



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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NJ STATE WELL DRILLERS AND PUMP INSTALLERS
EXAMINING AND ADVISORY BOARD

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection NJ State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for May 21, 2015

Approved by the Board on July 23, 2015

Board Members Present: Art Becker (Chairman), Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Joe Yost, Carol Graff, Gordon Craig, Joe Pepe, Steve Doughty, Richard Dalton and Dr. Karl Muessig

Board Members Absent: None

Board's Legal Representation: Jill Denyes, Deputy Attorney General (DAG), NJ Division of Law

NJDEP Bureau of Water Allocation & Well Permitting Staff Present: Terry Pilawski, Pat Bono, Steve Reya, Julia Altieri, Michael Schumacher and Melia Stoop

Other NJ DEP Member Present: Bryan Barrett, Water Compliance and Enforcement-Central Region, Jeff Hoffman and Brian Buttari, New Jersey Geological and Water Survey

1. Call to Order –

The meeting was called to order by Chairman A. Becker at 9:37am, with a quorum present.

2. New Jersey Geologic and Water Survey (NJGWS) Program-

Dr. Karl Muessig, who is also the NJ State Geologist, presented copies of the newly updated NJ Bedrock Geology map. This is the first major revision of the map since it was initially published 100 years ago. Dr. Muessig explained that the revised map represents several decades of work by his staff at NJGS, including R. Dalton, who have worked to drastically improve the accuracy of the map since its original publication date of 1914. The new map includes several cross sections of the geology present throughout the state.

K. Muessig then announced that he would be retiring on June 30, 2015 and introduced his colleague, Jeff Hoffman, to Board members as his potential successor as New Jersey State Geologist.

3. Review and Certification of the Minutes for the March 19, 2015 Meeting

A motion to approve the meeting minutes without change was made by G. Poppe, seconded by C. Graff and approved by all members except for G. Craig, who abstained as he was not present at the meeting.

P. Bono discussed revisions made to the “Summary Chart Comparing Currently Required and Proposed Requirements for Applicants to Apply for a NJ Well Driller License (Draft, May 21, 2015)” which was initially presented to the Board members at the March 19th meeting. The revisions reflect the suggested changes made by the Board members at that time. Board members reviewed and accepted the revised chart without comments or changes.

P. Bono and S. Reya presented a revised “Reference Questionnaire” form that constitutes part of the application to sit for a driller or pump installer exam. They were tasked with developing a new form to allow applicants to more accurately report supervised experience that was obtained intermittently, with multiple employers or under the supervision of multiple licensed drillers at various times. The intent of the reference form is to document the amount of time an applicant has worked in the field. The individual’s experience must still tally a total of three (3) full years for driller exam applicants and one (1) full year of experience for Pump Installer Applicants. The newly revised form, however, is intended to allow the itemization of this time rather than having a form that lists only one start and end date of supervised experience for each of the required references (minimum of two) that currently accompanies each application. Board members noted that the form itself is easy to follow, but that item number 2 on the instructions sheet is confusing and could possibly mislead applicants. S. Reya and P. Bono will revise the deficiency before making the document public.

4. Review of the Conference Call Minutes from April 23, 2015 -

A motion to approve the conference call minutes without change was made by G. Craig, seconded by R. Dalton and approved by all members except G. Poppe and J. Yost, who abstained because they did not participate in the call.

5. Review and Certification of Exam Applicants for the June 10th, 2015 Well Driller, Journeyman, Journeyman B, Monitoring, Soil Borer and Pump Installers Exams –

Master Well Driller– No applicants applied for this license type.

Journeyman - A motion to approve all listed exam applicants was made by J. Yost, seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

Journeyman B – A motion to approve all listed exam applicants was made by K. Muessig, seconded by S. Doughty and approved unanimously.

Monitoring – The review of the applicants for the Monitoring Exam prompted a motion to enter Executive Session (which was held from 10-10:15 am) to discuss the “pending Board Review” status for one applicant, Brian Buttari. The motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Mr. Buttari’s revised application was made by S. Doughty and seconded by A. Becker, with all members in favor (see January 15 and March 19, 2015 meeting minutes for additional information regarding review of

the original application submission). Upon conclusion of the Board members discussion of the matter in the executive session was closed at 10:15 am. Chairman A. Becker resumed the regular open meeting immediately thereafter. Once the non-Board attendees re-entered the room and resumed their seats, a motion was made at 10:18 am to approve all listed applicants to sit for the exam, including Mr. Buttari, was made by J. Yost, seconded by G. Poppe and approved by all members, except for S. Doughty and K. Muessig who abstained from the vote. Mr. Buttari's status will be changed to "approved" and he will be scheduled for the exam along with all other listed applicants.

