



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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NJ STATE WELL DRILLERS AND PUMP INSTALLERS
EXAMINING AND ADVISORY BOARD

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection NJ State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2015

Approved by the Board on September 17, 2015

Board Members Present: Art Becker (Chairman), Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Joe Yost, Carol Graff, Gordon Craig, Steve Doughty, and Richard Dalton,

Board Members Absent: Joe Pepe

Board's Legal Representation: Jill Denyes, Deputy Attorney General (DAG), NJ Division of Law

NJDEP Bureau of Water Allocation & Well Permitting Staff Present: Terry Pilawski, Pat Bono, Steve Reya, Julia Altieri, Michael Schumacher, Jeremy Wick, Monique Girona and Melia Stoop

New Jersey Geologic & Water Survey (NJGWS) Staff- Jeff L. Hoffman, NJ State Geologist

NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water- Kristin Tedesco

Other NJ DEP Member Present: Bryan Barrett and Brett Callanan of Water Compliance and Enforcement-Central Region

1. Call to Order –

The meeting was called to order by Chairman A. Becker at 9:37 am, with a quorum present.

2. **Introductions-** Bryan Barrett from the Department's Water Compliance and Enforcement Program – Central Region introduced his colleague, Brett Callanan, who is currently taking over many of the responsibilities, previously held by Jeff Hoffman (now retired). As such, he will be working with

Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting (Bureau) staff on enforcement case referrals and follow up. He will also continue to work with the Board on enforcement related matters involving well drillers and pump installers.

Acting NJ Geologic & Water Survey (NJGWS), Jeff L. Hoffman, was introduced as the Acting State Geologist. He has assumed the workload of recently retired State Geologist, Dr. Karl Muessig. Mr. Hoffman said he looks forward to working with Board members though he has not yet been appointed to the Board to serve in place of Dr. Muessig.

3. Review and Certification of the Executive Session Minutes for the May 21, 2015 Meeting-

A motion to approve the minutes without change was made by G. Craig, seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.

4. Review and Certification of the Minutes for the May 21, 2015 Meeting –

The following changes were requested to be made to the Monitoring Well driller exam applicants section under item 5 of the open session minutes:

The third sentence, which begins with “Following the executive session discussion, a motion to approve...” should be revised to make it clear that the Board had returned to open session after the discussion about a specific applicant, Brian Buttari. Therefore, the motion to approve all listed applicants was made in open session. Finally, this sentence contained a typo that should be corrected (the same sentence listed “mad” rather than “made”).

Bureau staff will revise the minutes accordingly.

5. Review and Certification of Exam Scores for the June 10, 2015 Journeyman, Journeyman B, Monitoring, Soil Borer and Pump Installers Exams –

Master Well Driller– No applicants had applied to take this exam.

Journeyman - A motion to approve all listed exam scores was made by J. Yost, seconded by S. Doughty and approved unanimously. No candidates passed the exam.

Journeyman B – A motion to approve all listed exam scores was made by G. Poppe, seconded by C. Graff and approved unanimously. One (1) candidate passed the exam.

Monitoring – A motion to approve all listed exam scores was made by R. Dalton, seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously. Six (6) candidates passed the exam.

Soil Borer – A motion to approve all listed exam scores was made by G. Poppe, seconded by C. Graff and approved unanimously. No candidates passed the exam.

Pump Installer – A motion to approve all listed exam scores was made by S. Doughty, seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously. Two (2) candidates passed the exam.

6. Review of the Pump Installer Surveys –

S. Reya presented two (2) completed pump installer exam surveys that were completed by two (2) of the three (3) applicants who sat for the exam. He noted that once again the exam scores were quite

impressive. Specifically, two (2) of the three (3) applicants passed the exam and the one applicant who did not pass, failed only the regulatory section by a couple of questions. One of the passing candidates did so the first time sitting for the exam while the other passed on his second attempt. S. Reya believed that over the past year or so the pump installer exam scores have significantly improved.

In continuing the discussion of a topic raised at the May meeting, Board members discussed whether the age of an applicant likely play a role in the score attained. At the Board's May meeting, members questioned whether the survey could ask the age of an exam candidate since the survey is merely voluntary. J. Denyes reported back to the Board that the acceptability of including an age question on a voluntary survey could potentially be viewed as a discriminatory practice. She recommended that the Bureau (on behalf of the Board) did not ask the age, as she did not see how the answer would assist the Board or Bureau in improving test study material or achieving a higher passing rate among exam applicants. Board members, however, generally felt that by understanding whether a particular age group is struggling with the exams, they may be better able to assist the industry in preparing for the exams. They requested that S. Reya provide the ages of the applicants at the time the exam scores and surveys are reviewed by the Board, as this information is already collected on current application forms (to ascertain that applicants are obtaining required experience in accordance with applicable OSHA requirements).

