



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 December 21, 2023

Approved by the Board on January 18, 2024

Board Members Participating Via Telephone/Microsoft Teams: Art Becker (Chairman), Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Joe Yost, Gordon Craig, Dave Lyman, Eric Hoffmann, 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: Kathleen Burkhard, Mark Miller, Steve Reya, Mark Ortega, Steve Vargo, Gina Fernandes

Other NJDEP Staff Present: Don Hirsch, Northern Water Compliance and Enforcement; Alexandra Carone, Geological Mapping and Coastal Geology Section

Members of the Public: Brian McGuire, MB Drilling; Dermot Dillon, Summit Drilling/New Jersey Ground Water Association (NJGWA)

1. Call to Order and Introductions-

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 Board's website. A. Becker thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

S. Domber announced some changes in the Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting. First, Ms. Kathleen Burkhard is the new Bureau Chief, replacing Terry Pilawski who retired. Mark Miller is the new Environmental Specialist 4, replacing Julia Altieri. Mark Miller will supervise Well Permitting's Well Construction, Technical, Exam, and Licensing Unit. S. Domber also announced that he has replaced Jeff Hoffman as New Jersey's State Geologist. S. Reya introduced Ms. Gina Fernandes, who was hired as a new staff member in Well Permitting's Well Construction, Technical,

Exam, and Licensing Unit. The Board congratulated everyone on their promotions and welcomed G. Fernandes.

2. Review and Certification of the November 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes-

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the draft meeting minutes from November 16, 2023. No one had any comments.

A motion to approve the draft minutes from November 16, 2023, as written, was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Yost, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who abstained.

3. Review and Certification of Well Driller and Pump Installer License Applications-

A. Becker said that there were eight license applications submitted to the Department for review, only five were administratively complete. A. Becker asked if the Board had any comments on the five Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well driller license applicants who were deemed acceptable by the Department. No discussion was needed.

A motion to approve the five license applicants for licensure was made by S. Domber. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Joshua M. Ross	Summit Drilling, LLC
ERG	Brooke A. Anderson	MB Drilling, LLC
ERG	Lyle Delmeier	Boring Brothers Inc.
ERG	Connor J. Healy	MB Drilling, LLC
ERG	Ashton T. Fisher	SANO Drilling, Inc.

4. New Business-

S. Reya said that the Department recently learned that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently undergoing a risk evaluation of some chemicals, which includes vinyl chloride. Vinyl Chloride is used to manufacture polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which is a very common material for well casing and well screens. The EPA's review could potentially affect the manufacture or use of PVC in the United States in the future, including a ban on materials using PVC. The Board members noted that they had not heard of this and thanked S. Reya for bringing it to their attention.

A. Becker asked S. Reya about the upcoming term expiration for the Board members. S. Reya said that there will be one or two vacancies. Members can serve in good standing if a decision on reappointments are not made before the terms expire in February 2024. A. Becker asked S. Reya if all the Board members have completed their ethics training for 2023. S. Reya said that he believed that there were two stragglers, and he would speak with them separately. E. Hoffmann said to the Board that he likely will not be able to continue to serve on the Board, but he has a replacement in mind that he will encourage to apply for the opening when it becomes available.

A. Becker thanked everyone for their contributions.

5. Adjournment-

A. Becker thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 am was made by J. Yost. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.