

## **New Jersey Liquefied Petroleum Gas Education and Safety Board Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2023**

- 1) Meeting called to order at 1:32 P.M.
- 2) Roll Call

Attendance - Mike Merrill (Chair), Louis Kilmer, Ed Mulcahey, Ryan Pierson, Staci Rammel, J.D. Stem, Corrine Walker

DCA Staff - Joe Imburgia (Liaison), Rob Austin, Lindsay Bensel, Marie Daniels, Anthony Menafro, Ian Rayfield

Following roll call, Mr. Rob Austin informed Board members of open seats on the Board and if members know of any individuals who are interested in those positions. Mr. Austin informed the Board that additional information concerning the open seats can be found on the Liquefied Petroleum Gas page on the Department's website.

- 3) Approval of Minutes

*Motion to approve the minutes from the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting passes unanimously.  
1st – Corrinne Walker, 2nd – Ed Mulcahey*

- 4) Committee Reports – N/A
- 5) Old Business

- a) Housekeeping items within N.J.A.C. 5:18

Prior to discussion on specific topics, Mr. Mike Merrill requested Department staff provide final language on changes to N.J.A.C. 5:18 when the proposal is completed.

Board members discussed the change to N.J.A.C. 5:18-1.3(l) that was made in the previous Board meeting. This amendment concerned the inclusion of language referencing one- and two-family owner-occupied dwellings. Mr. Rob Austin informed the Board that the UCC does not contain any reference to owner-occupied dwellings and suggested to the Board that the language be removed to be consistent with the UCC.

*- Motion to keep the amendment to N.J.A.C. 5:18-1.3(l) as it was prior to the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting passes unanimously. 1st – Corrinne Walker, 2nd – Ed Mulcahey*

Mr. Rob Austin informed the Board that amendment to N.J.A.C. 5:18-3.3(j)1 is proposed for consistency. Specifically, the amendment would reference “crash posts” instead of “posts.”

*- Motion to approve the amendment to N.J.A.C. 5:18-3.3(j)1 passes unanimously. 1st – Corrinne Walker, 2nd – Ed Mulcahey*

The Board then discussed the proposed language at N.J.A.C. 5:18-6.1 concerning on-site LPG motor fueling. Mr. Mike Merrill noted that clarification is still needed on the topic and proposed the formation of a Board Subcommittee to find a clear understanding of the issue, determine a definition of “on-site motor refueling,” and work out a plan to solve the issues with on-site fueling. Mr. Ryan Pierson noted his support for a subcommittee and asked Mr. Lou Kilmer if there is currently language in the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) concerning LPG on-site fueling and if language on this topic can be added prior to adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code (IFC). Mr. Kilmer noted that there is not any current language in the UFC on this topic and that there is still time to add language prior to adoption of the 2021 IFC.

*- Motion to develop a Board Subcommittee for on-site LPG motor fueling passes unanimously. 1st – Corrinne Walker, 2nd – Ed Mulcahey*

Finally, the Board discussed the amendment to N.J.A.C. 5:18-6.4(b), which provides notification to the Department of a temporary LPG system at least 10 days prior to installation. Mr. Mike Merrill and other Board members suggested removing the language referencing the number of days of prior notice to only state that notification will be provided prior to installation. Mr. Joe Imburgia noted that issues may still arise and that a stringent system of notification is needed to ensure the State knows of these temporary systems. Ms. Corrinne Walker stated that regulations currently provide enforcement actions to handle noncompliance and that information regarding this topic has been provided to suppliers. Mr. Ryan Pierson explained that noncompliance with this regulation is a fire code violation and that information shared between municipal construction and fire officials may be helpful for enforcement. Mr. Imburgia suggested that a Bulletin or Construction Code Communicator article on this matter may be necessary. Mr. Mike Merrill noted that they will pass this information on to the NJ Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association.

*- Motion to remove “at least 10 days” from the amendment to N.J.A.C. 5:18-6.4(b) passes unanimously. 1st – Corrinne Walker, 2nd – Ed Mulcahey*

## 6) New Business

- a) Ms. Staci Rammel noted language concerning permission within N.J.A.C. 5:18-1.3(h) is vague and can create situations in which customers cannot have an LPG tank removed. Board members determined that they would send their thoughts on the matter to Mr. Joe Imburgia after additional research and would discuss this item further at the next Board meeting.

## 7) Information

- a) Mr. Rob Austin noted that the 2024 NFPA 58 has been published and review will begin. Mr. Mike Merrill requested copies of the 2024 NFPA 58 for the Board, which Mr. Austin responded that they will be provided after the Department is further into the review process.
- b) Mr. Rob Austin informed the Board that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is looking into LPG as part of their decarbonization program for the State Master Energy Plan.

8) Public Comments – N/A

9) 2024 tentative meeting schedule - 02/13; 04/09; 06/11; 08/13; 10/08; 12/10

10) *Motion to adjourn meeting passes unanimously at 2:45 P.M.*

*1<sup>st</sup> – Corrinne Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ed Mulcahey*