure technologies.

ACWI members will receive a comprehensive briefing at the February 10-11, 2010, meeting. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more, please contact me, or see the documents regarding the framework that have been posted on the SOGW website:

<http://acwi.gov/sogw/pubs/tr/index.html>

### **EPA Funds CO2 Study**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$900,000 grant to Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., to investigate the potential for the geological sequestration of carbon dioxide to affect underground sources of drinking water. Injecting carbon dioxide into depleted oil or gas fields and underground saline aquifers is increasingly being considered to remove large quantities of greenhouse gas from the atmosphere and help address climate change. The research is expected to lead to improved designs for carbon sequestration projects that will protect underground drinking water supplies.

"There is a great deal of interest in sequestration as an option for reducing carbon dioxide emissions," said Stan Meiburg, EPA Region 4 Acting Regional Administrator. "This research will help us better understand how to implement this technology while preventing impacts on drinking water supplies."

Clemson University, in conjunction with Stanford University in California, will conduct laboratory experiments and modeling simulations to investigate the fate of dissolved carbon dioxide in underground geologic formations and to determine possible risks associated with the dissolution of carbon dioxide in underground aquifers. A better understanding of how local and regional scale hydrogeologic characteristics affect the deep injection of carbon dioxide will lead to improved designs of carbon dioxide storage projects, as well as monitoring and remediation strategies to reduce any potential associated risks.

### **Susquehanna River Basin Commission Announces Monitoring Network**

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) announced it will begin in early 2010 installing a monitoring network that will continuously measure and report water quality conditions of smaller rivers and streams located in northern tier Pennsylvania and southern tier New York.

SRBC will receive the data collected by the network and will make it available to other resource agencies and the public through its Web site. The data will help agency officials track existing water quality conditions and any changes in them on an ongoing, real-time basis.

"With the current concerns about the natural gas drilling activities occurring in the Susquehanna basin, SRBC believes that a data collection effort is critically important as the basis for making future decisions," SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz said.

The legislation would further require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to examine how green infrastructure approaches can be incorporated into clean water programs including permitting and enforcement.

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!

[Ground Water Report to the Nation: A Call to Action](#)



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.

This week, East Resources Inc., a natural gas company based in Warrendale, Pa., announced it will be contributing \$750,000 to SRBC for the water quality monitoring network.

Swartz said, "The commission truly appreciates this substantial contribution from East Resources. It will allow us to cover the cost of installing the initial monitoring stations in the targeted areas. With this contribution, the commission has now secured a commitment of the financial resources needed to proceed with the project sooner than planned. If winter weather cooperates, we could begin installing equipment as soon as January 2010."

### EPA Issues Rule to Reduce Water Pollution from Construction Sites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a final rule to help reduce water pollution from construction sites. The agency believes this rule, which takes effect in February 2010 and will be phased in over four years, will significantly improve the quality of water nationwide.

Construction activities like clearing, excavating and grading significantly disturb soil and sediment. If that soil is not managed properly it can easily be washed off of the construction site during storms and pollute nearby water bodies.

The final rule requires construction site owners and operators that disturb one or more acres to use best management practices to ensure that soil disturbed during construction activity does not pollute nearby water bodies.

In addition, owners and operators of sites that impact 10 or more acres of land at one time will be required to monitor discharges and ensure they comply with specific limits on discharges to minimize the impact on nearby water bodies. This is the first time that EPA has imposed national monitoring requirements and enforceable numeric limitations on construction site stormwater discharges.

For more information about the rule go to: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/guide/construction>

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