



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 December 19, 2019

Approved by the Board on January 23, 2020

Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building: Richard Dalton

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

Board Members Absent: Joe Yost, Carol Graff, and Jeff Hoffman

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

NJDEP Water Supply (Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting) Staff Present: Joe Mattle, 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-

The Bureau received one license application for the Pump Installer license:

PI Kenneth Fidalgo

S. Reya explained that Mr. Fidalgo wrote a letter to the Board with his application because he was not able to fully complete his reference questionnaire due to one of his references passing away. S. Reya said that he tried to look through the Department’s old licensing records but could only find as far back as 1992. R. Dalton recalled that an exception was previously made for New Jersey American employees under similar circumstances.

G. Craig makes a motion to grant the license applicant, Kenneth Fidalgo, his pump installer license under the special circumstances. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.

3. CETCO – Geothermal Grout-

S. Reya explained that the geothermal grout that CETCO submitted permeability data for was similar to a grout that was previously approved by the Board. Both the CETCO grout and the previously approved grout use a mixture of bentonite and graphite.

R. Dalton explained that the proposed grout meets Department's standards for permeability, but that he had some minor concerns regarding the lab results that CETCO had submitted. G. Craig suggested that the graphite used in the grout was the cause of R. Dalton's concerns. G. Craig recommended approving the grout and suggested that the Department reach out to CETCO if they had other questions regarding the lab results.

S. Reya said that CETCO wants to conduct a field demo for this grout mixture at the Princeton site. He reminded the Board that the Princeton site will potentially have close to 2000 geothermal wells, ranging from 500 to 1000 feet.

A. Becker expressed his concerns with CETCO using wells that deep to test their grout. He asked what would happen if the grout failed its field demo. A. Becker suggested that CETCO conducts their field demo on a shallower well. If CETCO chooses to use Princeton as the site for the field demo, then they should understand the risks involved.

A motion to have the Department send CETCO a letter to proceed with their grout demo was made by R. Dalton, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.

S. Reya asked the Board members for volunteers to attend CETCO's field demo. A. Becker, G. Poppe, G. Craig, and R. Dalton said that they would like to attend the grout demo if they are available.

Before adjourning, A. Becker asked S. Reya for an update on the Princeton geothermal project. S. Reya explained that the project hasn't been finalized and that the Department's Office of Permit Coordination has reached out to Princeton to have a meeting in January. G. Craig said that his company is acting as a consultant for Princeton

4. Adjournment-

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