



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

Division of Water Supply
Bureau of Water Systems and Well Permitting
P.O. BOX 426
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0426
TELEPHONE (609) 984-6831
FAX (609) 633-1231
STATE WELL DRILLERS AND PUMP INSTALLERS
EXAMINING AND ADVISORY BOARD

BOB MARTIN
Acting Commissioner

State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2010

Board Members Present: Art Becker (Chairperson), Richard Dalton, Karl Muessig, Gary Poppe, Joe Pepe, Carol Graff, Joe Yost

Board Members Absent: Fred Sickels, Anthony Tirro

NJDEP Staff Present: Julia Altieri, Tracy Omrod, John Fields, Steve Reya

Member(s) of the Public: none

- 1. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by A. Becker at 9:45 am with a quorum present.
- 2. Review of Minutes from Nov. 19, 2009 Meeting** - The final sentence of the first paragraph within the "Pump Installer" section within item number 3 will be omitted. C. Graff also noted a few minor typos that require correction. A motion to approve the minutes with these changes was made by G. Poppe, seconded by C. Graff and approved unanimously.
- 3. Review and Certification of the Dec. 10, 2009 Master, Journeyman, Journeyman B, Monitoring, Soil Borer and Pump Installers Exam Scores**

Master - A motion to accept the scores was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.

Journeyman - A motion to accept the scores was made by K. Muessig, seconded by D. Dalton and approved unanimously.

Journeyman B - A motion to accept the scores was made by G. Poppe, seconded by C. Graff and approved unanimously.

Monitoring - A motion to accept the scores was made by J. Yost, seconded by C. Graff and approved unanimously.

Soil Borer - A motion to accept the scores was made by D. Dalton, seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.

Pump Installer - A motion to accept the scores was made by J. Yost, seconded by J. Pepe and approved unanimously.

A. Becker discussed the fact that the National Ground Water Association's (NGWA) exam passing rate is not much higher than those on New Jersey's exams are. He offered to obtain some exam materials to review as the Board continues to look into utilizing NGWA's exams for New Jersey's licensing program (while potentially including a New Jersey-specific regulatory section).

Challenge to grading Master Well Driller Exam by Mr. J. Hall – The Board members reviewed a January 7, 2010 letter from James Hall regarding the scoring of one question on the technical section of his October 2009 Master Well Driller exam. A motion to move into executive session to discuss the wording of the question was made by G. Poppe, seconded by C. Graff and approved unanimously.

After reviewing the Mr. Hall's letter and supporting documentation, the Board members agreed that the question was vague and incorrectly worded. Therefore, Mr. Hall will receive credit for his answer. S. Reya noted, however, that Mr. Hall's score on the second portion of the exam due to the fact that there are 136 available on the technical portion of the Master's exam would not be over 80 percent even after this change. In receiving credit, Mr. Hall's score would be 79.41 percent, which would remain a 79, thus remaining a failing score.

- 4. Licensing Topics (Jurisdiction issues between Drillers/Pump Installers and Master Plumbers)**– G. Poppe, following-up on a licensing issue raised at the November meeting by Mr. Cicalese, presented older documentation regarding the limits of jurisdiction between Master Plumbers and Well Drillers/Pump Installers. Recent proposed changes to the NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) plumbing codes could potentially re-define the jurisdiction limits between these two licenses. According to all the documentation he compiled, the placement of the discharge valve is the primary determining factor in determining which regulations prevail. This essentially allows Well Drillers and Pump Installers to legally install and service all water system components installed prior to (on the "well side") of the discharge valve. The Board members also discussed how the key word utilized in some of the documentation is "potable" well. This would also allow NJ licensed drillers and pump installers to install water treatment to ensure that the water passing through the valve is potable prior to the licensed Master Plumber's jurisdiction. Of concern would be that the new DCA code revisions would grant Master Plumbers the ability to install and maintain closed loop geothermal pumping systems. Several Board members suggested contacting officials within DCA to try to work with them on the proposed code changes. J. Pepe also suggested reaching out to the plumbing subcode official within DCA to attend the next scheduled Board meeting. He will work on obtaining a DCA contact and will forward the information along to A. Becker.
- 5. Enforcement** – A. Becker requested that the Bureau prepare a list of the outstanding violations against well drillers and pump installers for the next Board meeting. He added that he had recently spoken with H. Chudzik, current legal advisor to the Board, who suggested that he meet with James Hamilton from the Department's enforcement program to coordinate the Board taking an increased role in enforcement matters. To start, A. Becker would like a list of the top ten violators with the most egregious violations on file so he can discuss the matter with Mr. Hamilton. H. Chudzik also informed A. Becker that the citations in the law (noted at the previous meeting) gave the Board significant authority to suspend licenses and fine offenders, however, he should work with F. Sickels and the DEP enforcement program on how best to implement a plan. C. Graff indicated that the Board used to call people before the Board to suspend and revoke licenses. She believed that the Board should contact the Department to determine the procedures that must be followed in order to hold hearings. A. Becker also noted that the Department's failure to adequately enforce their regulations is not fair to those drillers and pump installers who do adhere to the regulations. He also stated that the Department is essentially aiding and abetting those who break the regulations by not following up on enforcement activities.

