

Minutes-Tuesday, May 15, 2007

State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board

Board Members Present: Norman Primost, Art Becker, Joseph Pepe, Sr., Anthony Tirro, Richard Dalton, Karl Muessig, Peter Demicco, Fred Sickels

Board Members Absent: Robert Stothoff

Others Present: Helene Chudzik (DAG), Pat Bono (DEP), Vincent Monaco (DEP), Julia Altieri (DEP), Holly Papp (DEP), Brian Buttari (DEP), Michael Schumacher (DEP), Donna Johnson (DEP)

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Norman Primost at 9:40 AM with a quorum present.
2. **Review of Minutes from March 8, 2007 Board Meeting** – Fred Sickels mentioned he was incorrectly listed in the minutes as “Other DEP staff present” when he is in fact a Board Member. A motion to accept the minutes with this change was made by Art Becker, and seconded by Richard Dalton, and approved unanimously.
3. **Review of Minutes (executive session)** – No executive session took place at the March 8, 2007 meeting, so this item was be stricken from the agenda.
4. **Elections of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson** – Norman Primost asked if there were any Master Well Drillers who would like to serve as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson for the upcoming one-year term. In accordance with the by-laws, only Master Well Drillers are eligible for this position. Anthony Tirro stated he was not interested in serving as Chairperson. Norman Primost suggested secret ballots as a voting method. Norman Primost was elected Chairperson for the Board (received 7 out of 8 votes). Voting for Vice Chairperson was also completed by secret ballot. Art Becker was elected Vice Chairperson by a margin of 7 to 1. A motion to accept the results of the election was made by Fred Sickels, seconded by Peter Demicco, and approved unanimously. This was the first election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson since the by-laws were adopted.
5. **Review of Certification of Applicants for the June 12, 2007 exam for Pump Installer, Soil Borer and Monitoring Well Licenses** – A motion to certify the Pump Installer Exam Applicants was made by Anthony Tirro, seconded by Art Becker, and approved unanimously.

Art Becker questioned why some of the Soil Borer applicants were rejected and Holly Papp explained that some applications were not filled out correctly and the applicants had no chance to correct them before the filling deadline. A motion to certify the Soil Borer Exam

Applicants was made by Karl Muessig, seconded by Peter Demicco, and approved unanimously.

A motion to certify the Monitoring Well Exam Applicants was made by Karl Muessig, seconded by Anthony Tirro, and approved unanimously.

- 6. Review and Certification of Exam results from the April 10, 2007 Exams for Master, Journeyman, and Journeyman B licenses** – Norman Primost asked how many of the test takers had taken the Masters exam more than once. Holly Papp mentioned that a few had taken the test more than once. A motion to accept the Master Well Driller Exam scores was made by Richard Dalton, seconded by Anthony Tirro, and the motion carried.

A motion to accept the Journeyman Exam scores was made by Peter Demicco, seconded by Art Becker, and the motion carried.

A motion to accept the Journeyman B Exam scores was made by Anthony Tirro, seconded by Art Becker, and the motion carried.

- 7. Dual license holders** – Holly Papp informed the Board that there is an applicant who has applied to take the Journeyman B test who holds a monitoring well license. If they pass the test, they would hold two licenses at the same time, and would essentially have met all the qualifications for a full Journeyman license. Instead of issuing two licenses, it was suggested by Norman Primost that the Department could convert the two licenses into a regular Journeyman license since it would encompass both skills. Each of the other single licenses would become invalid at that point. Board members mentioned that the practice of individuals holding more than one license should be discouraged. A suggestion was made by Norman Primost to automatically convert any individual with a Monitoring and Journeyman B license (and vice versa) to a full Journeyman; the other two licenses would become invalid. A motion was made by Art Becker, seconded by Anthony Tirro, and approved unanimously.

Concern was raised and discussed by Norman Primost and Joe Pepe as to whether combining the two licenses on NJEMS would be possible.

It was noted by Art Becker that the lifting of the apprentice pre-registration requirement increased the number of test applicants.

