

Minutes – Thursday, May 22, 2008

State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board

Board Members Present: Chairman Norman Primost, Art Becker, Tony Tirro, Dick Dalton, Joseph Pepe, Sr., Fred Sickels, Karl Muessig, Peter Demicco, Joe Yost

Board Members Absent: – none

NJDEP Staff Present: Brian Buttari, Holly Papp, Steve Reya, Michael Schumacher, Julia Altieri, Vince Monaco, Pat Bono, Kristin Tedesco, Gary Sondermeyer (am only), Bob Mancini (am only)

Others Present: D.A.G. Helene Chudzik, Gary Poppe (Kaye Well Drilling)

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 January 10, 2008, Board Meeting** – A motion to accept the minutes without changes was made by Art Becker and seconded by Tony Tirro.
3. **Email Approvals of Applicants for the April Exam & Challenge of Score on the December Pump Installer Exam by D. Callahan** – No March meeting was held this year due to scheduling conflicts with Board members, therefore certification and approval of licensing issues was conducted via email. The Board members certified the lists for the April Exam for Journeyman, Journeyman Class B and Master Well Driller licenses. Dan Callahan challenged several questions on the December Pump Installer exam, but the Board voted not to overturn any of his answers so his failing score remains unchanged. A letter will be sent to Mr. Callahan explaining the Board's decision. A motion to ratify the actions taken via email was made by Art Becker, seconded by Tony Tirro with none opposed. Gary Poppe questioned why an applicant (Ricigliano) was approved for the April Journeyman B Exam when he was only 19 years old, which would make it difficult for him to meet the requirement of 3 years of experience. That discussion was postponed until later in the meeting when the exam results are certified. (see item # 12)
4. **R. Wilbert Letter Requesting Reinstatement of Pump Installer License** – Robert Wilbert is asking for reinstatement of his Pump Installer License based on his assertion that a clerical error was made by the State. The license renewal notification sent in 2005 was sent to an incorrect address that does not exist most likely due to a keystroke error in entering data into NJEMS. Mr. Wilbert is stating that he had no notification that his license would expire and otherwise would have renewed. Although the State was at fault for an incorrect address, license renewal notices are sent out as a courtesy not a requirement. As a license holder it was Mr. Wilbert's responsibility to figure out when his license expired and to follow up on the renewal. Helene Chudzik stated there is no legal basis for granting the reinstatement. The DEP will follow up with a phone call or letter to Mr. Wilbert and will waive the

application deadline to allow him to sit for the June Exam based on his past experience. (See Item #7)

5. **Recognition of outgoing members** – Gary Sondermeyer (Director of Operations, Office of the Commissioner) attended the meeting on behalf of the Department to thank Norm Primost and Peter Demicco for their years of service. Letters of recognition signed by the Commissioner were presented to both outgoing Board Members.
6. **Board Appointments** – Joseph Yost, a Master Well Driller of Layne Christensen has been appointed to the Board to fill the vacancy in the Licensed Well Driller position. Gary Poppe, a Master Well Driller of Kaye Well Drilling, and Carol Graff, a Public Member, have been appointed by Commissioner Jackson to the Board effective July 1, 2008. They will assume the positions vacated by resignations of Norm Primost and Peter Demicco, respectively.
7. **Review and Certification of Pump Installer Applicants for June 10, 2008, Exam** – A motion to waive the application deadline for the June Exam and include R. Wilbert on the list of test applicants was made by Fred Sickles and seconded by Joe Pepe, and approved unanimously. A motion to accept the Pump Installer Applicants for the June Exam with the inclusion of R. Wilbert was made by K. Muessig, seconded by A. Becker and approved unanimously.
8. **Review and Certification of Soil Borer Applicants for June 10, 2008, Exam** – A motion to accept the Soil Borer Applicants for the June Exam was made by A. Tirro, seconded by P. Demicco and approved unanimously. A discussion started on 5 individuals who were not approved to take this exam because they all submitted the same permitted soil boring on their test application. The Department does not allow multiple drillers to submit the same well to meet the experience requirement. In this case, all 5 had enrolled in a one day soil boring class conducted by a licensed well driller. Further discussion will be required once the Department gathers more details on the soil boring class. This policy will also need to be revisited specifically for deep monitoring wells and public supply wells where construction takes place over several days/weeks and multiple individuals are involved in different aspects of the job.
9. **Review and Certification of Monitoring Well Driller Applicants for June 10, 2008, Exam** – A motion to accept the Monitoring Well Driller Applicants for the June Exam was made by R. Dalton, seconded by A. Tirro and approved unanimously.
10. **Review of April 10, 2008, Exam Results for Master Well Driller** – A motion to accept the Master Well Driller exam results was made by K. Muessig, seconded by P. Demicco and approved unanimously.
11. **Review of April 10, 2008, Exam Results for Journeyman Well Driller** – A motion to accept the Journeyman Well Driller exam results was made by F. Sickels, seconded by A. Tirro and approved unanimously.
12. **Review of April 10, 2008, Exam Results for Journeyman Class B Well Driller** – Discussion continued on concerns over S. Ricigliano, one of the applicants for the April Exam. The Board questioned how a 19 year old person could have the necessary 3 years experience required to take the April test, when an individual must be at least 18 years old to work in a hazardous occupation. It was noted that S. Ricigliano failed the exam and therefore would have to reapply to take the test. The Board's counselor, Helene Chudzik, advised the Department that the burden of proof should be placed on the test applicant in the future. The

