



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 August 15, 2024

Approved by the Board on September 19, 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: Mark Miller, Steve Reya, Mark Ortega, and Steve Vargo

Other NJDEP Staff Present: Mitch Reicher, Northern Water Compliance and Enforcement; Alexandra Carone, Geological Mapping and Coastal Geology Section

Members of the Public: Brian McGuire, MB Drilling and New Jersey Ground Water Association

1. Call to Order and Introductions-

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 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.

2. Review and Certification of the July 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes-

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the draft minutes from the July 18, 2024, Board meeting. No further discussion was needed.

A motion to approve the draft minutes from July 18, 2024, as written, was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved by all except for J. Yost, who was not present for that meeting and abstained.

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

A. Becker said that there were four license applications that the Department vetted and identified as complete. There were three Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well driller license applicants and one Pump Installer license applicant. A. Becker asked if the Board had any comments on the four license applicants who were deemed acceptable by the Department. No further discussion was needed.

A motion to approve the four license applicants deemed acceptable by the Department was made by G. Craig, seconded by J. Yost, and approved unanimously.

Below is a list of license applicants accepted during this meeting:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Derek Mobus	Summit Drilling LLC
ERG	Ryan J. Lacamera	Summit Drilling LLC
ERG	Anthony J. Notorfrancesco	East Coast Drilling, Inc.
Pump Installer	Edward L. Conn	Water Central LLC

A. Becker said that he has noticed a lot of new ERG well drillers being licensed recently. He also asked M. Ortega if he could investigate the number of newly licensed ERG well drillers compared to other license types. M. Ortega said that he can pull the data and present it to the Board at a future meeting.

4. Review of Continuing Education Course Offerings-

A. Becker said that there were three courses up for review by the Board. The Board discussed Drill Expo 2024 first, which is presented by the National Drilling Association (NDA).

NDA - Drill Expo

S. Reya explained that this convention has eight courses up for review. R. Dalton said that there were several courses that he wished to discuss in further detail, as he did not feel that some of them were relevant. A. Becker asked the Board to review each course individually.

The Board first discussed the course, Inspire Your Workforce. A. Becker said that he believed that this course could be valuable to licensees, as leadership skills are important in any field. J. Yost agreed with A. Becker. R. Dalton said that he does not believe that this course is related to the industry and should not be approved for continuing education points (CEPs). A. Becker confirmed with DAG J. Denyes that the Board has a lot of discretion when making decisions on continuing education courses.

A motion to approve Inspire Your Workforce was made by D. Lyman, seconded by G. Poppe, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who was opposed.

There was no discussion for the course, Sonic Drilling: Pioneers for Progress & Profit.

A motion to approve Sonic Drilling: Pioneers for Progress & Profit was made by J. Yost, seconded by G. Poppe, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who abstained.

A. Becker and R. Dalton asked how points were being tracked, since a few of the course were listed as being 45 minutes in duration. M. Ortega explained that he is tallying everything up as the Board makes their motions. M. Ortega reminded the Board that the minimum point total that can be awarded is a half of a point. He added that courses which are between 45 minutes and 59 minutes are rounded up to the nearest full point.

There was no discussion regarding the Rig Presentations.

A motion to approve Rig Presentations was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved unanimously.

The Board discussed the course, Navigating Social Media in the Drilling Industry. M. Ortega advised the Board that they have historically denied courses geared towards social media and advertising. No further discussion was needed.

A motion to deny Navigating Social Media in the Drilling Industry was made by J. Yost, seconded by E. Hoffmann, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who was opposed.

The Board discussed the course, Geotechnical Field Investigations. R. Dalton said that he believed that this course does not apply to New Jersey licensees.

R. Dalton made a motion to deny Geotechnical Field Investigations. No one seconded this motion and the motion was withdrawn.

A motion to approve Geotechnical Field Investigations was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who was opposed.

No discussion was needed for Monitoring While Drilling with Sonic Rigs.

A motion to approve Monitoring While Drilling with Sonic Rigs was made by G. Poppe, seconded by E. Hoffmann, and approved unanimously.

No discussion was needed for Job Safety Analysis Development.

A motion to approve Job Safety Analysis Development was made by R. Dalton, seconded by J. Yost, and approved unanimously.

The Board discussed the course, Trials of Drilling on Oak Island. R. Dalton explained that the geology on Oak Island is not present in New Jersey, and he did not think it was relevant to New Jersey licensees.

A motion to deny Trials of Drilling on Oak Island was made by D. Lyman, seconded by R. Dalton, and approved unanimously.

M. Ortega tallied up the point totals and said that the convention would count for a total of 5.5 CEPs: 4.5 in the technical category and 1 in the safety category.

WB Drilling – Well Rig Pump Maintenance

S. Reya introduced the course, Well Rig Pump Maintenance, which would be administered by WB Drilling to their own employees. The course is geared towards rebuilding a mud pump. S. Reya explained that this company was approved to put on another course for its employees a couple of

months ago. S. Reya said that he felt the course was relevant because mud pumps need rebuilding quite a bit.

R. Dalton expressed concern about this course only being offered to a select group of people. S. Reya explained that this was previously discussed and that if the content has been deemed relevant, the Board has approved the courses. E. Hoffmann said that it is a great practice to have in-house documentation on training.

A. Becker asked DAG J. Denyes for her opinion. S. Reya provided additional background information for J. Denyes. He added that supply houses typically only offer courses to their clients and there is no way for the Department to vet whether or not these courses are only being offered to a select group of people instead of all licensees. J. Denyes asked for the Board to table this discussion so she could investigate further.

The Board discussed the topic, but did not make any motions on the course. M. Ortega said that he would contact WB Drilling.

NJGWA – September 2024 Membership Meeting with Variable Frequency Drives- What You Need to Know course

S. Reya introduced the course to the Board. No discussion was needed.

A motion to approve September 2024 Membership Meeting with Variable Frequency Drives- What You Need to Know was made by D. Lyman, seconded by J. Yost, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who was opposed.

5. Program Updates/New Business-

Private Well Consortium

S. Reya said that Mr. Brian McGuire had asked the Well Permitting Section if they were available to present at the 2024 Private Well Consortium. M. Miller presented for Well Permitting and discussed the regulations and some projects on which Well Permitting is actively working. Other topics discussed during the meeting included PFAS and water treatment.

Well Permitting staff have been working on a guidance document for Health Departments recently. The document is meant to help educate their staff on well construction requirements. The draft document is not ready for publication, but the Department will share it after it has been approved by management.

Youth Inclusion Initiative

S. Reya said that S. Vargo has been participating in a Department-wide effort to engage young adults to introduce them to the different careers in the environmental field. S. Vargo has partnered up with staff from Safe Drinking Water and Water Systems Engineering and given presentations about well drilling as a trade.

Miscellaneous

A. Becker thanked S. Vargo for a recent inspection that he conducted. A. Becker explained that he received a call from a licensed well driller about potential unlicensed work being performed. S. Vargo visited the site to investigate on the same day. A. Becker said that he is pleased that the Department responded quickly.

A. Becker mentioned that insurance companies will not be covering PFAS as part of pollution liability insurance.

6. Adjournment-

A. Becker thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024. A. Becker said that he will not be present for the September meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 am was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.