



State of New Jersey

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2023

Approved by the Board on March 16, 2023

Board Members Participating Via Telephone/Microsoft Teams: Art Becker (Chairman), Gordon Craig, Dave Lyman, Eric Hoffmann, Jeff Hoffman, Richard Dalton, and Steve Domber

Board Members Absent: Gary Poppe and Joe Yost

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, and Mark Ortega

Members of the Public: Brian McGuire; MB Drilling

1. Call to Order and Introductions-

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 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.

A. Becker apologized for missing the January meeting. He thanked E. Hoffmann for assisting him with the Board's letter to the Department, which stressed that the Department prioritize filling the vacancies within the Well Permitting Section. T. Pilawski asked J. Hoffman to provide a brief update regarding the vacancies within the Well Permitting Section. J. Hoffman said that the Department's management recognizes the need to fill the vacancies as soon as possible, but there are some hold ups within Human Resources which are being worked through. A. Becker said that the Board is available to assist if necessary.

2. Review and Certification of the January 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes-

A. Becker asked if any discussion was needed for the January minutes. No discussion was needed.

A motion to approve the draft minutes from January 19, 2023 as written was made by G. Craig, seconded by E. Hoffmann, and approved by all except for A. Becker and J. Hoffman who were not present for the January meeting.

3. Review and Certification of License Applications-

S. Reya said that there were three license applicants: two environmental resource and geotechnical (ERG) well driller applicants and one master well driller applicant. A. Becker commented on the master well driller applicant, noting that there are not many people applying to be master well drillers anymore. No further discussion was needed:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Brad A. Frace	TPI Environmental
Master	Dan Burgess	Subsurface Technologies, Inc.
ERG	Thomas Plasket	Geostructures, Inc.

A motion to approve the three license applicants for licensure was made by J. Hoffman. This motion was seconded by E. Hoffmann and approved unanimously.

4. Review and Certification of Course Applications-

A. Becker read the list of courses to the Board. There were two courses which the Department reviewed and determined to be administratively complete: the New Jersey Ground Water Association (NJGWA) March 2023 Membership Meeting with Electrical Safety Presentation and Crane Coach's Rigger I, Rigger II, and Signalperson certifications. He noted that the Crane Coach certifications were submitted by licensed master well driller, Mr. David Stothoff, who took the courses and applied for credit.

NJGWA

A. Becker asked if there were any comments regarding the NJGWA course, where they requested two continuing education points (CEPs). R. Dalton mentioned that he does not think that the membership meeting should count for a full point. No further discussion was needed.

A motion to accept the NJGWA March 2023 Membership Meeting with Electrical Safety Presentation for one technical CEP and one safety CEP was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who abstained.

Crane Coach

A. Becker said that the Crane Coach application is for three certifications: Rigger I, Rigger II, and Signalperson. The Board discussed the importance of crane safety in the industry. The Board asked M. Ortega if a similar course was approved in the past. M. Ortega said that the Board had approved the Mobile Crane Certification, which was also offered by Crane Coach. He added that David Stothoff, who is submitting the three courses currently under review, also submitted that application and the Board approved the course for eight safety CEPs. M. Ortega reminded the Board that D. Lyman had some experience with the Mobile Crane certification, which aided the Board in their decision making process.

R. Dalton asked if the course even applies to well drillers or pump installers, noting that the training provided was for very large cranes, which may not be commonly used in the drilling industry. D. Lyman agreed with R. Dalton's assessment and said that it is not a common occurrence for well drilling companies though they occasionally may work with such equipment. R. Dalton added that if

any points are awarded that they should be in the safety category. He also talked about some of the Department of Labor's requirements for operating a crane. Some of the other Board members suggested that the courses under review are relevant because a driller or pump installer can be a rigger or a signalperson on a job where they subcontract out for a crane company to be on site.

The Board discussed how points would be assessed to this course, noting that there is not a detailed enough breakdown of the materials that were covered, therefore, it was difficult to ascertain how many points would be appropriate for the course, along with determining whether each applies to safety or technical. M. Ortega informed the Board that Mr. Stothoff requested that the Board review the Rigger I and Rigger II certifications for some technical CEPs. The Board discussed awarding some safety CEPs in the meantime.

G. Craig made a motion to award eight safety CEPs for these certifications until more information can be obtained by the Department. R. Dalton seconded the motion, but there was further discussion that was needed.

