



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 14, 2021

Approved by the Board on November 18, 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, Dave Lyman, Eric Hoffmann, Jeff Hoffman, Richard Dalton, and Steve Domber

Board Members Absent: N/A

Board Legal Representative Present: N/A

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

Members of the Public: Todd Tannehill and Mike Kleespies, both from CETCO Drilling Products

1. Call to Order-

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 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 September 23, 2021 Conference Call Minutes-

A motion to approve the draft minutes from September 23, 2021 as written was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved unanimously.

3. Licensing-

Review of License Applicants

A. Becker began the discussion for the two license applicants. One pump installer and one environmental resource and geotechnical (ERG) well driller submitted license applications. The Department determined that these license applicants meet the requirements for licensure and listed their applications as administratively complete on the summary table provided to Board members. A. Becker asked if any further discussion was needed. J. Hoffman said that since Mr. Michael Castelli

works in the New Jersey Geologic and Water Survey (NJGWS), himself, R. Dalton, and S. Domber will all abstain from the vote as they work in the same office as the Mr. Castelli. J. Hoffman asked if the Board could vote separately on the license applicants.

The license application reviewed is as follows:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
Pump Installer	Ryan Stover	Stovers Wells & Pumps
ERG	Michael Castelli	NJDEP – NJGWS

A motion to approve Ryan Stover for a pump installer license was made by G. Craig, seconded by S. Domber, and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve Michael Castelli for an ERG well driller license was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved by all except for J. Hoffman, R. Dalton, and S. Domber who abstained.

4. Tentative Board Meeting Schedule 2022-

S. Reya said that the Department had drafted proposed dates for the 2022 Board meetings and conference calls. Meetings were tentatively scheduled for the third Thursday of every month. Board members were asked to provide input on any scheduling conflicts. G. Craig asked if meetings will be held in person starting in 2022. S. Reya explained that there are capacity limits for conference rooms at the Department Headquarters. With the current capacity limits, the full Board would not be able to be accommodated in the building. Until this changes, the plan is to continue to meet remotely. S. Reya discussed switching to Microsoft Teams, which the Department uses to meet virtually, for future calls. He explained that he is looking into having a recurring phone number generated for these meetings so members could either call in or participate on a video call on their computer. The phone number could also then be posted on the Department’s website should any members of the public wish to participate.

The Board members agreed to the proposed dates and voted on them.

A motion to accept the dates for the 2022 meetings and conference calls was made by G Poppe, seconded by J. Yost, and approved unanimously.

If building restrictions are lifted, the Board agreed to meet on the following dates in Trenton at Department Headquarters at 9:30 am:

January 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, September 15, November 17

If public health restrictions prevent the Board from meeting in person, the Department will update the Board’s website with information on how to participate in the meeting.

The Board agreed to meet via telephone/video conference calls to begin at 9:30 am on the following dates:

February 17, April 21, June 16, August 18, October 20, December 15

5. Disinfection of Potable Water Wells by Unlicensed Individuals-

Neither DAG J. Denyes or T. Pilawski were available to update the Board on this topic. S. Reya gave a brief update on the Rutgers disinfection guidance document which had been a topic of discussion at prior meetings. He noted that this guidance document was originally intended for emergency use for homeowners after major storm events should they need to disinfect a flooded well and are unable to secure the services of a qualified professional. This document, which has been noted as being misleading to property owners by telling them how to disinfect a well, has now been removed from the Safe Drinking Water website. S. Reya said that T. Pilawski drafted a new version of the document, which has been approved by Department management, and is awaiting posting to the Division's page.

A. Becker confirmed with S. Reya that no resolution would be reached on the disinfection topic during this meeting without J. Denyes or T. Pilawski. He also asked for this topic to be discussed again during the November meeting, at which hopefully a resolution would take place.

J. Yost asked if public supply wells would be impacted by the upcoming decision. He inquired about the specific scope of the question posed to DAG J. Denyes and whether there is a differentiation between public supply wells and other potable well uses such as domestic. S. Reya said that the legal team's interpretation of the rule would likely only impact the general provisions of licensed well drillers and pump installers and what licensee is required to perform a specific activity since the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:9D 1.6 and 1.7 were the relevant sections previously discussed in detail. He also noted that most of the licensing provisions are tied to well categories, not well uses. Therefore, the issue of disinfecting all potable wells (Category 1) would be evaluated, but selecting one use out of that grouping, such as public community, would likely not be consistent with the way the rule is structured.

6. Update on Geothermal Product Reviews: CETCO Geothermal Grout and Total Green Direct Exchange (DX)-

CETCO

S. Reya discussed the Board's September motion to not recommend approval the CETCO Geothermal Grout with TC Booster product until the permeability results from the samples obtained from the grout mixer have been reviewed by the Board (the permeability results from the borehole return sample were found to meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:9D-2.9). Further, he said that after the Board's motion, he requested that CETCO have the sample from the mixer tested. Mr. Todd Tannehill complied with the Board's request and sent the mixer sample that he obtained during the field demonstration to a third-party laboratory for testing.

The results of the permeability test for the mixer sample were submitted to the Bureau on October 13, 2021 and forwarded to R. Dalton for review. R. Dalton said that the permeability for the sample taken at the mixer was acceptable and meets the Department's requirements. He also sent a memo prior to the meeting in which he stated that this mix should be accepted for use in New Jersey. G. Craig thanked R. Dalton for taking the time to review everything and providing the Board with the update.

A. Becker asked S. Reya if all requirements for approval have been met by CETCO. S. Reya said that CETCO has met all requirements for this grout mix.

A motion to accept the CETCO Geothermal Grout with TC Booster was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.

S. Reya informed Mr. Tannehill, that he would send him the approval letter for the grout soon. Mr. Tannehill and Mr. Kleespies thanked the Board and asked if they could have access to the memo that R. Dalton sent the Board regarding the approval of the grout. The Board agreed to have S. Reya send the information to them since it is public information. Mr. Tannehill and Mr. Kleespies left the call.

Total Green

S. Reya confirmed that the date of the Total Green DX system installation and geothermal grout demonstration is to be held on Monday, October 25, 2021, at 9:00 am. S. Reya had separately reached out to Board members to see if anyone would be able to attend, however, R. Dalton is the only Board member able to make it on that date. S. Reya said that he inquired about rescheduling so at least one licensed Board member could be present, however, this date was unable to be rescheduled. It was noted that multiple Department staff will also attend the demonstration. A. Becker asked if pictures and videos could be taken and shared for the next meeting.

S. Reya said that while the official demonstration is scheduled for October 25th at 9:00 am, the drilling contractor will be on-site all week installing the permitted wells. He noted that if the Board members are free on other days during the week and wish to stop by to let him know.

7. New Items/Comments from the Public-

No new items were discussed at this time.

8. Adjournment-

A. Becker thanked the Board members for their attendance and participation.

At 9:55 am, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Yost, and approved unanimously.