



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 Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2022

Approved by the Board on July 21, 2022

Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building: N/A

Board Members Participating Via Telephone/Microsoft Teams: Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Joe Yost, Gordon Craig, Eric Hoffmann, Jeff Hoffman, and Richard Dalton

Board Members Absent: Art Becker, Dave Lyman, and Steve Domber

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: Joe Mattle, Lynn Stout, Steve Reya, Michael Schumacher, and Mark Ortega

Members of the Public: Brian McGuire; SGS North America Inc. (SGS)/New Jersey Ground Water Association (NJGWA), Wesley Eichfeld; SGS

1. Call to Order-

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am with a quorum present via Microsoft Teams and telephone. Notice of the meeting and instructions on how to participate by video or phone were listed on the Department's website.

2. Review and Certification of the May 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes-

A motion to approve the draft minutes from May 19, 2022 as written was made by J. Hoffman, seconded by G. Craig, and approved by all except for E. Hoffmann who abstained as he was not present for the May meeting.

3. Review and Certification of License Applications-

S. Reya said that there was one license applicant for the Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well driller license. This applicant, listed below, passed all of the required certification exams and met all of the other requirements for the ERG license. No discussion was needed.

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Matthew Jelinski	Summit Drilling, LLC

A motion to approve one license applicant for licensure was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.

4. Continuing Education-

M. Ortega informed the Board that 500 licensees have started to earn their continuing education points (CEPs). This equates to 62 percent of all licensed well drillers and pump installers. He added that of the 500 who have started earning CEPs, 104 have completed the requirements, which includes new licensees. M. Ortega noted that Duff Co. and Drill Tech recently submitted their course rosters for approved courses they have offered, but those numbers are not reflected in the numbers just reported. He anticipates that NJGWA will submit the course rosters for the series of make-up courses offered in May and for their May Membership Meeting. M. Ortega said that there are a lot of people that are one or two points away from completing the requirements and will likely meet the requirements after those rosters get submitted.

G. Poppe asked M. Ortega how long it usually takes for online course providers to submit completion certificates to the Department. M. Ortega said that it varies by provider. He added that the International School of Well Drilling submits reports to the Department every other month, while All Star Training submits information within a day or two. He also noted the National Ground Water Association currently does not submit completion certificates directly to the Department. There are instructions on the course list which inform licensees if they are responsible for submitting their course completion certificates directly to the Department.

M. Ortega discussed his concerns with the amount of upcoming in-person courses over the summer. He noted that the Department has not received any new course applications recently and that at the time of the meeting, no in-person courses are being offered until November. E. Hoffmann inquired if there was a need for additional courses. He offered to put something together about environmental wells if there was a need for additional courses. G. Poppe welcomed the suggestion and added that there will always be a need for courses. J. Yost agreed with G. Poppe.

G. Poppe expressed interest in having the New Jersey Geologic and Water Survey present information regarding aquifers in the Coastal Plain. He added that there have been a lot of well drillers and pump installers who have approached him and have expressed interest in this topic.

M. Ortega provided a brief update on the revisions to the Course Provider Application and the Well Driller and Pump Installer License Application. He said that in the May meeting, the Department had agreed to present new applications to the Board by the July meeting. M. Ortega said that the Course Provider Application draft is almost complete and that himself and S. Reya will finalize the license applications in the coming weeks.

J. Yost asked if the Department has noticed a decrease in the number of license application submittals. He added that there has been a decline in the number of drillers with the knowledge and experience to drill public community supply wells. S. Reya noted that the number of license

applications has been up recently, however, there are not many individuals who are applying for their Master Well Driller license. He also said he has noticed that not many people are looking to go into that specific field currently and that there are only a few drilling contractors that specialize in public community/municipal well work.

S. Reya informed the Board that M. Ortega had drafted a reminder letter for all licensed well drillers and pump installers to remind them of the upcoming CEP deadline. Well Permitting staff is looking to finalize the letter in the coming weeks. He added that the Department intends on sending out letters every three months, until the deadline in March 2023.

5. Program Updates-

S. Reya announced that Lynn Stout would be retiring after 44 years with the Department. Lynn's work in the Well Permitting Unit has been extremely valuable and will be missed by her colleagues. G. Poppe thanked Lynn for all of her service and added that not only will she be missed, but her departure will be something that the Department will never be able to replace. The Board members thanked Lynn for her service and wished her a happy and safe retirement.

6. Adjournment-

At 9:58 am, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by J. Hoffman, seconded by E. Hoffmann, and approved unanimously.