

Thomas A. Kropatsch, P.G.

Experience

August 2014 - Present Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Casper, WY
Commission (WOGCC)

Deputy State Oil and Gas Supervisor

- Class II UIC Program Director, manage WOGCC Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) program in compliance with state primacy application and state/EPA regulations.
 - Act as the point of contact for industry, public, and EPA.
 - Supervision of agency UIC staff.
 - Commission hearing examiner for UIC/aquifer exemption hearings.
 - EPA UIC National Technical Workgroup member.
- Implementation of the agency's environmental and natural resources rules and regulations.
 - Technical resource for staff, industry and the general public on environmental, UIC, regulatory, and natural resource matters.
 - Supervision of agency natural resources staff.
 - Preparation of agency budget, manage natural resources and inspection programs in compliance with approved budget.
- Act as the agency representative and interagency/public contact in all agency matters especially those related to environment, natural resources, regulatory, and UIC.
 - Attend workgroups and public meetings.
 - Review federal and state agency proposed rules and guidance documents, determine how these issues affect the agency rules and regulations and industry in Wyoming. Prepare recommendations on rulemaking, write rules, conduct technical analysis and prepare agency comments.
- Lead WOGCC's special projects.
 - Liaise with WY Legislature on oil and gas related matters. Provide comments to legislative bills.
 - Evaluation of agency staffing and utilization. Determine most effective use of staff time to implement agency's statutory duties. Provide leadership and staff development.
 - Lead oversight of agency's pit evaluation report for Pavillion study including oversight of operator progress on report recommendations.
 - Coordinate agency's accelerated orphan well plugging program.
 - Participate in and/or lead agency preparation and revisions of memorandums of understanding with BLM, EPA, and other state agencies.
 - Evaluate, select, and manage agency oil and gas database transition to RBDMS including full electronic permitting.
 - Prepare and manage BLM grant application to assist BLM WY in plugging orphan federal wells.

January 2013 – August Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Casper, WY
2014 Commission (WOGCC)

Natural Resources Program Supervisor

- Class II UIC Program Director, manage WOGCC Class II UIC program in compliance with state primacy program and state and EPA regulations.
 - Act as the point of contact for industry, public, and EPA.
 - Provide technical and regulatory review of aquifer exemption and injection/disposal well applications. Manage compliance of existing facilities within state and EPA regulations.
- Management and implementation of the agency's environmental and natural resources rules and regulations.

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- Technical resource for staff, industry and the general public on environmental, UIC, regulatory, and natural resource matters. Ensure compliance from industry with agency rules and regulations.
- Oversight and management of the agency's baseline groundwater monitoring program.
 - Hire new agency staff approved by the legislature to implement the rule. Evaluate and select the electronic database management system required as part of the rule.
 - Technical resource for industry and their consultants on questions related to the rule, the sampling and analysis plan, field methods and practices, and laboratory analytical methods.
- Act as the agency representative and interagency/public contact in matters related to environment, natural resources, regulatory, and UIC.
 - Attend workgroups, review federal and state agency proposed rules and guidance documents, determine how these issues affect the agency rules and regulations or industry in Wyoming. Prepare recommendations on rulemaking, write rules, conduct technical analysis and prepare agency comments.
- Manage special projects.
 - Convener for Pavillion pit workgroup, prepare agency's pit evaluation report for state Pavillion study.
 - Agency representative on Pinedale final pollution prevention mitigation and monitoring plan team,
 - Lead agency preparation and revisions of memorandums of understanding with BLM, EPA, and other state agencies.
 - Hearing examiner for Commission Examiner hearings related to UIC, aquifer exemption, and waste/pit treatment.
- Supervision of nineteen agency staff and contract personnel.
 - Act as technical resource for agency staff, maintain compliance with agency budgets, provide leadership and staff development, and ensure staff complete required technical and safety training.

