



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Conference Call Minutes for October 18, 2018

Approved by the Board on November 29, 2018

Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building: Steve Domber

Board Members Participating Via Telephone: Art Becker (Chairman), Gary Poppe (Vice Chairman), Joe Yost, Gordon Craig, Joe Pepe, Carol Graff, and Richard Dalton

Board Members Absent: Jeff Hoffman

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

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

1. Call to Order-

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am with a quorum present via telephone.

2. License Application Review-

Journeyman – A motion to approve one (1) license applicant, Joseph Boyle III, was made by G. Craig, seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.

S. Reya noted that this applicant is the first person, under the new rule, to go through the complete new licensing process to obtain a Journeyman well driller license.

3. Continuing Education Program Discussion-

During the September 13, 2018 meeting, the Board made several motions which set criteria for the continuing education program. Bureau staff pointed out that there was no significant discussion at that time regarding online courses for CEPs. It had, however, been previously mentioned that it may be the Board's intention to limit the allowable number of credits that can

be obtained online. Staff requested a policy from the Board on the continuing education points (CEP) limit per licensing cycle should the Board wish to set one, as it will be needed when the Department works with a third-party vendor to track the credits.

G. Craig suggested that there be no limit placed on taking online courses as long as they fit in the appropriate categories that were set forth in the prior meeting and are approved by the Board. R. Dalton asked the Board members to make sure that these courses are carefully vetted to ensure that not all online webinars are approved for credit, as many would be unrelated to the drilling/pump industry. A. Becker suggested that the Board may wish to only allow a small number of allowable credits that can be obtained through online course completion. He explained that most of the online courses currently available do not have any supervision or means of monitoring the progress, attentiveness of the licensed individual or even verifying the identity of the individual sitting at the computer taking the course.

Board members and staff discussed several options for allowing online courses to count for CEPs. G. Craig noted that the Board should be flexible in allowing license holders the opportunity to complete a significant percentage of the required credits online due to limitations in course offerings/availability. Further he said online courses offer benefits to both licensees and employers in being able to take them at any time convenient for them without having to miss out on work or travel to an approved course/event and that there is no reason to believe that they would not provide meaningful education and training. A. Becker asked the Board members if they felt comfortable with the allocation of necessary points, discussed in the September meeting. The Board members agreed that it should stay as a minimum of 10 points of technical/industry and a minimum of 4 points of safety.

A. Becker clarified with the Board members and staff that a licensed individual can obtain all 21 points in one year if needed. He sought to make sure a licensed individual did not need to do seven (7) per year and would be cut off. The Board members and staff agreed that it should not matter when the points are obtained, provided it is before the deadline, as the well rule does not prescribe an annual requirement. C. Graff suggested that the Board members reach out to other states to see how they handle online courses.

Motion: G. Poppe made a motion to allow a maximum of eight (8) web-based credits to count for a licensed individual. J. Yost seconds the motion. All were in favor except for C. Graff, who was opposed.

G. Craig departed the call at 10:29 am.

S. Reya informed the Board members that the Bureau believes that the CEP category breakdown (technical/industry and safety) should be implemented in the first full licensing cycle. Given that licensed individuals will only need seven (7) CEPs for the upcoming partial cycle (April 1, 2019 to April 1, 2020), it would not make sense to use those breakdowns for the shortened cycle.

Motion: G. Poppe makes a motion to accept that the CEP category breakdown will not take place during the shortened licensing cycle. C. Graff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by all remaining Board members (G. Craig left the call prior to this motion).

J. Yost noted that both this requirement and the limitation of online credits will have to be actively sent out to the industry via letters, emails, websites, etc. so licensees know the requirements in advance of the license cycle to ensure that they are not taking courses that will ultimately not fulfill all prescribed requirements.

4. Adjournment-

At 10:40 am a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by J. Yost seconded by C. Graff and approved unanimously by all remaining Board members (G. Craig left the call prior to this motion).