

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**  
**Sewage Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**March 21, 2007**

Membership and function of this committee is established by 35 P.S 750.4. Successors to the entities listed in the statute retain the right to representation of the original organization named in the statute, but are not entitled to more than one member, if they have merged.

For purposes of quorum, there were sixteen (16) organizations with voting members/alternates recorded as present. Sixteen (16) organization's members/alternates were Not Present. There are three (3) member organizations having no current appointed member or alternate, including one Inactive statutory member organization. Minimum quorum is one third of 32 appointed members/alternates able to cast votes; for this meeting quorum was 11.

Organizations and members and/or alternates present are indicated as marked (▶)

	<b>Member Alternate</b>	<b>Representing</b>
▶	▶ Barbara L. Brown [chairperson] ▶ Ralph M. Houck	Pennsylvania Association of Sewage Enforcement Officers
▶	▶ Mourice G. Waltz (no alternate)	American Planning Association
	John F. Wagman David L. Sheridan	American Society of Civil Engineers
▶	Brian S. Funkhouser Scott E. Russell	American Water Works Association
▶	▶ James Elliott Andrew Hilt	American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania
▶	▶ Ralph DeFazio Doug Range	Local Health Agencies
	Organization internal policy no longer allows participation	US Department of Housing and Urban Development

▶	▶ John R. Williams Peter Fleszer	USDA Rural Economic and Community Development Service
	James Adair John D. Wanner	General Contractors Association of Pennsylvania
▶	▶ Patricia Grimm Joanne R. Denworth	Governor's Policy Office
	John J. Amrhein (no alternate)	Mortgage Bankers Association
	Richard Svindland David Kaufman	National Association of Water Companies
	Al Ruscito (no alternate)	Pennsylvania Assoc. of Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors
▶	▶ Robert T. Wood Linda A. Peters	Pennsylvania Association of Realtors
	Eugene E. Dice (No alternate)	Pennsylvania Bar Association
▶	▶ Carl D'Amico ▶ Keith Ashley	Pennsylvania Builders Association
	[Donald Berman resigned 12/7/05, successor unnamed as of this meeting.] John Walliser	Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Inc.
	Organization currently no longer functioning	Pennsylvania Environmental Health Association
	Keith Klingler (no alternate)	Pennsylvania Land Owners Association, Inc.
	(No member) (No alternate)	Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities
	Anita Stabile Peter Slack	Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
	Muscoe Martin Caroline E. Boyce	American Institute of Architects--Pennsylvania
	Brian L. Book, P.E. Ernest U. Gingrich, P.E., P.L.S.	Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

▶	▶ Dan O'Connell Thomas Klaum	Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
	Tom Ceraso Douglas Hill	Pennsylvania State Association of County Commissioners
	Frank Linn Lloyd Bucher	Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners
▶	▶ Lester O. Houck ▶ James Wheeler	Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
	Dr. Henry Lin Dr. Gary Petersen	The Pennsylvania State University
▶	▶ Duane E. Mowery ▶ Alison J. Shuler	Pennsylvania Water Environment Association
	Randall R. Myers, P.L.S. Allison M. Bradbury, P.L.S.	Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors
▶	▶ Philip E. Robbins (no alternate)	Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
	Sam D'Alessandro, P.E., P.L.S. Charles B. Zwally, Esquire	Pennsylvania Vacation Land Developers Association
	Bruce P. Willman, CPSSc. Joseph A. Valentine. CPSSc.	Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
▶	Bruce E. Fox ▶ Rusty Luzell	Pennsylvania Septage Management Association
▶	Charles R. Waddy ▶ David V. Linahan	Pennsylvania Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, Inc.
	<b>Other Attendees:</b>	
	Shannon Williams	PA Society of Professional Engineers
	Lori Books Mandy Eisenhauer	Lebanon County Planning Department
	Gordon Sheetz	Lebanon County Planning Department
	Ted Mott	SEPTICFAX.COM
	William Bears	PA Association of Professional Soil Scientist

	Mark S. Mills Karen Atkinson Scott Houser	PA State Association of Township Supervisors
	Dennis Fox	PA Sewage Management Association
	Tom Ashton	American Manufacturing Company
	Eric Conrad	PA Environmental Council
	Patricia Grieggs	Governor's Policy Office
	Mark Brown	House Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy [staff]
	<b>DEP Representatives</b>	
	Jay C. Africa	Chief, Act 537 Management Section, Div of Planning and Permits, Bureau of Water Standards and Facilities Regulation, DEP (Act 537 Management)
	Edward Corriveau	Sanitary Engineer, Office of Field Operations, DEP
	Jim Novinger	SPS, Act 537 Management
	John Borland	SPS, Act 537 Management
	John J. McHale, Jr.	SPS, Act 537 Management
	Darryl Scott	Program and 537 Grant Administration, Division of Bureau Business Management, Bureau of Water Standards and Facilities Regulation, DEP
	Arleen Shulman	Mobile Sources Section, Division of Air Resources Management, Bureau of Air Quality, DEP

## 1. Meeting Opening

Barbara Brown, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Meeting sign-in sheets were circulated.