test applicant will be required to provide documentation on how he/she meets the 3 years of experience without violating Child Labor Law prior to being accepted for the test. A motion to accept the Journeyman Class B Well Driller exam results was made by A. Tirro, seconded by K. Muessig and approved unanimously.

13. **Photo ID Requirement for All Test Applicants** – The Board asked what identification is required to enter the testing room and sit for an exam. This was amid rumors that test applicants were allowing other individuals to sit and take the test for them. A motion to require a valid government issued photo ID to sit for any licensing exam was made by A. Becker, seconded by A. Tirro and approved unanimously.
14. **Discussion of Enforcement Issues** – J. Pepe suggested that the Board hold a separate meeting on just licensing and enforcement issues. The Board is constantly running out of time on the agenda to focus on the real issues. P. Bono recognizes that many things need to be addressed but emphasized that the Department is currently focusing on e-permitting, license renewal activities and the revisions to the technical regulations in 2009. Therefore, a small group of Board members (no quorum) will meet separately to discuss and summarize suggestions on improving enforcement efforts. This item will be added to the agenda for the July meeting.
15. **Recognition of Holly Papp's service** – In recognition of the retirement of Holly Papp, Fred Sickels proposed the following resolution to the Board: “Whereas Holly Papp has worked for over 30 years for the DEP; Whereas she has managed the licensing program for many years, reviewing applications, grading tests and reviewing exams with applicants; Whereas she has conducted numerous site inspections working to protect ground water and enforce compliance in the industry. She has served as a liaison to this Board and the industry as a whole, always in a professional and friendly manner. This Board hereby makes a motion to extend our deep thanks for her years of service and wish her well in her retirement for many, many years to come.” The motion to thank Holly and recognize her input was made by A. Becker, seconded by A. Tirro and approved by the Board members unanimously.
16. **Program Updates** –
 - The Department is reporting that license renewal notices were mailed out. There was a small mistake in the dewatering invoices on the cost of license renewal, however, the invoices were revised to reflect the correct dollar amount and re-mailed.
 - Well Permitting staff reported that training sessions for drilling companies and drillers to learn how to use the DEP's new digital mapping software (NJGeoweb) will be held in the fall. NJGeoweb should be fully operational by early summer, but drilling companies will be able to use I-map to report the proposed well locations on permit applications for at least another 6 months.
 - Staff will be testing the e-permitting system beginning in mid-June. Testing will run through July and as a result permit processing and well searches will slow down. There may be follow-up testing, but the Department expects that e-permitting should be functional by the end of the year.
17. **Cetco Geothermal Grout Update** – S. Reya noted that he and A. Tirro attended the onsite pumping demonstration, which was held in Woolwich Township on April 22, 2008. The demonstration was to observe whether the 400 lb. sand mix could be adequately mixed and pumped into an actual borehole without exhibiting problems with sand segregation. This mix, when mixed in accordance with the CETCO

Geothermal Grout Technical Data papers contains 400 lbs. silica sand, 50 lbs. high-solids bentonite, and 22 gals. of water. The density of this mix is listed as 14.6 lbs./gal. S. Reya explained that the field mix was pumped through a tremie pipe into the bottom of a 5.5-inch diameter, 500-ft. deep borehole, containing 1.25-inch polyethylene loops. The density of the grout return as measured coming out of the borehole was 14.6 lbs./gal. A. Tirro and S. Reya both stated that they did not observe any problems with sand settlement or ability to pump the mixture. They also noted that after allowing the mixture to sit in a 5-gallon bucket for approximately 45 minutes, the silica sand remained in suspension and the mix appeared to be fairly uniform throughout the bucket. Final lab permeability results of the onsite mix were submitted to the Bureau in Todd Tannehill's May 21, 2008 email. This value, 3.94×10^{-8} cm/sec, was below the maximum permeability value stipulated in the regulations. S. Reya noted that the 400 lb. mix contains the most sand, which is the reason it was tested for all parameters, however, five (5) other mixes containing less sand were also pending approval. If the 400 lb. mix is found to be acceptable, all six (6) mixtures listed in the Geothermal Grout Technical Data Paper would be approved. All Board requirements and requests have been met, therefore CETCO has requested approval of their Geothermal Grout mixes. A motion to approve the CETCO Geothermal Grouts was made by R. Dalton, seconded by P. Demicco and approved unanimously.

18. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by J. Pepe at 2:30 pm, seconded by F. Sickels and approved by all.