May 2010 – January
2013

Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation
Commission (WOGCC)

Casper, WY

Natural Resources Analyst

- Responsible for the implementation and regulation of the WOGCC environmental programs and oil and gas operator's compliance with the WOGCC's Rules and Regulations.
- Provide technical and regulatory assistance to oil and gas operators within the state on remediation and/or disposal of exploration and production generated wastes, including petroleum contaminated soils, produced water, and flow back water.
- Review and approve plans and reports submitted by operators and provide technical guidance to Commission staff and field inspectors relating to spills, site investigations, site cleanup and remediation, pit closures, and waste treatment or disposal.
- Commission Hearing Examiner for proposed UIC Class II injection or disposal wells and aquifer exemptions. Provide regulatory review and approval of new injection/disposal wells, requested increases in well injection pressure, and approval for disposal of new sources of produced water or flow back water into Class II wells.
- Hearing Examiner for pit closure contractors requesting approval to chemically and/or mechanically treat drilling reserve and other produced water retention pits in the state. Includes approval of contractor's methods of proposing to treat or recycle waste water including produced or flow back water. Ensure that proposed methods of treatment, recycling, or closure meet state rules and regulations.

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- Provide testimony on behalf of staff at hearings brought in front of the Commission asking oil and gas operators to show cause as to why penalties, fines, or other actions shouldn't be levied for non-compliance with WOGCC Rules and Regulations relating to environmental or idle well bonding matters.

August 2008-May
2010

Delta Consultants (now Antea Group USA)

Loveland, CO

Project Manager

- Responsible for general project management processes including project safety, successful task organization and technical execution, regulatory compliance, contracting, client communication, regulatory agency interaction, and financial management and forecasting.
- Provide clients technical expertise in soil and groundwater contaminant assessment and remediation projects regulated under a variety of state or federal programs.
- Conduct technical review of site assessment, corrective action, monitoring, and various other reports submitted on behalf of clients to state or federal regulatory agencies.

July 2001-August
2008

Delta Consultants (now Antea Group USA)

Loveland, CO

Staff Geologist/Project Geologist

- Provide technical knowledge and project and contractor oversight of site assessments and remediation at pipeline, bulk storage, and underground storage tanks sites.
- Supervision of sediment and rock coring and monitoring well and soil boring installation (air rotary, mud rotary, auger drilling, vibra coring, sonic drilling), geologic mapping, remedial excavations, soil and groundwater monitoring for volatile organic compounds and inorganic compounds, and operation and maintenance of remediation systems.
- Prepare reports such as site assessment, remedial action plans, site closure requests, conduct data collection and analysis for fate and transport and risk based models. Review reports prepared by staff.
- Provide oversight of contractors during the installation of soil borings, monitoring wells, remediation systems, and remedial excavations.
- Collect soil and/or groundwater samples and stratigraphic logging as part of site assessment.
- Prepare reports for clients and various regulatory agencies such as quarterly monitoring reports, and assist with preparation of site assessment or characterization reports, remedial action plans, and site closure requests.

Education

August 1999-May 2001

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, OK

Coursework completed towards Master of Science – Geology (Degree not completed)

August 1994-August
1999

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, OK

Bachelor of Science – Geology

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Professional Qualifications

Wyoming Professional Geologist – PG #3720.

Graduate of Leadership Wyoming (2019)

Module 2 Leadership Team Groundwater Protection Council (GWPC) *Produced Water Report, Regulations, Current Practices, and Research Needs. 2019.*

State representative elected by EPA Region 8 to EPA National UIC Technical Workgroup (April 2014 to Current)

Member of Technical Workgroup on Wastewater Treatment and Related Modeling for EPA National Study on Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources (April 2013).

Member of Technical Workgroup on Hydraulic Fracturing Case Studies for EPA National Study on Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources (July 2013).

Member of Technical Roundtable on Flow Back and Produced Water for EPA National Study on Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources (November 2012).