



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 20, 2025

Approved by the Board on March 20, 2025

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

Board Members Absent: Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman)

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: Kat Burkhard, Steve Reya, Mark Miller, Mark Ortega, Steve Vargo, and Jillian Walker

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 LLC

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 Board's website.

2. Review and Certification of January 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes-

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the draft minutes from the January 16, 2025, Board meeting, and noted a duplicate word in the final paragraph of item 5 to correct. No additional comments were made.

A motion to approve the draft minutes from January 16, 2025, with the necessary correction, was made by J. Yost, seconded by D. Lyman. All were in favor except for S. Domber, who abstained due to being absent for the January meeting.

3. Review of License Applicants-

A. Becker summarized the list of license applicants which were approved by the Department. There was one Vertical Closed Loop Geothermal (VCLG) well driller license applicant and one Journeyman well driller license applicant. A. Becker asked for the status of the three incomplete license applications listed on the spreadsheet which was provided by the Department. M. Ortega explained that deficiency letters went out to those applicants a few days before the Board meeting and no revised applications were received. A. Becker asked if anyone had any additional comments on the list of license applicants. No comments were made.

A motion to approve the license applicants was made by G. Craig, seconded by S. Domber, and approved unanimously.

Below is a list of license applicants approved for licensure:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
VCLG	Michael A. Krooshoop	Morris-Shea Bridge Company, Inc
Journeyman	Daniel E. Bussian	Municipal Maintenance Company

4. Review of Continuing Education Courses-

Maryland-Delaware Water Well Association (MDWWA)

S. Reya opened the discussion by summarizing the MDWWA 2025 Annual Convention, which took place February 6 and February 7, 2025. One of the previously approved courses, Electrical Basics and Tips for Water Systems, was replaced with another course, Variable Frequency Drives - What You Need to Know. The replacement course would also be for one continuing education point (CEP). A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the course application. None were made.

A motion to approve Variable Frequency Drives - What You Need to Know for 1 CEP was made by J. Yost, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.

PMA Companies

A. Becker introduced the course application from PMA with its 14 courses totaling 15 safety CEPs. R. Dalton commented it is unclear if the courses would be offered individually or in a multi-day session as they are all in person courses. A. Becker agreed with this discrepancy and requested M. Ortega or S. Reya reach out to the applicant to confirm how the courses will be offered. J. Yost and D. Lyman showed support for this request.

A. Becker opened a discussion on one of the courses in the application, Playground Safety, and objected to the approval of this course for credit as it is not relevant to the well drilling industry. R. Dalton agreed with this opinion.

A discussion was opened on PMA's Snow Plow Safety course. A. Becker noted the Snow Plow Safety course is worthwhile for well drillers to take for CEPs, as drillers do shovel and plow snow in the course of their work to access well sites. This opinion was met with agreement from the Board. S. Domber asked if the Chainsaw Safety course was also relevant for the same reasons. A. Becker explained that chainsaws are often used to clear trees on sites. D. Lyman and R. Dalton agreed with A. Becker's assessment of both topics.

A. Becker asked for clarification on PMA's example course certificate having "NJIIF" at the top, and PMA credited in the bottom right corner. M. Ortega clarified NJIIF subcontracts PMA to offer these courses.

The discussion on PMA's course application was tabled until clarification is received on how the course will be offered.

5. Program Updates-

S. Reya provided a brief update. He stated the Bureau is working on enforcement cases and there may be further updates to share in the next Board meeting. K. Burkhard is continuing to work on Board appointments.

6. New Business/Public Comments-

A. Becker asked for an update on the Horizontal Direction Drilling (HDD) guidance document update given in the January 16 meeting. S. Reya stated a meeting had been held, and the authoring group is continuing to work on the document. A final report will be provided to the Board once it is ready. S. Domber added the Division of Water Supply and Geoscience is almost done with the report, and it will soon be going to other programs for comment, such as the Division of Watershed and Land Use Management.

R. Dalton commented that the Department has continued to receive requests to have utilities installed with HDD. He added that the use of HDD will likely only increase in the state. E. Hoffman commented he will soon be working on a site where a contractor will be installing a pipe using HDD and asked if the Board would like a video of it, which was met with positivity from the Board. S. Domber noted he would appreciate E. Hoffman's assistance in providing insight on HDD contingency plans for the Department to include in the HDD guidance document.

A. Becker brought up a personal concern regarding the excessive use of road salt and brine during the winter months in New Jersey. His primary concerns were about how this affects surface water and groundwater and he asked if the Department is doing anything to address this issue. S. Domber explained that this is being studied by other groups at the Department and noted effects have been seen in fish populations. D. Lyman agreed chlorides are difficult and expensive to remove from water.

7. Adjournment-

A. Becker thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 am was made by S. Domber, seconded by E. Hoffman, and approved unanimously.