



## 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 April 15, 2021**

*Approved by the Board on May 20, 2021*

**Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building:** N/A

**Board Members Participating Via Telephone:** Art Becker (Chairman), Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Gordon Craig, David Lyman, Steve Domber, Jeff Hoffman, and Richard Dalton

**Board Members Absent:** Joe Yost and Eric Hoffmann

**Board Legal Representative Present:** Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Jill Denyes, NJ Division of Law

**NJDEP Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting (Bureau) Staff Present:** Terry Pilawski, Joe Mattle, Julia Altieri, Steve Reya and Mark Ortega

**Members of the Public:** Dermot Dillon, Summit Drilling/New Jersey Ground Water Association (NJGWA)

#### **1. Call to Order-**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am with a quorum present via telephone. Notice of the meeting and instructions on how to participate by phone were listed on the Department's website.

#### **2. Review and Certification of the March 25, 2021 Conference Call Minutes-**

A. Becker recommended one change to the minutes as they were written. There was a typographical error on page seven of the draft minutes where "overdrilling" should have been written as "over drilling". Department staff took note of this change.

**A motion to approve the draft minutes, pending the noted correction, was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Hoffman, and approved unanimously.**

**3. Licensing-**

*Review of License Applicants*

Board members reviewed the license applicant information for three environmental resource and geotechnical (ERG) well driller licenses, two pump installer licenses, and one journeyman well driller license. A. Becker asked if there was any discussion needed for the license candidates. R. Dalton noted that there was no exam score information for Tyler Hanson. M. Ortega stated that Mr. Hanson did pass his exams, but the scores were inadvertently left off the spreadsheet that was provided to the Board. The spreadsheet will be corrected to include Mr. Hanson’s scores, which were confirmed to be passing scores by Bureau staff.

**A motion to approve the five license applicants was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved unanimously.**

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Arthur Remedios	GeoPro, Inc.
ERG	Tyler Hanson	S2C2 Inc.
ERG	Theodore Mann	Hawk Drilling
Pump Installer	Peter Tachdjian	A.C. Schultes, Inc.
Journeyman	Kristopher G. Curtis	All Star Drilling and Probing (most recent company)

*License Upgrade Inquiry from a Well Driller*

S. Reya provided the background about for what was originally discussed during the March 2021 meeting. S. Reya said that he was contacted by a well driller who obtained his license in February 2018 but had taken the last in-person exam during December 2017, before the Department began using the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) for exams. Due to the timing of the exam and the subsequent Board meeting, his license was not approved until January 2018 and was not issued until February 2018. To upgrade to a master well driller license, there are two tracks for journeyman well drillers to take. Journeyman well drillers licensed on or after January 2, 2018 need to take more exams than journeyman well drillers licensed before January 2, 2018. This is because those licensed after January 2, 2018 would have taken the NGWA certification exams to obtain their journeyman licenses. The path to upgrade to a master license would only entail taking a subset of the full list of exams as some would have already been passed for the “lower” level pre-requisite license. The driller’s question was if he qualified as one of those licensed before January 2, 2018 since he had taken his exams and passed the Department-administered exams in December 2017 prior to the transition to the implementation of the NGWA exams into the Department’s revised testing format.

Board members were reminded that this licensee would be the only person effected by the Board’s decision. Out of the three individuals who sat for the journeyman well driller exams in December 2017, only one passed. During the March meeting A. Becker requested that Bureau staff work with DAG J. Denyes on determining if the effective and operative dates in the rule, which were approximately two months apart, would have any effect this matter. J. Denyes reached out to Mark Miller, the rule manager for N.J.A.C. 7:9D, for clarification.

J. Denyes discussed recent email correspondence she had with with M. Miller with the Board. She noted that the operative date only applied to monitoring well drillers and soil borers because the Department would no longer be issuing those licenses after a certain date. She continued to explain that the strict interpretation of the rule would be to not allow this individual to take the lesser number of tests, even though he is an unfortunate victim of the effective date of the rule. S. Reya reminded the Board of their motion in the March meeting, which advised the Department to review this individual’s application with the interpretation that he be considered licensed prior to January 2, 2018

because he successfully passed his exam prior to that date and through no fault of his own was licensed after that point to the logistics of when the Board meeting occurred and when the Department provided him with an invoice to pay and activate his license.

DAG J. Denyes asked S. Reya if he had contacted the licensee yet. S. Reya said that he had contacted him shortly after the March meeting to briefly discuss the status at that point. He noted that he would follow up again with this licensee after the meeting.