Soil Borer – A motion to approve all listed exam applicants was made by G. Poppe, seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

Pump Installer – A motion to approve all listed exam applicants was made by J. Pepe, seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.

6. NJDEP Retirements-

Chairman A. Becker announced that this would be the last meeting for Karl Muessig. Both he and former member Fred Sickles are retiring as of July 1st. After listing the many contributions to the Board and the NJ drilling industry made by both men over the years, A. Becker thanked them for their service and noted that it was a pleasure to have worked with both men and that their expertise and leadership was much appreciated by the entire Board. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Becker expressed appreciation for their leadership and expertise. A number of Board members stated that Mr. Sickles and Dr. Muessig will be greatly missed when they retire on July 1st. A. Becker then presented a plaque to each as a token of the Board's appreciation.

7. Review of the Pump Installer Surveys –

The latest exam results and corresponding pump installer surveys were summarized by S. Reya. Board members discussed whether age of the applicant may play a role in the scores attained by applicants. They questioned whether the survey could ask the age of an exam candidate since the survey is merely voluntary. J. Denyes said that she would report back to the Board at the next scheduled meeting regarding the acceptability of including an age question on a voluntary survey.

8. Geothermal Grout Mixture (GA-Xtra) Update-

S. Reya has been working with Geo Energy Alternatives (GEA) representatives to schedule a field demonstration of their GA-Xtra cement-based geothermal well grout. He anticipates that this will occur next week. Board members A. Becker, G. Craig, R. Dalton and S. Doughty volunteered to attend the event. S. Reya said he would email final details shortly, which will entail the time, location and exact mixture that is to be pumped. The field demo is the only remaining item that must be successfully performed before the product can be approved by the Board and NJDEP.

9. Enforcement and Field Work Activities –

A summary of Well Permitting Program's recent (past 9 weeks) enforcement and field activities was presented by J. Altieri:

- A) **Cape May Co. Well Decommissioning** - Smith Well Drilling successfully decommissioned an unpermitted domestic well in Middle Twp., Cape May County located too close to a recently

constructed septic system. The well decommissioning process, which consisted of removing the entire casing/screen and reaming out the borehole prior to grouting, was completed on April 15, 2015. The driller decommissioned the existing unpermitted well and constructed a new domestic well all according to the regulations. The decommissioning activities and new well installation were completed under DEP supervision.

- B) **Slater Well Drilling Hearing** – The Bureau was notified on May 1, 2015 by the State DAG that the subpoenas issued to Mr. Syed Rizvi of NJDEP and a residential well owner to testify in court for the G. Slater hearing case have been officially quashed by Judge Monaco. This case concerns two (2) wells where penalties were assessed to Mr. Slater in the amount of \$675.00 for altering a well without a permit and decommissioning a well without giving prior notice to the Department. In addition, the scheduled hearing date has now been moved from June 9, 2015 to September 28-29, 2015 in the event Mr. Slater still does not move to settle. As of this date, Mr. Slater has not responded to the latest settlement offer.
- C) **Field Inspections** - Well Permitting Section staff performed three (3) field inspections including a site inspection for deep, community water supply wells drilled at the U.S. Joint Base (Fort Dix, McGuire AFB and Lakehurst) military base that included staff from Water Allocation, Well Permitting and NJGWS staff. The Section is planning to continue to spot check well drillers over the summer months when drilling activity is higher.

10. Bureau Program Updates-

T. Pilawski announced that Brian Buttari has transferred from the Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting to the NJ Geologic and Water Survey program. She also said NJGWS has lent the Bureau a temporary position, which is administered through an approved agency. Current Bureau hourly employee, Jeremy Wick, will be given the opportunity to work in this other title so that he can essentially work full time. In addition to his regular duties, he will be providing assistance to S. Reya with some of the tasks associated with the driller and pump installer exams and licensing program.

11. Adjournment of Open Meeting- 11:15 am -

A motion to adjourn was made by K. Muessig, seconded by R. Dalton and approved unanimously.

Beginning 11:25 am, a quorum of Board members remained after the close of the open meeting to review the current test modules for Journeyman, Journeyman B and remaining portion of the Master Exam. Due to the nature and content of the discussion, this session was conducted as a closed meeting. The session adjourned at 1:30 pm.