

New Jersey Liquefied Petroleum Gas Education and Safety Board Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2024

1) Meeting called to order at 1:33 P.M.

2) Roll Call

Attendance – Mike Merrill (Chair), Louis Kilmer, Ed Mulcahey, Staci Rammel, J.D. Stem, Corrine Walker

Absent – Ryan Pierson

DCA Staff - Joe Imburgia (Liaison), Rob Austin, Lindsay Bensel, Marie Daniels, Martin Mandell, Anthony Menafro, Ian Rayfield, Keith Thedinga

Mr. Mike Merrill introduced Caroline McCallum, New Jersey Clean Cities. Ms. McCallum will serve as the representative for the Environmental Community on the Board, pending her appointment. For the time being, she is joining as a guest.

3) Approval of Minutes

*Motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting passed unanimously.
1st – Louis Kilmer; 2nd – Corrine Walker*

4) Committee Reports

a) Onsite Forklift Cylinder Filling Subcommittee

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2024, committee meeting passed unanimously.

1st – Staci Rammel; 2nd – Ed Mulcahey

5) Old Business

a) Onsite Forklift Cylinder Filling

* Memo; Proposal at N.J.A.C. 5:18-10.4; Application Form; Sample checklist

Mr. Joe Imburgia introduced the guidance, regulatory language, and checklist related to onsite forklift cylinder filling that resulted from the subcommittee meeting. He noted that rather than where this item started, which involved submission of plans by a design professional, this process would just entail submission of the items referenced in the draft rule. He explained that with this, there would be no additional inspection needed unless requested by the Division, but any issues can be cited on the annual inspection done by the local fire official.

Mr. Imburgia then answered questions from the board regarding how the draft rule would be applied. Because this end result is different from what the Board was expecting following the subcommittee meeting, Board members expressed a desire to hold another subcommittee meeting to review and discuss further.

*Motion to remit to subcommittee for further deliberation passed unanimously.
1st – Mike Merrill; 2nd – Ed Mulcahey*

b) N.J.A.C. 5:18-1.3(h) – Container owner permissions

* Memo; Current rule text

Mr. Joe Imburgia presented this item and explained the background regarding this issue. He stated that the timeframe related to container owner permissions is addressed within

the regulations at N.J.A.C. 5:18-11.4, and this item is more to inform the Board to be aware of the date in the regulations.

No action was necessary for this item.

6) New Business

a) NFPA 58-2024 Adoption Proposal Memorandum

Mr. Robert Austin introduced this item and explained that, as new business, the goal is for Board members to review this draft rule and start forming any questions or concerns for a full Board discussion in the June meeting.

Mr. Mike Merrill, Chair, directed the Board to review the material provided and be prepared to provide comment and make motion at the June meeting.

b) Dispenser Training Communication

Mr. Joseph Imburgia introduced this item and explained that there are a number of companies which have their own dispenser training.

The draft regulations within N.J.A.C. 5:18 would provide for a process for these companies to apply to the Division for an exemption do provide exceptions from the established marketer training, but companies have not been coming to the Department or Board to ask to be exempt from the marketer training. The application would require the companies to submit a multitude of documents to show what the training program is and would make the applicant responsible for maintaining all records related to the training.

Mr. Mike Merrill, Chair, directed the Board to review the material provided and be prepared to provide comment and make motion at the June meeting.

7) Information

a) Division of Consumer Affairs – Master Hearth and Electrical Contractors

Mr. Anthony Menafro notified the Board that the Board of Master Hearth Professionals as well as the Board of Electrical Contractors have indicated that they intend to limit their licensed professionals from engaging in any propane service work and have notified all code officials of same. The next steps will be to get this prohibition into the relevant regulations.

b) NJDCA, LP-Gas Safety Unit Communications

Mr. Robert Austin informed the Board that the Department will be updating its October Communication to incorporate comments received from the Board regarding the necessity of supporting documentation for changes in ownership of an existing LPG system.

8) Public Comments

Mr. Martin Mandell, inspector for DCA, discussed the various conditions he is witnessing in his daily duties as a field inspector, including lack of maintenance, improper storage, and a lack of signage.

9) Remaining 2024 tentative meeting schedule – 06/11; 08/13; 10/08; 12/10

*10) Motion to adjourn meeting passes unanimously at 3:26 P.M.
1st – Louis Kilmer, 2nd – Mike Merrill*