



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 February 14, 2019

Approved by the Board on March 21, 2019

Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building: Jeff Hoffman

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

Board Members Absent: Joe Yost

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 10:02 am with a quorum present via telephone.

2. License Application Review-

Master – Kenneth A. Fletcher

Environmental Resource & Geotechnical – Peter Lelliott and Matthew Smart

A motion to approve the three (3) listed license applicants, who were found to meet the licensing criteria, was made by G. Poppe, seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

S. Reya noted that Mr. Fletcher is the first Master applicant to be accepted under the new process. He informed the Board that since Mr. Fletcher had obtained his journeyman license prior to January 2, 2018, he only needed three (3) exams to obtain his master license.

3. Testing & Continuing Education Program Discussion-

Testing:

S. Reya informed the Board that the Well Permitting program had recently received information on exam score data from the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) for both the regulatory and technical exams required for NJ licensure, which M. Ortega compiled the into a pass/fail spreadsheet for the Board to view. A Becker asked if the Department had any concerns regarding the information that was obtained and S. Reya noted that the only item of concern was that no one has passed the pump installer exam as of the date that the report was ran, however, it was a small sample size. A. Becker suggested that once the Department has received a new report, the Board can take a closer look at the data at the March meeting.

Continuing Education:

S. Reya informed the Board that there are no applications for continuing education courses for their review, however, the Department has received five (5) in total since the January meeting. He continued by saying that the New Jersey Groundwater Association (NJGWA) submitted an application on February 12, 2019 which would be reviewed at the March meeting and that another individual submitted information for the remaining courses, however, those applications have not yet been found to be administratively complete by the Department.

A. Becker expressed his concern regarding the lack of approved courses going into the start of the continuing education cycle and asked the remainder of the Board to weigh in on their thoughts. He asked if the other Board members wanted to reach out to other organizations, such as NGWA to begin submitted course provider applications. G. Poppe also expressed his concern with the lack of approved courses considering the continuing education cycle will begins in approximately a month and a half. J. Pepe stated that they need to get in contact with the manufacturers and followed up by saying that he had already sent the course provider application to two individuals.

A. Becker asked R. Guzek if Board members could offer courses to be counted for continuing education points. C. Graff and J. Hoffman explained that members of the LSRP Board who either offer courses or are affiliated with a course that is being offered will abstain from voting. R. Guzek stated that he would look into the Ethics laws and provide clarification at the March meeting. G. Graff stated that some of the courses currently approved by the LSRP Board would probably be acceptable for the well drillers and pump installers. J. Hoffman offered to reach out to the LSRP Board to coordinate outreach to course providers offering courses that would potentially meet the continuing education requirements for drillers and pump installers.

G. Craig asked the Department staff members if any progress has been made developing and scheduling the upgrade course for currently licensed soil borers. S. Reya explained that the Department would start the planning process soon. A. Becker noted that the Board would be willing to assist as necessary.

Finally, Board members were reminded that at the March meeting Water Compliance and Enforcement and Bureau of Water Allocation & Well Permitting staff will present charges against a pump installer that illegally conducted hydraulic fracturing without a license for the Board's consideration of pursuing potential license sanctions.

4. Adjournment-

At 10:24 am a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Poppe seconded by J. Pepe and approved unanimously.