



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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### New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2024

*Approved by the Board on May 16, 2024*

**Board Members Participating Via Telephone/Microsoft Teams:** Art Becker (Chairman), Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Joe Yost, Gordon Craig, Dave Lyman, Eric Hoffmann, and Richard Dalton

**Board Members Absent:** Steve Domber

**Board Legal Representative Present:** Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Jill Denyes, NJ Division of Law

**NJDEP Water Supply (Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting) Staff Present:** Kathleen Burkhard, Mark Miller, Steve Reya, Mark Ortega, and Steve Vargo

**Other NJDEP Staff Present:** Don Hirsch, Northern Water Compliance and Enforcement; Alexandra Carone, Geological Mapping and Coastal Geology Section

**Members of the Public:** Brian McGuire, MB Drilling/New Jersey Ground Water Association (NJGWA); Dermot Dillon, Summit Drilling/NJGWA

#### 1. Call to Order and Introductions-

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am with a quorum present via Microsoft Teams and telephone. Notice of the meeting and instructions on how to participate by video or phone were listed on the Board's website. A. Becker thanked everyone for attending. S. Reya informed the Board that S. Domber could not make the meeting due to a scheduling conflict and that DAG J. Denyes would be joining the call a little late.

#### 2. Review and Certification of the March 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes-

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the draft minutes from the March 21, 2024, Board meeting. There were no comments on the draft minutes.

**A motion to approve the draft minutes from March 21, 2024, as written, was made by E. Hoffmann, seconded by J. Yost, and approved by all except for D. Lyman and G. Poppe, who were not present for that meeting.**

D. Lyman thanked A. Becker for the kind words that he said about Richard Stothoff during the introduction to the March meeting.

**3. Review and Certification of Well Driller and Pump Installer License Applications-**

A. Becker said that there were three license applications submitted to the Department for review, but only two were administratively complete. He added that the two applicants were applying for their Pump Installer licenses. A. Becker asked if the Board had any comments on the license applicants who were deemed acceptable by the Department. S. Reya provided the Board with some background on Mr. Chris Ritson, who was once assessed a penalty by the Department for performing unlicensed pump work. Mr. Ritson complied with the Department’s order and paid a fine of \$3,250 in 2021, which resolved the matter. S. Reya added that Mr. Ritson did demonstrate to the Department in his license application that he completed work referenced in his application under the supervision of a licensed individual to gain experience to earn this license. The Department sees this as a successful example of a person coming into compliance and then doing the work to obtain a license to do the work properly. A. Becker thanked S. Reya for the explanation. No further discussion was needed on the applicants, who are listed below:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
Pump Installer	Matthew M. Furfari	A.C. Schultes
Pump Installer	Chris M. Ritson	Water Central, LLC

**A motion to approve the two license applicants for licensure was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.**

**4. Continuing Education-**  
*8 Inch Farm Well*

A. Becker introduced the first course, named 8 Inch Farm Well, which is meant to discuss how to construct a larger diameter irrigation well. A. Becker asked S. Reya if there was supposed to be a field component to this course. S. Reya said that he contacted the course provider prior to the meeting who informed him that this course is meant to be a hands-on demonstration. He added that the course will initially be administered to drillers who work for the instructor, but there is a possibility that the instructor will work with NJGWA in the future to host a larger demonstration. S. Reya reminded the Board that this topic came up in the past and the Board and DAG, J. Denyes found that it was acceptable for a course provider to only provide a course to their employees as the well rule does contain any provisions requiring a provider to offer their course to the entire licensed population. E. Hoffmann agreed that this is a good method for employees to receive training. A. Becker asked S. Reya to see if any Board members could attend this course, as he noted it seems interesting.

A. Becker noted that the course application was not signed by the course instructor and asked for the Department to reach out to them to sign the application.

**A motion to approve the 8 Inch Farm Well course for six technical continuing education points was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman.**

Additional discussion was needed before the Board voted. R. Dalton asked if it was appropriate for the Board to approve this course without the course application being signed by the course provider. E. Hoffmann asked if the course could be approved on the condition that the course application gets signed first. The Board members agreed and G. Poppe revised his motion.

**A motion to approve the 8 Inch Farm Well course for six technical continuing education points, once the Department requests and obtains a signed application, was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.**

*NJGWA Membership Meeting*

A. Becker said that NJGWA is hosting another membership meeting on May 14, 2024. Along with the meeting, there would be a one-hour course about drilling fluids. He added that during the March membership meeting, it was announced that Mr. Brian McGuire would be the new President of the NJGWA and Mr. Dermot Dillon would act in the role as Past President. No further discussion was needed.

**G. Poppe made a motion to approve the NJGWA May 2024 Membership Meeting with Drilling Fluids course for two technical continuing education points. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who was opposed.**

A. Becker praised Mr. Paul Bent for providing NJGWA's Board and their membership with excellent information regarding legislative updates that affect their livelihoods.

*Mr. Jason Ruf – Geoprobe Course*

S. Reya said that Mr. Ruf was applying as an individual for a course that he took in December 2023 with Geoprobe about Direct Imaging Logging Tools. A. Becker said that the course looks interesting and speaks well to the technology. E. Hoffmann said that this looks like a great course and would be of good value to well drillers.

D. Lyman asked about the amount of continuing education points that the applicant requested. M. Ortega noted that Mr. Ruf only asked for 10 continuing education points, but the course agenda was for two eight-hour days.

**A motion to approve Direct Image Systems in Practice Training for 10 technical continuing education points was made by E. Hoffmann. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.**

*Briefing on Lapsed Licenses Who Failed to Renew During the 2020-2023 Licensing Cycle and Associated Reinstatement Requirements*

M. Ortega informed the Board that in March, two former licensees who did not meet the renewal requirements for the 2020-2023 cycle had reached out to him to see what could be done to reinstate their licenses. He briefly discussed the renewal requirements, including the fees associated with being late and the dates when a license expires and becomes inactive.

One of these individuals was a Pump Installer and the other was an Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well driller, said M. Ortega. The former Pump Installer did earn his continuing education points before December 31, 2023, but failed to report them to the Department, which resulted in his license becoming inactive on January 1, 2024. The former ERG well driller was discovered to be operating with an expired license between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, and received a Notice of Non-Compliance for drilling without a license. To become licensed again, both individuals are required to meet the continuing education requirements for the 2020-2023 cycle and

take the required certification exams to apply for a new license. Both individuals currently meet the continuing education requirements for the former cycle, but neither have taken the exams needed to become licensed again.

A. Becker asked if either of these individuals will need to meet the continuing education requirements for the 2023-2026 continuing education cycle if they choose to take the exams to reinstate their licenses. M. Ortega explained what the rule states regarding exemptions to the continuing education requirements and noted that this is a new scenario that the rule is not clear about.

A. Becker asked J. Denyes her opinion on the topic. J. Denyes said that this may be a gap in the well rule that needs to be investigated. E. Hoffmann said that by taking the new exams, he believes that these individuals would be getting acquainted with current information and rules. J. Denyes said that she can run the question through her chain of command. S. Reya and M. Ortega will provide her with information on this topic after the meeting.

**5. New Business-**

S. Reya informed the Board that K. Burkhard is currently working on Board reappointments. R. Dalton discussed some work that he recently did for a graduate student at Penn State who was looking for information on deep well logs.

**6. Adjournment-**

A. Becker thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 am was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by E. Hoffmann and approved unanimously.**