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GROUNDWATER *Communique* NEWSLETTER

The Ground Water Protection Council Newsletter

August 11, 2009

Upcoming Meetings

2009 Annual Forum



[Water/Energy Symposium at the GWPC Annual Forum September 13-17 Salt Lake City](#)

The GWPC's Water/Energy Symposium Co-Sponsor



[Visit the DOE Website](#)

2010 UIC Conference



The 2010 UIC Conference will be held January 15-16 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Austin Texas. For further details go to our [website](#).

**GWPC Resolutions
Deadline Notice**

The next scheduled GWPC Board of Directors meeting will be Sunday, September

Dear Mike,

Welcome to the the Ground Water Communique! This issue highlights an EPA decision to release comprehensive reports on water enforcement, GAO testimony about water and biofuels, a report on nitrates in ground water, a USGS report on carbonate aquifers, President Obama's nomination to head the USGS and more.

We do welcome your feedback & suggestions. Please send comments to Mike Nickolaus at mnickolaus@gwpc.org.

President taps Geophysicist to Head USGS

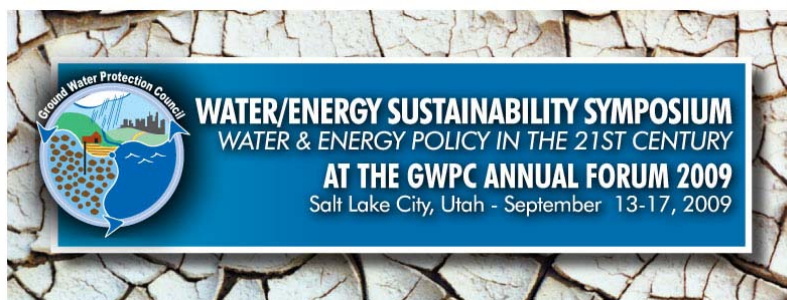
President Barack Obama has nomated Dr. Marcia McNutt to be the next Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Dr. McNutt studied geophysics at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California and earned her PhD there in Earth Sciences in 1978. She spent 3 years with the USGS in California working on



earthquake prediction. She joined the faculty at MIT in 1982 where she was appointed the Griswold Professor of Geophysics and served as Director of the Joint Program in Oceanography & Applied Ocean Science & Engineering, a joint program offered by both MIT & the Woods Hole Oceanography Institution. She is a fellow for the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America, the

American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Association of Geodesy. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and serves on numerous evaluation and advisory boards for institutions such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Stanford University, Harvard University and Science Magazine.

Water/ Energy Sustainability Symposium at the GWPC Annual Forum



13, 2009. Any resolutions to be considered at the Salt Lake meeting must be submitted to the GWPC by Friday, August 28, to be considered by the Board. Please submit draft resolutions to [Dan Yates](#) on or before Friday, August 28, 5PM central. If you have any questions regarding GWPC resolutions, please contact Dan Yates at the email address above or call 405-516-4972.

GAO Testifies on Water and Biofuels and Electricity Production

The General Accounting Office testified before the House Committee on Energy and Environment concerning the linkages between water the production of biofuels and energy. The testimony can be viewed [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, 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](#).

April 1 was the last day to submit abstracts for the [Water/ energy Sustainability Symposium at the GWPC Annual Forum](#). However--if you'd like to submit but need an extension or received late notice, please contact [Ben Grunewald](#), our Associate Director.

Click [HERE](#) to see the latest agenda for this event.

EPA Administrator releases comprehensive water enforcement data for all states

On Monday, July 6, 2009, the on-line journal WATER EFFICIENCY reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has made available comprehensive reports and data on water enforcement in all 50 states. This is part of Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's larger effort by to enhance transparency, promote the public's right to know about water quality and provide information on EPA's actions to protect water under the Clean Water Act. To read the entire article go to <http://www.waterefficiency.net/the-latest/epa-administrator-waterquality.aspx>

Southwest Hydrology publishes report on nitrates in ground water

The journal Southwest Hydrology published a report on the occurrences, sources and trends of nitrates in ground water in the Southwestern U.S. The report, written by Michael Rosen, USGS and Christian Kropf, Washoe County, Nevada Department of Water Resources can be read on the Southwest Hydrology website at http://www.swhydro.arizona.edu/archive/V8_N4/feature1.pdf

Louisiana develops ground water resources website
The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation has created a new website to provide information about ground water resources in the state. The new website is available at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/cons/groundwater/> and includes information about areas of ground water concern, upcoming events and a glossary of ground water terms.

House of Representatives holds hearing on Water/ Energy linkage

(Washington, DC) - On July 6th, the Committee on Science and Technology's Subcommittee on Energy and Environment held a hearing on the intersection between water and energy. Water is needed to generate energy and produce fuel, and energy is needed to pump, treat, and distribute water. The need for energy is growing at the same time that water supply shortages are predicted. Research, development and demonstration are necessary to ensure the nation is able to meet its needs for both resources. "Too often these two essential resources are thought of independently," said Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird (D-WA). "However, the strong linkage between water and energy requires that we make a more concerted effort to ensure that water and energy technologies are being developed



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[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.

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!

synergistically." For more information on the Committees activities click [HERE](#)

EPA Releases Listing of Surface Impoundments Related to Coal Combustion Residue (CCR) with High Hazard Ratings

In response to an EPA information request on units handling wet or slurried CCRs, electric utilities have so far identified a total of 427 units managing slurried CCRs. Forty-four (44) of these units at 26 different locations have been assigned a high hazard potential rating, using the criteria developed by the National Dam Safety Program for the National Inventory of Dams. Hazard potential ratings are generally assigned by the State Dam Safety officials.

The full list can be viewed at

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccrs-fs/index.htm>

ProPublica publishes another article on hydraulic fracturing

Abraham Lustgarten of ProPublica has written an article concerning the latest call for studies concerning the practice of hydraulic fracturing. The article discusses current pending legislation to regulate the practice under the UIC program and cites recent reports on hydraulic fracturing including a report by GWPC on regulations designed to protect water resources. The full article can be read at <http://www.propublica.org/feature/democrats-call-for-studies-industry-assails-proposals-regulate-fracking-713>

USGS Releases Report on Carbonate Aquifers

The USGS has released a report about the factors affecting water quality in selected carbonate aquifers in the U.S. To prepare the report USGS scientists sampled for 151 chemical constituents or physical properties in about 1,000 wells and springs across 20 states, mainly in the eastern and central United States. The majority of the wells sampled in the study are used as drinking water sources, either for domestic or public supply.

The complete report can be found at

<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/pubs/carbonate/>

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