

## WATER RESOURCES TASK GROUP PAWG REPORT JANUARY 25, 2007

Gene George, Chairman, reported to the PWAG at 9:30 AM at the BLM Pinedale Field Office conference room. The report was approved at the January 24th meeting of the Task Group.

1. The 2005 macroinvertebrate analysis revealed the presence of a non-insect species worm, Naididae, in the New Fork River at sites NF 30 and NF 40. This sediment dwelling worm can be an indicator of sedimentation or algae development. It can be a one-time occurrence from a tributary or a developing chronic situation. The river has been sampled in 2006 and the analysis of that sampling will be available in mid-year 2007. If the 2006 sampling confirms the presence of the worm and suggests that is not due to a one-time storm event, three additional samplings will occur at three new sites NF 50, NF 60 and NF 70. These locations are designed to identify individual tributaries that would be the source of the sediment. The normal biota was present and no immediate harm is suggested. The current monitoring system worked and will ultimately determine the cause of the situation.
2. During normal groundwater well sampling of oil and gas water source wells, four wells had indications of hydrocarbons. In all cases, the sources of the hydrocarbons were from back siphoning of contaminated water from production tanks or drilling and completion pits when pumps were left attached after pumping operations ceased. Three of the wells subsequently cleaned up to levels below drinking water requirements (MCLs). The fourth well is being entered into the WDEQ Voluntary Remediation Program. WDEQ, the BLM and the Operators are working to develop procedures to prevent the re-occurrence of this situation. WDEQ is also working with the operators sampling all wells in the Pinedale and Jonah areas. The current monitoring system worked and detected the hydrocarbons and the operational errors.
3. As a result of the detection of hydrocarbons in groundwater source wells, wording changes are required in the Sampling and Analysis Plan. Previously, the plan allowed for retesting prior to notifying WDEQ. Chapter 4 of the WDEQ/Water Quality Division requires immediate notification if any amount of hydrocarbons or hazardous substance threaten to enter or enter waters of the State. The appropriate wording changes are being made and as soon as the Water Resources Task Group approves the changes, the SAP will be resubmitted to the PAWG.
4. The Water Resources Task Group membership was discussed at the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. BLM will write a letter to those members who have rarely, or in some cases never, attended or responded in any fashion to the Task Group's activities to determine if those individuals

desire to remain members. BLM has collected new contact information from all current and active members of the Task Group.

5. The PWAG was notified that the Water Resources Task Group will meet again on March 2, 2007 to discuss aquifer characterization and channel characterization.