#### **4. Continuing Education-**

S. Reya went over the list of courses with the Board, noting that the Department had determined that these courses were administratively complete. The Board members reviewed each course.

##### *NJGWA May 2021 Membership Meeting with Troubleshooting with Pumps Course*

G. Poppe started the discussion by stating that he believed that this would be a good course. He added that Mr. Hartman, the instructor of Troubleshooting with Meters, was a very good instructor. D. Lyman agreed with G. Poppe's thoughts on the course. R. Dalton stated that he disagreed with giving this course two technical continuing education points (CEPs). He noted that the meeting should only count for half of a CEP and that the course should receive one CEP, for a total of one and a half technical CEPs. S. Domber agreed with R. Dalton.

G. Poppe expressed that the networking which well drillers and pump installers do in these meetings is important to the industry. It allows licensees to discuss different drilling methods and drilling in the different parts of New Jersey. G. Craig agreed with G. Poppe, stating that a lot of information is exchanged and is valuable to licensees. R. Dalton expressed his concerns because the course does not train licensees.

**A motion to accept the NJGWA May 2021 Membership Meeting with Troubleshooting with Pumps Course for two technical CEPs was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved by all Board members except for R. Dalton and S. Domber. The motion passed.**

##### *Rutgers University – Septic System Inspections in New Jersey*

S. Reya indicated that the Rutgers course was administratively incomplete and would be tabled until the May 20, 2021 meeting. He noted that the Department is still waiting for Rutgers to submit information about the course instructors before their application can be identified as complete. G. Craig noted that this course does not seem applicable. S. Reya said that the Department does not review the content of the courses and provides the Board with all applications deemed administratively complete for content evaluation. The course details will be provided to the Board once the deficient items have been supplied by Rutgers University.

##### *All Star Training*

S. Reya provided the Board with background information, which had been discussed during the January, February, and March 2021 meetings. During the March meeting, the Board had asked the Department to work with DAG J. Denyes to craft language for a response letter to All Star Training since their revised course application was deemed to be unacceptable based on the requested number of CEPs.

After some internal discussions between the Department and DAG Denyes, a letter was drafted to be sent to All Star Training. Based on the Board's review of the submitted course application, and associated motion, the requested seven CEPs would not be awarded for their replacement course as it

did not represent seven hours of relevant training. Department staff requested input on how many CEPs the Board recommends be awarded for this course for inclusion in the letter that will be sent to All Star Training.

The first two modules of the revised course were noted to very informative by A. Becker. These two modules, he explained, contained a video presentation by a hydrogeologist that covered relevant subject material and lasted nearly one hour. A. Becker and S. Reya both discussed their review of the seven modules, for which they had both provided written summary notes at a previous Board meeting following their completion via test login IDs that were provided by All Star Training. A. Becker noted that while there were a few modules that had some decent content, they did not take long to read. He proposed approving this revised course for 2.5 technical CEPs. D. Lyman agreed with the recommendation to approve the course for 2.5 CEPs. G. Poppe thanked A. Becker and S. Reya for taking the courses, stating that their input was valuable to the Board. G. Craig said that All Star Training should look to restructure this course in the future.

**A motion to approve the revised All Star Training course for 2.5 CEPs was made by G. Poppe, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.**

**5. Program Updates-**  
*Staff Updates*

T. Pilawski provided the Board with some staffing updates within the Well Permitting Section. She informed the Board that the Well Permitting Section's new hourly employee, Deborah Newcomb, had recently started working and was being trained remotely. She also told the Board that the Department made a conditional offer to someone for a full-time position in the Well Permitting Section's Technical Unit. She stated that S. Domber and M. Ortega served on the interview panel and both stated that he would be a good fit for the position.

**6. New Items/Comments from the Public-**  
*Grout Demonstrations*

S. Reya said that he was recently contacted to schedule a grout demo for the CETCO Geothermal Ground with TC Booster. He informed the Board members who expressed interest in attending the grout demo that something would be scheduled in a few weeks. S. Reya stated that he was also contacted about the Direct Exchange geothermal system grout demo but did not have a timeframe for when it would be scheduled. He will reach out to Board member volunteers who expressed interest in attending once tentative dates have been identified.

**7. Adjournment-**

A. Becker thanked the Board members for their attendance and participation. A. Becker noted that the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2021. G. Poppe stated that he would not be present at the May meeting.

At 10:15 am, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved unanimously.