



# 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 February 15, 2024

*Approved by the Board on March 21, 2024*

**Board Members Participating Via Telephone/Microsoft Teams:** Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Joe Yost, Gordon Craig, Dave Lyman, Eric Hoffmann, Steve Domber, and Richard Dalton

**Board Members Absent:** Art Becker

**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, and Steve Vargo

**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

### 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. G. Poppe thanked everyone for attending. He noted that A. Becker was unable to attend this meeting, as he mentioned in January.

### 2. Review and Certification of the January 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes-

G. Poppe asked if anyone had any comments on the draft meeting minutes from January 18, 2024. S. Reya noted that K. Burkhard pointed out two typos prior to the meeting. The first was in the Other NJDEP Staff Present section, where the word “coastal” was misspelled. The second mistake was that S. Domber was mistakenly recorded as making the motion for item number three. S. Reya clarified that G. Craig made the motion.

**A motion to approve the draft minutes from January 18, 2024, after the noted corrections are made, was made by J. Yost, seconded by E. Hoffmann, and approved unanimously.**

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

G. Poppe said that there were three license applications submitted to the Department for review, but only two were administratively complete. He added that the two approved applications consisted of two Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well drillers. G. Poppe asked if the Board had any comments on the license applicants who were deemed acceptable by the Department. No discussion was needed on the applicants, who are listed below:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Thomas F. Fitzpatrick IV	Coastal Environmental Solutions, Inc.
ERG	Austin Sysol	MB Drilling, LLC

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

**4. Review of Continuing Education Courses-**

*Maryland Delaware Water Well Association (MDWWA)*

S. Reya explained that the Board reviewed several courses that were a part of the MDWWA 2024 Convention during the January meeting. MDWWA provided details for the final course of the convention, but this information was not reviewed in time to be reviewed for the January meeting. The course name is Calculating Drilling Cost in 2024 and MDWWA is requesting one continuing education point (CEP) for this course.

R. Dalton noted that the course description provided by MDWWA is not very descriptive. No further comments were made about this course.

**A motion to approve Calculating Drilling Cost in 2024 for the MDWWA 2024 Convention for one technical CEP was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by E. Hoffmann and approved unanimously.**

*Tri-State Drilling Contractors Association*

S. Reya introduced the topic. He said that the Tri-State Drilling Contractors Association is requesting six CEPs for their upcoming 2024 Annual Tri-State Drilling Contractors Association Training Day. This convention will be held on April 19, 2024, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. S. Reya explained that four courses are one hour in duration and one course is two hours in duration.

The Board discussed the course description provided for Drilling Professionalism & Safety. R. Dalton said that he did not believe that this course was relevant, adding that it was geared more towards life coaching and not well drilling. J. Yost and G. Poppe disagreed. S. Domber pointed out the connections to the industry, provided in the course description. E. Hoffmann explained how he believes that this course could be especially helpful to some well drillers based on his observations and interactions with drillers, which he discussed briefly. The Board asked the Department to obtain a more detailed course description so this course could be reevaluated at a future meeting.

**A motion was made by E. Hoffmann to approve all the courses offered at the 2024 Annual Tri-State Drilling Contractors Association Training Day, with the exception of the Drilling Professionalism & Safety course. A request was made for the Department to reach out to the**

**course provider to obtain a more detailed course description. This motion was seconded by R. Dalton and approved by everyone except for J. Yost, who was opposed.**

Below is a list of the courses approved as part of the 2024 Annual Tri-State Drilling Contractors Association Training Day.

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>CEPs</b>
Progressive Cavity Pump Maintenance & Repair	1 Technical
Tier 4 Engine Requirements	2 Technical
Packer Pressure Testing	1 Technical
Barge Drilling (About, Setup, and Safety)	1 Technical

**5. New Business-**

S. Reya said that the vacancy notice for E. Hoffmann’s position was posted to the Board’s website and the Division of Water Supply and Geoscience’s website. A notice was also emailed to everyone on Well Permitting’s email distribution list and will be sent to the Licensed Site Remediation Professional’s email distribution list. S. Domber said that he is still working on a replacement for the vacant Department member.

**6. Adjournment-**

G. Poppe thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 am was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.**