



State of New Jersey

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Conference Call Minutes for April 19, 2018

Approved by the Board on May 24, 2018

Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building: Jeff Hoffman

Board Members Participating Via Telephone: Gary Poppe (Vice Chairman), Carol Graff, Joe Yost, Richard Dalton, Steve Domber and Joe Pepe

Board Members Absent: Art Becker (Chairman), Gordon Craig

Board Legal Representative Present: Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Robert Guzek, NJ Division of Law

NJDEP Water Supply (Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting) Staff Present: Terry Pilawski, Mark Ortega, and Steve Reya

1. Call to Order –

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am with a quorum present via telephone.

2. Update on Development of NJ Regulatory Exams–

S. Reya stated that the exams are anticipated going live on or about May 1st at which point individuals will be able to schedule exams online and take the exam(s) a day or two later. The Department continues to work with the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) in resolving a few remaining contractual and purchasing items. In anticipation of the exams being able to be scheduled in the coming weeks, the Department needs to have finalized exam applications available shortly for completion by eligible applicants. Those who sit for exams will receive their scores and exam results the day the exam is taken, which means individuals could be applying for licensure as soon as the Board's May meeting.

At the Board's last meeting draft exam applications and recommended study material sheets were reviewed. Bureau staff requested feedback from Board members on any suggested revisions from Board members at the meeting. Following his review of the document, J. Yost noted during the conference call that the wording on the draft application that asks whether the applicant possesses a high school diploma or GED is misleading. Because the newly revised rule no longer specifies that this is an educational requirement that must be met for licensure, he felt that the existing wording makes it appear as though it is a requirement, not simply a place for schooling to be listed. The following section is for the applicant to list secondary schools, colleges or universities attended. It was suggested that the high school diploma/GED question be eliminated and that high school or equivalency schooling could be added to this section as a list of possible schools that could be listed by applicants, none of which are a well driller or pump installer requirement. All Board members agreed, therefore, Bureau staff will revise this section to make it clear a diploma/GED is not required.

3. Two (2) Year Certification Exam Timeframe Requirement (per N.J.A.C. 7:9D-1.8(a)3)-

The potential issue of the two (2) year window in which exam certifications shall have been passed to count toward NJ licensure, as discussed at the Board's March 8, 2018 meeting and February 15th conference call, was noted as a remaining outstanding issue that must be resolved before the exam applications may be finalized and posted to the website. S. Reya has been in contact with R. Guzek who will be further discussing the issue with his colleagues and providing recommendations as to the interpretation of this provision. As discussed previously, there is the potential for license applicants to have to re-take certification exams that they took when applying for another state license or for a "lower" category of license when seeking a new license. R. Guzek and his office will provide input within the next day or two, at which point the exam application can be posted if the notation is to remain as currently drafted. Further consultation with the Board may be necessary if changes are needed.

4. Continuing Education Program Discussion-

The Board also discussed many continuing education questions, however, the full program implementation process has not been fully laid out beyond what is currently specified in the rule for license holders and course approval criteria for course providers. J. Hoffman noted that at the next Board meeting (May 24th) a Department representative for the Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) Board will be attending to provide input on how the LSRP Board handles course approvals and implementation of the required continuing education for license holders.

5. Program Updates-

S. Reya noted that he had spoken with Chairman A. Becker earlier in the week (who is currently out of town and does not have cell phone access) who wanted him to mention to the Board that the Department is sending staff to multiple New Jersey Ground Water Association (NJGWA) meetings to assist in answering questions and concerns from the industry related to the new rules, specifically the new licensing and continuing education requirements.

6. Adjournment-

A motion to adjourn the call at 10:25 am was made by J. Yost, seconded by J. Pepe and approved unanimously.