



## 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 June 19, 2025**

*Approved by the Board on July 17, 2025*

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

**Board Members Absent:** Mike Klaser

**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, Steve Vargo, and Jillian Walker

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

**Members of the Public:** N/A

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 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 May 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes-**

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the draft minutes from the May 15, 2025 Board meeting. No comments were made.

**A motion to approve the draft minutes from May 15, 2025 was made by G. Poppe and seconded by S. Domber. All were in favor except for G. Craig and R. Dalton, who abstained due to being absent for the May 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), one Pump Installer (PI), and one Vertical Closed Loop Geothermal (VCLG) 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	Nikolas R. Cambell	Soil Borings Drilling
ERG	Paul A. Frick	Summit Drilling LLC
PI	Jonathan Conti Jr.	Garden State Water
VCLG	Sage Pendino	Dandelion Energy

### 4. Review of Continuing Education Application-

A. Becker introduced the course, How to Work Smarter and Get More Done with Less Effort, previously reviewed during the May 15, 2025 meeting. During the meeting the Board requested the Department reach out to the course provider, South Atlantic Well Drillers, to request more information on the course. The Department received a PDF copy of a PowerPoint presentation, providing an overview of the course.

R. Dalton commented that approving this course would be in violation of N.J.A.C. 7:9D-1.9(g)3.i., which states “The Department shall not approve continuing education points for courses where: i. The principal focus of the course is direct sales of products.” R. Dalton further explained this point of view by pointing out the PowerPoint lists product prices and numbers. G. Craig and A. Becker both agreed, and A. Becker stated the course seemed more like a marketing tool than a course appropriate for well driller and pump installer continuing education.

**A motion to deny How to Work Smarter and Get More Done with Less Effort was made by G. Craig, seconded by R. Dalton, and approved unanimously.**

A. Becker requested the Department inform the course provider why the course was denied. S. Reya noted the Department had the same concerns with the course and A. Becker was glad the Department and Board felt the same about this course application.

### 5. Program Updates-

S. Reya announced the Well Permitting Section’s intern, Renato Mendez, has started and will be helping the Section this summer. A. Becker welcomed Renato.

### 6. New Business/Public Comments-

A. Becker began by asking S. Reya to share with the Board two photos he had recently emailed him. The photos depicted an above grade well installation in Forked River, NJ, less than 12 inches above grade with the well cap missing and wires for the pump exposed. A. Becker noted he emailed the Department about this well last year and it is still in the same state. A. Becker then expressed concern

for possible impacts to the groundwater from this open conduit, and the safety hazard the exposed wires pose to the public. S. Reya confirmed the Department did receive an email from A. Becker last year in regard to this and had thought a letter was sent to the well owner informing them of the need to maintain the well. A. Becker reiterated something needs to be done to correct the state of the well. D. Hirsch of Northern Water Compliance and Enforcement asked S. Reya to forward the information on the well to him or Bryan Barrett so enforcement action could be taken. D. Hirsch questioned whether the well is in use, and A. Becker answered he is assuming it is, as there appears to be a pump in the well. A. Becker asked if the Department had notified the local health department about this and S. Reya stated a copy would have been sent to the health department as well as the well owner but if the well is an irrigation well and not a potable water well, the health department may not take any action themselves. M. Miller checked the Department's records which indicate the letter was sent to the well owner on June 7, 2024 and stated he will follow up with the owner. A. Becker ended by expressing his hope to see the well head raised and properly capped in the future.

G. Craig inquired if a certain number of years of experience could be substituted for continuing education points during license renewal to allow those who have been licensed for a significant amount of time to be exempt from the requirement to obtain continuing education points. G. Craig stated 40 years of licensure would be reasonable, and this would help keep more experienced but less active drillers licensed as it would become easier to stay licensed. A. Becker mentioned North Carolina has a regulation like this for its well drillers but he is unsure about the number of years of licensure which are required, though he believes it is a low number. G. Poppe asked if A. Becker knows if the National Ground Water Association has a regulation like this for its licensees but A. Becker was not sure. A. Becker stated he thinks continuing education courses are educational for well drillers and keep them knowledgeable on the industry as a whole.

A. Becker then mentioned the well driller licenses in North Carolina have a QR code on the back of them that health inspectors can scan to retrieve information on whether the driller is currently licensed and whether the driller has any violations. Board members stated this is a good idea.

R. Dalton asked S. Reya for an update on the Type 1-L Cement testing. S. Reya informed R. Dalton the samples for testing were obtained on the day of the May 15, 2025 Board meeting and the cement needed to cure for 28 days before permeability testing. S. Reya has not heard anything about the test results but assumes the samples are currently being tested.

## **7. Adjournment-**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 am was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.**