

SUMMARY*
GIEC / EPD HSRA Leadership Meeting
April 14, 2005 / 2 – 3 p.m. / EPD Director's Office, Atlanta

Participants: Dr. Carol Couch, EPD Director
Mark Smith, EPD Hazardous Waste Management Branch Chief
Darahyl Dennis, GIEC HSRA Workgroup Chair
Katie Kirkpatrick, GIEC Board Chair
Larry Neal, GIEC HSRA Workgroup Technical Advisor
Debbie Phillips, GIEC Executive Director

At Dr. Couch's request, GIEC representatives met with her and Mark Smith to discuss the future of the HSRA roundtables. A summary of the discussion follows:

- EPD has to determine what its own goals and policies are before HSRA Roundtables can be effective.
- EPD has just begun to have those internal discussions (about policy). Their ultimate goal is to address issues consistently among all branches. The all-groundwater-is-drinking-water policy was used as an example - there is currently no formal policy applied in all EPD branches on this issue and there should be.
- Dr. Couch can't provide a timeline on when she expects those policy decisions will be made - she can't even say next month, in 6 months, or in 2 years.
- Those goal and policy decisions won't be made in a vacuum - EPD will involve stakeholders and they will go before the DNR Board.
- Dr. Couch suggested to go ahead with the next HSRA roundtable (previously scheduled for May 24 / 10 a.m.- noon) and if there's an issue that can be addressed that has no impact on policy, go ahead and try to work it out (Mark and Larry are going to look at the issues list and try to identify which issues those might be - no ground-water issues can be addressed).
- It may be that no other roundtables will occur after May 24 if there are not enough issues to address that don't impact EPD policy.
- Re: the proposed "soils only" rule amendment currently on Dr. Couch's desk - She said she'd have to take a look at that again and perhaps M. Smith will be able to report a decision in the May 24 roundtable.
- Dr. Couch will try to come to the May 24 HSRA roundtable to explain EPD's situation.

* This summary was neither reviewed nor endorsed by EPD.