



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 September 23, 2021

Approved by the Board on October 14, 2021

Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building: N/A

Board Members Participating Via Telephone: Art Becker (Chairman), Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Joe Yost, Gordon Craig (9:59 am), Dave Lyman, Eric Hoffmann, Jeff Hoffman, Steve Domber, and Richard Dalton

Board Members Absent: N/A

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

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

Members of the Public: N/A

1. Call to Order-

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 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 August 12, 2021 Conference Call Minutes-

A motion to approve the draft minutes from August 12, 2021 as written was made by J. Yost, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved unanimously.

3. Licensing-

Review of License Applicants

The Board members reviewed the applicant information for one journeyman well driller license. A. Becker asked if there was any discussion needed for the license candidate. S. Reya noted that this individual is seeking to upgrade from an Environmental Resource and Geotechnical well driller license to a Journeyman well driller license. He noted that this applicant originally had an issue

because some of his exams were taken outside of the two-year window, which was addressed with the rule amendments. The applicant re-took the necessary exams instead of waiting for the rule amendments to be published. A. Becker asked if this happened frequently and S. Reya said that it has happened a few times to out-of-state license holders looking to be licensed in New Jersey. S. Reya confirmed that the rule amendments now stipulate that an applicant would only need to retake the New Jersey Regulatory module if it was taken more than two years prior to submitting an application.

The license application reviewed is as follows:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
Journeyman	Matthew G. Freck	Uni-Tech Drilling Co. Inc.

A motion to approve the license applicant was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Yost, and approved unanimously.

4. Continuing Education-

A. Becker introduced the four courses that the Department had identified as administratively complete. Before beginning review of the courses, he asked about the Drill Tech Group course, *Monitoring Well Construction*. He asked if this course was already approved. S. Reya explained that the Drill Tech Group has another class geared specifically toward mud rotary drilling, which is offered in a similar format. A. Becker thanked S. Reya for clarifying.

Drill Tech Group

A. Becker asked if any further discussion was needed for the *Monitoring Well Construction* course, offered by the Drill Tech Group. The provider is requesting eight technical continuing education points (CEPs). No further discussion was needed.

A motion to approve *Monitoring Well Construction* for eight technical CEPs was made by J. Hoffman, seconded by G. Poppe, and approved unanimously.

All Star Training

S. Reya informed the Board that the course provider gave the Department two sample logins for this course. A. Becker and S. Reya took this class to review it more thoroughly. The provider is requesting two technical CEPs for this course. A. Becker explained that you cannot take the test at the end of the module until the full video has run its course. He continued by stating that if you do not watch the video then it will be very difficult to pass the exam. A. Becker and S. Reya both confirmed that the course content was very good and informative.

A motion to approve *Locating Water Wells and Hydrogeology* for two technical CEPs was made by D. Lyman, seconded by S. Domber, and approved unanimously.

Parkhurst Distributing

An In-Depth Look at Components and Troubleshooting, which the course provider requested four technical CEPs, was discussed by the Board. M. Ortega noted that this course was going to be offered in conjunction with *Overview of the Statutes, Rules, and Regulations Governing the Water Well Industry in New Jersey*, which was recently approved by the Board, at an event on September 29th. He discussed some logistical concerns, which he shared with the course provider during the Bureau’s administrative review of the application. No further discussion was needed.

A motion to approve An In-Depth Look at Components and Troubleshooting for four technical CEPs was made by J. Yost, seconded by R. Dalton, and approved unanimously.

New Jersey Ground Water Association (NJGWA)

The NJGWA October 2021 Membership Meeting with Material Handling Safety course, which the provider requested one technical CEP and one safety CEP, was evaluated for credit. S. Reya noted that the format for this course is the same as the other prior iterations.

R. Dalton expressed his concern about giving the meeting portion one full CEP. S. Domber agreed with R. Dalton. A. Becker asked S. Reya about previous votes on this topic since there was prior discussion to revisit NJGWA meetings. S. Reya noted that the Board's motions have been consistent with allowing the meeting to receive one point and the class to receive one point though consensus among members has not been unanimous as far as the number of CEPs to award. G. Poppe said that he believes that the meeting should still count for one full CEP. D. Lyman and J. Yost agreed with G. Poppe. R. Dalton recommended giving the meeting portion half of a point, instead of a full point. A. Becker asked for a motion and a vote.

A motion to approve the NJGWA October 2021 Membership Meeting with Material Handling Safety course for one technical CEP and one safety CEP was made by G. Poppe. This was seconded by D. Lyman and voted in favor of by J. Yost, E. Hoffmann, and J. Hoffman. R. Dalton and S. Domber voted against the motion. The motion passed.