E. Hoffmann asked how points would be applied at a later date if partial points were awarded now. M. Ortega suggested tabling the discussion until a more thorough timed outline can be obtained. He added that Mr. Stothoff is currently maxed out on safety CEPs, so awarding partial credit in order to get him some points this close to the deadline will not have any effect on his CEP status. The Board members agreed to table the discussion. A. Becker reminded the Board that there was an open motion on the floor, made by G. Craig.

G. Craig revised his original motion to table the discussion until the March meeting until a more thorough syllabus can be obtained. The motion was seconded by R. Dalton and approved unanimously.

5. Review of Currently Approved Courses for Renewal for the 2023-2026 CEP Cycle-

M. Ortega went over a list of 53 courses with the Board, which were all eligible for renewal. He said that all of the listed courses are from the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). These courses previously met the Department's and Board's requirements to become approved and no complaints were received about any of the listed courses. Each course will be taught by the same instructor, will maintain the number of CEPs which were originally awarded, and has the same course content.

R. Dalton asked M. Ortega a question about the spreadsheet. He pointed out that NGWA's Well Disinfection course was highlighted on his version and wanted to know if there was an issue with the course. M. Ortega said that there was no issue and that if it was highlighted, it was a mistake. R. Dalton thanked M. Ortega for the explanation.

A motion to approve the 53 courses for renewal for the 2023-2026 continuing education cycle was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

6. Continuing Education Status of License Holders-

M. Ortega provided a brief update regarding the CEP status of currently active licensees. He said that since the January meeting, there had been a big increase in the number of well drillers and pump installers who met the CEP requirements for the cycle. As of February 8th, 400 licensees had met the CEP requirements, which is 49 percent of all licensees and 63 percent of everyone who had at least one CEP.

M. Ortega discussed the Department's original prediction of licensees who would renew for the upcoming cycle. He said that the Department originally estimated that approximately 75 percent of all licensees would meet the CEP requirements for this cycle based on renewal rates of licensees in prior cycles. As of February 8th, 78 percent of all licensees had started to earn points. M. Ortega noted that there are still licensees out there who are getting started late.

M. Ortega informed the Board that S. Reya and himself have been inundated with continuing education-related phone calls, especially after the Department's most recent CEP reminder letter. The licensing mailbox has also seen a steady flow of questions and certificate submittals. M. Ortega anticipated that the next month and a half would be very busy. A. Becker thanked M. Ortega for the updated.

7. Type 1L Cement (continued from prior meetings)-

S. Reya discussed the recent updates on Type 1L cement, which has been a topic of discussion for the last several Board meetings. A meeting was set up by J. Hoffman which included R. Dalton, A. Becker and G. Craig, Well Permitting Section staff, Division of Science and Research staff, and a representative from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).

S. Reya discussed the meeting with the Board, noting that he felt like it was very productive. S. Reya said that the NJIT representative has a background in concrete, so his input was very valuable in understanding the phasing out of Type 1 cement. In this meeting, they discussed the scope of work that needs to be completed and reviewed NJIT's project proposal. The group discussed using ASTM D5084 permeability testing instead of what was previously proposed in the original scope of work as that is what is required when a grout manufacturer submits for approval of a new grout material. The group also discussed the timing of events. The Department and Board had been under the impression that Type 1L cement would be distributed in New Jersey starting in April 2023. However, the representative from NJIT informed everyone that the information he has received indicates that it would not be phased in until the end of 2023, which would give NJIT enough time to do the required tests. NJIT representatives will look into the referenced ASTM standard and submit a revised proposal for review. S. Reya thanked A. Becker and G. Craig for attending the meeting and assisting with this evaluation.

G. Craig added that he has been trying to do some independent research into Type 1L cement permeability. He asked the Department to recommend some mix ratios so he can test them out. S. Reya suggested the currently approved mix ratios, 5.2 gallons/bag (target mix) and 6.0 gallons/bag (highest water content allowable) to get a baseline. G. Craig suggested doing 6.0 gallons/bag as the minimum since the Board suspects that this cement will require more water, due to the limestone content. On the high end, G. Craig suggested using 7.0 gallons/bag. R. Dalton and S. Reya agreed that this was a good idea and would be very helpful data. D. Lyman again volunteered to perform mixing and pumpability field tests, if needed, after G. Craig obtains laboratory permeability information.

A. Becker noted that NGWA is starting to get involved in discussions on Type 1L cement. He thanked S. Reya, J. Hoffman, and G. Craig for their work.

8. Adjournment-

S. Reya said that the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

At 10:30 am, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Craig, seconded by J. Hoffman, and approved unanimously.