## 2. Old Business

Corrections to the minutes were made to correct the spelling of an organization name of the American Council of Engineering Companies of PA, not Panda. A motion was made to have the minutes approved with the correction. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

## 3. Group Presentation of Member Organizations

American Water Works Association (AWWA) presentation to the Committee was presented to this meeting. Brian Funkhouser, representing the Pennsylvania section of AWWA, showed a brief video on the importance of teaching the values of clean drinking water to the public.

The PA Municipal Authorities Association, the PA Septage Management Association, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, and the PA State Association of Boroughs are scheduled at the June 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting to do a presentation of their organizations.

## 4. New Business

### Proposed new guidance documents

Ms. Brown, chairperson, proposed the following plan for conduct of the meeting: First, hear the presentations on all 3 guidance documents. Second, entertain a few questions to clarify the main points. Third, set up work-group meetings to go over the documents in greater in detail because of the large amount of information involved.

**Jay Africa**, Chief of Act 537 Management Section, gave the first overview to the committee on **Act 537 Program Guidance: Site Suitability and Alternatives Analysis Guidelines for New Land Development Proposing Onlot Sewage Disposal**.

Mr. Africa stated the goal of all guidances is to “raise the bar” recognizing that onlot sewage facilities were once considered by some to be temporary until an area was sewerred, but now are and must be considered permanent infrastructure. These guidelines will adequately address the long-term sewage disposal needs for projects proposing the use of onlot sewage systems. The long-term success for an Onlot Sewage Systems requires 5 things:

- Proper site consideration
- Proper system selection and design
- Proper installation
- Proper operation
- Proper long-term maintenance

This guidance provides DEP staff and the regulated community a systematic approach to site suitability determinations and sewage facilities alternatives analysis. These have caused confusion when incorporating recently demonstrated onlot sewage disposal technologies into the Act 537 new land development planning process. The guidance is an effort to conform practice under current regulations concerning the new technologies. All three guidance documents can be implemented under the current regulations. The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance are supplementary to existing requirements.

**Jim Novinger**, Sanitary Program Specialist, Act 537 Management Section, gave the overview on **537 Program Guidance: Alternate Systems Guidance**. This document provides current technical standards for alternate onlot systems and will update these standards periodically through future changes. The document applies to the siting, design, construction and maintenance of the alternate onlot sewage treatment systems proposed under the requirements of Chapter 73, Section 73.72. Mr. Novinger introduced the four significant features in this guidance document:

- Vertical isolation distance determines the minimal level of treatment required.
- Alternate System Guidance document format will focus on components, not entire systems.
- Maintenance requirements are indicated for all of the components of the systems
- A listing of proprietary components will be available to the public.

One of the objectives served by this guidance document is to provide design flexibility to system designers while still standardizing the usage of components within these systems. It also introduces newly reclassified technology.

Mr. Novinger asked for comments from the committee involving standardizing and/or requiring adequate safety mechanisms to stop uncontrolled entry into septic tanks. Mr. Novinger suggested that the department's intent is to move a number of the systems in the **Alternate Systems Guidance** document into conventional status when the regulations are revised.

**John Borland**, Sanitary Program Specialist, Act 537 Management Section, gave the third overview. **537 Program Guidance: Sewage Management Activities** seeks to assist municipalities and local agencies to satisfy their responsibilities under the Act by assuring operation and maintenance for onlot sewage treatment facilities. This may be accomplished through sewage management programs and/or other appropriate measures. The guidance seeks to assure the appropriate and consistent application authority, already provided to DEP by the Sewage Facilities Act, as may be necessary, to achieve compliance.

There are 4 major elements addressed in this guidance:

- Ensuring the appropriate and consistent application of maintenance requirements

- Enhancing compliance tracking and DEP oversight by use of the Sewage Management Performance Assessment
- Stimulating more data collection, review and reporting by recasting the current --280 Form (local agency reimbursement reporting) and --284 Forms to conform to the format of SMP Annual Reporting Forms
- Increasing local Sewage Management Education and Assistance Support

## **5 Status of other matters of interest**

**Jay Africa**, Chief of Act 537 Management Section gave a progress report on DEP activities.

- Draft Chapter 72 and 73 should be ready for presentation to SAC for comments the summer 2007. Chapter 71 will not be ready simultaneously, but will follow six months to a year behind.
- Del-Val Phase II - An internal DEP work group was organized consisting of staff from Del-Val College, technical staff from DEP's Central Office and Regional Offices. They will analyze the study data to identify technologies needing additional field-testing fulfilling necessary demonstration to become alternate systems.
- Experimental System Testing –Only one manufacturer is going through the process currently. As 10 sites are installed for field-testing, and one more is to be added, the department will go with a total of eleven instead of twelve test systems. To compensate having 11 instead of 12 sites, sampling for data collection will be done an addition year on the existing testing sites. Advantex Systems testing is anticipating to being completed by the spring of 2008.

**John McHale** addressed the SAC Committee on the changes to the mileage and reimbursable travel expenses. See Management Directive 230.10 dated 2/15/07.

**Jay Africa** is retiring. His tenure as the DEP liaison of SAC ends with this meeting. The committee recognized his many years of service.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.