G. Craig joined the call and A. Becker provided a quick recap of what was discussed.

5. Disinfection of Wells by Unlicensed Individuals-

S. Reya reminded the Board that this issue was originally brought up by D. Lyman and that J. Hoffman had requested additional guidance from DAG, J. Denyes. J. Denyes explained that she is still waiting for her management to review the draft response and apologized to the Board for not having an update.

T. Pilawski explained that the Department is starting to take some action on this topic, noting that Well Permitting staff met with the Water System Operations element recently. The Bureau of Safe Drinking Water agreed to take down the Rutgers guidance document, which instructed homeowners how to disinfect their own wells, and replaced it with a new document. This was to address concerns that the document was potentially providing conflicting information to well owners that could lead to unqualified individuals disinfecting wells improperly.

6. Total Green Direct Exchange (DX)-

S. Reya provided the Board with an update to the DX geothermal well installation and grout demonstration. He said that the permits were recently approved and that he provided with Board the permit information and the attachments that were submitted with the permits. S. Reya discussed the technical details of the project with the Board.

It was noted that the grout manufacturer's name had changed during the product/permit review process, but that Total Green had submitting the information with the new grout manufacturer's name and verification that the product specifications remain the same as what was reviewed by the Board. These wells will be installed at a residential property in Hainesport, Burlington County. The anticipated start of the project is mid to late October.

7. CETCO Geothermal Grout-

CETCO's August 24, 2021 request for product approval of their Geothermal Grout with TC Booster was reviewed by the Board. R. Dalton and S. Reya recapped the CETCO grout demonstration that occurred on June 25th. The Department had sent CETCO instructions which detailed what they needed to demonstrate to the Board and the Department. When the Department received the third-party lab results, there was no information for a sample taken at the grout mixer although R. Dalton confirmed that the third-party lab permeability data supplied for the borehole return sample met the Department's permeability specification. The members of the Board and the Department had observed the CETCO representative take samples at both the borehole and the grout mixer, but the report did not show any results from the grout mixer.

R. Dalton previously asked S. Reya to double check the letter sent to CETCO to ensure that both results were needed. S. Reya confirmed that the letter and emails sent by the Bureau stated for results from a sample taken at the borehole and a sample taken at the grout mixer. Therefore, R. Dalton argued, the test is incomplete and the Board should not yet approve this grout mix.

A. Becker agreed with R. Dalton and said that the Board cannot move forward until they have the sample from the grout mixer tested. R. Dalton explained that other grout manufacturers, including CETCO in the past, have complied with this and submitted both samples for testing. A. Becker asked S. Reya to draft a letter to CETCO asking for the test to be completed. The rest of the Board members agreed.

R. Dalton made a motion to send CETCO a letter regarding the grout testing procedures and that the permeability result of the field mix before pumping was not tested. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

8. Program Updates-

J. Mattle notified the Board that amendments to the Well Construction and Maintenance, Sealing of Abandoned Wells rule, N.J.A.C. 7:9D, was published in the New Jersey Registrar on September 7, 2021. Department staff is currently editing the document to post on the website.

T. Pilawski discussed staffing in the Well Permitting Section. She noted that she is working on having Julia Altieri's vacant position posted and is looking to hire a temp employee to assist with well searches. Currently, Well Permitting only has one hourly position filled out of four. T. Pilawski also announced that Lynn Stout would be retiring at the end of June 2022.

9. Princeton Geothermal -

S. Reya provided a final update for Phase 1 of the Princeton Geothermal Project. 583 total wells were installed, all to a total depth of 850 feet. In total, 16 wells were damaged and decommissioned. Three additional 850-foot temperature monitoring wells were installed to monitor the temperature impact of the thermal wellfield with the goal of monitoring for any thermal plumes that could potentially migrate offsite and impact nearby surface water.

J. Mattle and J. Hoffman said that the Department met with Princeton regarding other potential geothermal projects for the future. J. Mattle indicated that these were preliminary discussions and that nothing was finalized.

A. Becker asked when the system would be up and running. S. Reya said that he did not know when their target was. G. Craig said that that the parking garage was constructed over parts of the geothermal field before all wells could be tied in and that there have been onsite delays completing the tie-ins and lateral piping.

10. Enforcement Update-

J. Mattle informed the Board that the Department is taking the necessary steps to resume enforcement activities after the retirement of J. Altieri. Currently, the Department is investigating approximately 40 incidents and will provide the Board with an update during the next full meeting (November).

11. Adjournment-

A. Becker thanked the Board members for their attendance and participation. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 9:30 am via conference call.

At 10:19 am, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Poppe, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.