6. **DEP Program Updates** – S. Reya updated the Board on several Well Permitting program items on behalf of P. Bono, who was unable to attend the meeting.

E permitting – In December, fifty percent (50%) of all permit applications were submitted submitted online via the ePermitting program. Processing these submittals are a priority within the section, therefore, less staff resources are available to process those submitted on paper.

Well Searches – In response to complaints filed at the last Board meeting, the internal process has been changed. The average processing time is two weeks. In some instances wait time could be shorter. The Bureau believes that the new process has shortened wait times and eliminated inefficient work, such as multiple people performing the same searches that had been submitted multiple times.

Continuing Education/Licensing – F. Sickels has identified arranging for outsourcing the testing program as a priority for the well permitting program this year. The Bureau is planning to mesh this program with the establishment of a continuing education program for licensed drillers and pump installers. P. Bono has spoken to Brew Pasquale of Clearwater Drilling and is aware of NJGWA's efforts to get a continuing program organized in New Jersey. Over the next two months, the Bureau intends to identify what would be needed to set up a program so that testing is more convenient for applicants in terms of reviewing their qualifications, arranging for testing and grading the test results. Additionally, the method for reporting grades and tracking the applicants needs to be compatible with both the Department's NJEMS data system and the billing computer system for Treasury. Once this is known, a request for a proposal can be put together and we can put it out for bidding. P. Bono is hoping to have more of this put together for the March Board meeting so that members can have input and comment on the design of these programs.

Elevator Drilling- A. Becker noted that the minutes for the November 2009 Board meeting indicated that the permitting and licensing issues associated with casing installations for hydraulic cylinders used for elevator installations are still not resolved. He added that the minutes noted that DCA would be sending a letter to the Department so that both agencies could work together to rectify the problem. P. Bono informed him that she and the Well Permitting staff would get in touch with DCA to try to resolve the issue.

7. **Kelix Heat Transfer System Update** – S. Reya said that he responded to the drilling contractor, Able Environmental, which wanted to install this system. He added that he relayed the Board's concerns in a December 3, 2009 email. Specifically, he requested further information on the outer (fiberglass/carbon) casing strength and material composition and indicated that it would have to meet or exceed the polyethylene requirements stipulated in the regulations. An engineer from Kelix did respond to this issue with information regarding casing that is essentially the same as the Kelix casing, but without the inclusion of Carbon. The drilling contractor had recently informed S. Reya by phone that he did not wish to install casing for which he did not have full data sheets so he would propose installing the casing without the carbon additive. Additionally, the driller informed S. Reya that the circulating fluid would be water, without the use of any anti-freeze additives. The question regarding the chemical composition of the epoxy used to attach the casing lengths was left unanswered as was the question regarding which geothermal grout mix would be used (the one referenced in the Kelix literature or a DEP-approved mix). S. Reya indicated that further information from the contractor and/or Kelix Heat Transfer Systems will be forthcoming.
8. **Review of Baroid Grout Materials Submission** – The Board reviewed a request for the approval of two Baroid grout materials. The letter from Dr. Charles R. Landis, Technical Director of Halliburton

Industrial Drilling Products, requested approval of Barotherm Gold, which is a two-step Wyoming-based sodium bentonite thermal grout entitled. Additionally, approval of Barad 381, "a safe cement retarder designed to control the rheology and heat of hydration of a cementitious blend in a range of applications where compressive strengths are required" was also requested. The Board members noted that the letter does not note the sand content of the Barotherm Gold mixture for which they are seeking approval. The data sheet submitted (IDP 108, Rev. 6/2009) lists sand volumes up to 400 lbs. per 50 lb. bag of bentonite for seven total mixes. The requestor would have to specify the exact mix(es) for which they are seeking approval and submit permeability values for each. Permeability values for the 400lb. mix, conducted by an independent lab via the Hydraulic Conductivity Test (in accordance with ASTM D 5084) meet the Department's maximum permeability value. If the permeability values prove acceptable, a field pumpability demonstration would then have to be performed utilizing the mix containing the maximum amount of sand. A "field mix" would again have to be tested for permeability and if acceptable the mix(es) could be approved.

The Barad 381 documentation does not contain permeability for a cement material containing this additive. Therefore, the Board advised that permeability values would have to be obtained before approval could be granted. A. Becker stated that he would also like Baroid to make reference to any states where the product is currently approved and/or in use. S. Reya is to send a response letter to Dr. Landis, which relays the Board's concerns.

9. **Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Yost and unanimously approved at 12:20 PM.