

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2015 MEETING OF THE LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM
GAS EDUCATION AND SAFETY BOARD
WILLIAM ASHBY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BUILDING**

Call to order: The Meeting was called to order by Chairman William Curcio at 1:33 PM.

Board members present: William P. Curcio (Chairman), Larry A. Horowitz, Louis Kilmer, Thomas Leahy, Gene Dougherty, Michael Merrill, Gerard Stocker

Department staff present: Division Director Edward M. Smith, Bureau Chief Michael Baier, Program Manager John Tomasone

Member of the public present: None

Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Public comments: None

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Louis Kilmer seconded by Larry Horowitz to approve the Minutes of March 10, 2015 with the following corrections: Mr. Stockers name was incorrectly listed as Gerald in the minutes; it will be changed to Gerard in the corrected minutes. In item 3 of old business, under pipe dope there was a typo; the term “daft” will be corrected to “draft” in the corrected minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

Old Business:

1. **Adoption of NFPA 58 – 2014** – The Board discussed the proposal in response to comments made by Mr. Stocker who had not had a chance to review the proposal prior to the last meeting. There was discussion about whether Chapter 10, which is proposed for deletion in the proposal, should be retained. Staff reported that since chapter 10 deals with building construction it is more appropriate to delete the provisions in deference to the Uniform Construction Code. The Board was concerned that the UCC requirements might not be as comprehensive and that local building officials might not have the expertise to review “fill” buildings since they would not encounter them very often. Staff reported that they were uncomfortable with joint jurisdiction between the UCC and the Liquefied Petroleum Gas rules because it could potentially result in conflicts between the LP-Gas Safety Unit and the local building Departments leaving applicants in limbo. Staff stated that they would present a list of what NFPA 58 requires compared to what the UCC requires for the next meeting.
2. **Training for Autogas personnel** – Mr. Merrill confirmed that PERC provides training on autogas. The draft rule presented to the Board was revised since the last meeting to require the training be documented prior to the “permit to fill” rather than as part of the plan approval process. A motion was made by Mr. Leahy seconded by Mr. Kilmer to approve the rule change. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Customer Owned Containers** – The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the consumer bill of rights to address the customer responsibilities when a customer owns their own tank. The Board suggested that under equipment fees, a sentence be added that states that maintenance is the responsibility of the owner for customer owned tanks. The Board also suggested that the cathodic protection provisions only apply prospectively from the adoption of the 2011 edition of NFPA 58 (January 5, 2015). A motion was made by Mr. Horowitz seconded by Mr. Merrill to approve the changes to the document with the modifications discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Status of Certified LP-Gas Installers – Mr. Curcio asked what the status of the rule was that requires a certified propane installer to install LP-Gas appliances and tanks. Staff reported that the rule is in 5:18 at this time; but, that a companion change to the UCC to require proof of certification at the time a UCC permit is applied for has not been proposed and therefore enforcement is not rigorous. The Board felt that since the plumbers exemption is complete that making an amendment to the UCC was appropriate. Staff indicated that they would work on this for the next meeting.

Information

1. Staff reported that the document on pipe dope had been forwarded for inclusion in the Construction Code Communicator that is distributed to code officials and other interested parties. The Document may be freely distributed by Board members.
2. Mr. Merrill asked about the Departments practice of testing ESV's and back check valves. Staff responded that in some cases they will open the valve to verify that it is working. The Department will revise this practice to only witness the test and have the actual operation of the valve as well as the control of the adjoining site performed by employees of the facility.
3. Mr. Stocker asked if the Department was aware of any incidents involving propane in Newark. Staff reported that they were unaware of any incidents but would research whether there were any.
4. Current staffing for the unit is three field inspectors plus John Tomasone. The two newly hired inspectors are undergoing CETP training which will continue over the summer.

Board Comments – there were no Board comments.

Next Meeting – the next Board meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Adjournment – a motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Leahy seconded by Louis Kilmer . The motion passed. The meeting ended at 2:31 pm.