- 8. Cell Phones and Exam Discussion/Misc.** – Art Becker raised concerns that testers are using cell phones to cheat on the exams by taking pictures and calling others when they use the restrooms. Board members agreed that there should be no cell phones or PDA's allowed in the exam room or building and that Bureau of Exams & Licensing should be notified of this new rule. This restriction then should be added to the test info packets and only a hand held calculator (separate from phone) will be permitted in the exam room or building. A motion was made by Art Becker, seconded by Joe Pepe, and approved unanimously.

Karl Muessig raised the question of whether to lower passing scores from 80 to 70 and what the merits would be. Art Becker noted that testers study the regulations but just fail on

technical portions and wonders if it's the semantics or terms used in the exams that causes confusion and incorrect answers. Joe Pepe noted there seems to be no institutionalized way to prepare for pump installer exam. Discussion by Board ended to let presenters begin.

- 9. Presentation by Lou Jacoby (NJDEP) on GPS equipment/reporting** – Lou Jacoby discussed the GPS unit specifications that are required for the Department to accept data. He gave three examples of specific units that qualify, and discussed important features of the units. In addition, he made a brief demonstration on how I-map can be used to help determine the location for a proposed well site. As part of his presentation, he handed out low cost model options available for GPS receivers and cited factors to consider when using them. He stressed the importance of proper training for GPS users since a definite learning curve is involved with using a mapping grade receiver.

Norm Primost asked about the difference between mapping grade and recreational grade receivers. Lou Jacoby explained that recreational grade receivers are not discriminant when collecting signals from a satellite. As a result, the locations are not accurate and cannot be duplicated at a later time. Mapping grade receivers are much more selective when reading signals, and are therefore much more accurate.

- 10. E-Permitting Update – A Discussion with Ken Ratzman (NJDEP)** – Ken Ratzman presented a survey to the board titled “Permitting Questionnaire for Electronic Well Drilling Application”. The survey is designed to allow drillers to provide information to the Department regarding what computer equipment is currently being used by drilling companies on a daily basis, and the level of interest drillers have in submitting electronic well permit applications. In July, the well permitting program is scheduled to begin preliminary design of a program, which would allow for the electronic submittal of well documents. Art Becker recommended that the DEP look into Florida’s E-Permitting system since it seems to work pretty well.

11. Technical Issues

- A) Review of Morrison Geothermal Grout Test Proposal** – Pat Bono discussed the most recent activities and correspondence from Morrison, Inc.; including their efforts to seek approval for the grout mixture used for the construction of geothermal wells at two sites. Morrison, Inc. has revised their proposal on how to demonstrate the adequacy of this grout mixture; staff will attempt to arrange a field demonstration with board members as soon as feasible. Brief discussion by the Board.
- B) Decommissioning Proposal and PCB’s** - Kristin Tedesco sought the board’s input on dealing with the decommissioning of a well in Bergen County where the driller has been unable to remove an old pump. It is believed that the pump may contain 4 to 6 ounces of PCBs. The question to the board, specifically, was whether it poses a greater danger to attempt to remove the pump, and possibly destroying it, thereby releasing the PCBs all at once; or sealing the pump in place, which would hopefully promote a slower release of PCBs over time. The board suggested videotaping the well to see if there is anything on the pump to grab onto. If there isn’t, it was suggested to either overdrill the

2 inch riser pipe and dislodge the pump, or to push the pump to the bottom of the well and grout up to grade from there.

- 12. Review of applications for well driller/pump installer licensing examinations** – With suggested changes from board members; Holly Papp revised the applications for the various licensing tests. Board members will review the applications and provide suggestions to staff at the next board meeting.
- 13. Misc. Issues** – Art Becker raised a concern about the transfer of permits between well drilling companies. He stated that consulting firms often have one well driller obtain permits for them and then hire a different drilling company to install the wells. The consultants usually do this as a technique to get the work done more quickly or for a lower price. He is concerned that the recent increase in fees for permits provides more incentives for consulting firms to transfer permits in this manner. Pat Bono explained that the department doesn't allow the transfer of permits from one drilling company to another. The drilling company named on the permit is responsible for submitting either a well record describing the installation of the well, or a cancellation request for that permit. While the drilling company on the permit may “sub-out” all or part of the job to another drilling company/licensed driller, the permit may not be transferred via a 3rd party (consultant, property owner) to another drilling company.
- 14. Adjournment** – A motion was made by Art Becker, seconded by Anthony Tirro, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 PM.