- 7. Final Revised Reference Questionnaire-** It was noted that the reference questionnaire for driller/pump installer exam applicants has been recently revised to allow for itemization of non-consecutive supervised experience. Examples of non-consecutive experience in the industry include time interrupted due to attending school, working for another employer, recording part time/seasonal employment or working under the supervision of multiple licensed drillers at the same company. S. Reya noted that current exam applications will be revised to include the updated questionnaire.

8. 2016 Testing Schedule-

The 2016 well driller and pump installer exams will be held on the following dates:

April 6 June 8 October 5 December 7

9. Geothermal Grout Mixture (GA-Xtra) Update-

Geo Energy Alternatives (GEA) representatives conducted a field demonstration of their GA-Xtra cement-based geothermal well grout for Board members A. Becker, G. Craig, R. Dalton and S. Doughty on May 29, 2015. Bureau staff members M. Schumacher and S. Reya also attended the demo. All who attended found that the mixture could be mixed and pumped into the borehole when mixed in accordance with Department regulations and product manufacturer recommendations. Therefore, the remaining item to review before the Board could recommend approval of the product to NJDEP is the permeability data of the "field mix" samples that were obtained onsite. Final approval will be dependent on the requisite lab data, which has not yet been submitted for review.

10. Board Member Appointments-

P. Bono requested Board Members to update their resumes for reappointment to the Board, as most members are either currently serving on expired terms or are due for reappointment shortly. She

volunteered to send the resumes the Bureau has on file to each member so that he/she may update them as necessary. She requested that members provide the resumes via email.

11. Ethics Training for Board Members-

B. Barrett stated that Boards with which he works have been advised that all members must complete Ethics Training to serve on a state Board. J. Denyes will inform members of requirements applicable to this Board.

12. Enforcement and Field Work Activities –

A summary of Well Permitting Program's recent (past 8 weeks) enforcement and field activities was presented by J. Altieri.

- A) Field work: Well Permitting Section staff have performed approximately 16 field inspections in the last 8 weeks. Site inspections have also included staff from Water Allocation and other Water Supply staff. At more than one site, some of the State's more experienced drillers took the time to educate the Department staff on how to drill a well. This is much appreciated by the Department because it allows new staff and those who don't often work with well drillers to observe the proper way to install a well. Other field work included site inspections to find lost wells, new public supply and test well installations and spot checking of well drilling activity. No serious violations were noted during this time period and the well drillers were in compliance with well construction regulations. T. Pilawski also noted that Bureau staff has responded to two (2) nuisance complaints received from calls from the public in relation to perceived impacts from well drilling operations. In both instances the drilling contractors were found to be appropriately licensed and had obtained drilling permits from the Bureau.

- B) Several meetings were conducted with Water Compliance and Enforcement staff in regards to overhauling the Bureau's enforcement program and procedures. This is the first step in a long process of transforming the well permitting enforcement program into the Department's software system, NJEMS. This will allow enforcement documents to be generated and tracked in the same system used by Water Compliance and Enforcement for other Department enforcement cases. This will enable the Well Permitting Program's compliance and enforcement actions to be much more efficient and interactive within the Department. Coordination with Enforcement and Department computer software specialists will be ongoing in the coming months. M. Schumacher and J. Altieri will be working with Compliance and Enforcement staff on this initiative.

13. Presentation on the USEPA/NJDEP Ground Water Rule-

Kristin Tedesco from the Safe Drinking Water program presented a summary on the lessons learned during implementation of the Ground Water Rule (GWR), which was promulgated by the EPA in November 2006 to provide increased protection against disease causing microorganisms in public water systems using ground water sources. Since the effective date of compliance of December 1, 2009, NJDEP has been working in conjunction with the laboratories, water systems and local health

departments to track and pinpoint systems with deficiencies that make them susceptible to fecal contamination

The overview included examples of systems that were identified as at risk during the first few years of GWR compliance (December 1, 2009 through present). A summary of the steps necessary to achieve compliance and questions that are commonly asked by all systems were provided. K. Tedesco also presented several examples of common problems exhibited by well owners in which their wells had become impacted by fecal coliform bacteria contamination. She stressed the importance of well drillers and pump installers in providing extensive inspections of these systems and provided guidance for what should be included in a corrective action work plan. Of crucial importance, she noted, are the strict timeframes under which the drillers/pump installer and water system owner must operate in order to identify and correct the deficiencies within the federally mandated timeframes. Finally, the presentation discussed current challenges in achieving compliance and potential challenges of implementing corrective actions in the future.

13. Guide Book on Inspections of Well Drilling –P. Bono said that the inspection guide book that was presented to Board members for their suggestions at previous meetings has undergone major revisions. She anticipates that another draft will be presented to Board members later in the Fall.

14. Adjournment-

At 12:12 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by S. Doughty, seconded by B. Craig and approved unanimously.