



## 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 17, 2025**

*Approved by the Board on May 15, 2025*

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

**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:** Steve Reya, Mark Miller, Mark Ortega, and Jillian Walker

**Other NJDEP Staff Present:** Don Hirsch, Northern Water Compliance and Enforcement

**Members of the Public:** Brian McGuire, MB Drilling LLC

#### **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.

#### **2. Review and Certification of March 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes-**

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the draft minutes from the March 20, 2025 Board meeting. R. Dalton inquired where in the minutes his comment regarding the review and approval of the Rutgers University course, The Science and Practical Aspects of In-situ Technologies, was noted. S. Reya clarified the comments are under the New Business agenda item of the March 20, 2025 minutes as that is when the comments were made chronologically. No additional comments were made.

**A motion to approve the draft minutes from March 20, 2025 was made by G. Poppe and seconded by D. Lyman. All were in favor except for J. Yost, who abstained due to being absent for the March meeting.**

**3. Review of License Applicants-**

A. Becker summarized the list of license applications provided by the Department. He stated that two Environmental Resource & Geotechnical (ERG) license applications, which were approved by the Department, were on the list. He asked if anyone had any comments on the license applications. No comments were made.

**A motion to approve the license applicants was made by G. Poppe, Seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.**

Below is a list of license applicants approved for licensure:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Darin L. McDowell	Goldstar Environmental Services, Inc.
ERG	Anthony M. Barasky	Parratt Wolff Inc.

**4. Continuing Education Courses – Follow Up from March 20, 2025 Meeting-**

A. Becker summarized the discussion from the March 20, 2025, meeting regarding the approved Rutgers University course, The Science and Practical Aspects of In-situ Technologies. During the meeting, R. Dalton voiced concern about the lack of descriptions of individual topics for the course and requested Department staff follow up with the Board's legal representative, DAG J. Denyes. J. Denyes did follow up with S. Reya and believes there is not a concern about setting a precedent for approving course application without detailed summaries, but more of a concern with the practice of reviewing course applications. J. Denyes and S. Reya both agreed there could have been more detail provided on the course topics on the course application. S. Reya mentioned there have been times in the past when the application did not fully capture course information but this was a limitation of the application itself.

S. Reya reached out to the course provider to request more information on the course topics and received a response stating the application could be withdrawn as the course was canceled due to low enrollment. He said in the future the Department could request more information on course topics. A. Becker agreed the lack of sufficient information was missed by the Board and he agreed with R. Dalton's perspective on the manner. R. Dalton further clarified he worried the approval of an incomplete course application from an institution like Rutgers University could set a precedent for the future, and the Board should not be approving applications based on the course provider.

**5. Program Updates-**

M. Miller began by providing an update on the Lost and Destroyed Well Guidance Document the Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting has been working on. The document received final approval on February 7, 2025, which is reflected in the approval date listed on the document, despite the document not being able to be posted on the website until March. A. Becker voiced that there needs to be guidance on lost/destroyed wells as in the past he has had to tell clients they need to

locate and have their wells sealed, and clients feel he is trying to get more business out of them rather than advising them on Department requirements and voicing environmental concern.

S. Reya summarized the alternative method for installing category 1 and 2 wells in consolidated formations as described in N.J.A.C. 7:9D-2.3(d)2ii. This rule was added to the regulations in 2018, and advisory letters have recently been mailed out to several well drillers in the northern region of New Jersey to clarify the requirements of this rule. One of these drillers requested to attend the May 15, 2025, Board meeting to argue the rule should be amended. S. Reya will send out a summary of the rule to Board members prior to the May meeting. D. Lyman asked if the driller mentioned which part of the rule he would like amended and S. Reya clarified that the driller contends the requirement to use a bentonite grout slurry during installation should be changed to allow for the use of cement.

A. Becker asked for an update on the testing of Type 1L cement in well construction, previously discussed at the March meeting. A. Becker checked with his suppliers and confirmed they are not currently offering Type 1L cement, so he will be unable to assist with field sample acquisition. S. Reya stated he has put the Department's Division of Science and Research in contact with a well driller in Sussex County who does have Type 1L Cement and they will be obtaining field sample mixes from a category 1 or 2 well decommissioning and testing the grout mix to compare the results with those obtained from the laboratory testing. This will be the last testing parameter before the report on Type 1L cement will be completed.

**6. New Business/Public Comments-**

A. Becker asked if there were any new business or public comments to discuss. No comments were made.

**7. Adjournment-**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 am was made by G. Poppe, seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.**