



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 20, 2024

Approved by the Board on July 18, 2024

Board Members Participating Via Telephone/Microsoft Teams: Art Becker (Chairman), Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Joe Yost, Eric Hoffmann, Steve Domber, and Richard Dalton

Board Members Absent: Gordon Craig and Dave Lyman

Board Legal Representative Present: Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Kevin DeCristofer, NJ Division of Law

NJDEP Water Supply (Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting) Staff Present: 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: Michael Miller, Baroid; Chad Yordy, Baroid Industrial Drilling Products; Dermot Dillon, Summit Drilling; 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.

A. Becker announced that Mr. Denis Crayon, of Summit Drilling, would be retiring at the end of the week. A. Becker commended Mr. Crayon on the great job he had done for the industry. He added that Mr. Crayon was a vibrant speaker and an overall great instructor. The Board wished Mr. Crayon well in his retirement.

2. Review and Certification of the May 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes-

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the draft minutes from the May 16, 2024, Board meeting. A. Becker pointed out that the word “properly” was misspelled on the fourth page of the draft minutes. No other comments were made.

A motion to approve the draft minutes from May 16, 2024, which incorporate the noted correction, was made by G. Poppe, seconded by S. Domber, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, 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 six license applications that the Department vetted and identified as complete and one that was pending additional review by the Board. There were two additional license applications that were incomplete. There were three Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well driller license applicants, one Journeyman well driller license applicant, one Master well driller license applicant, and two pump installer license applicants. S. Reya suggested that the Board vote on the six license applicants that were deemed acceptable by the Department before reviewing the final pump installer license application. A. Becker asked if the Board had any comments on the six license applicants who were deemed acceptable by the Department. No further discussion was needed for the first six applicants.

A motion to approve the six license applicants deemed acceptable by the Department was made by G. Poppe, seconded by S. Domber, and approved unanimously.

S. Reya discussed the pending license application with the Board. Mr. Andrew Phillips, of AP Water Treatment Service, originally applied for his pump installer license during the September 2023 Board meeting. S. Reya explained that Mr. Phillips, who was formerly employed by Robbins Water Service, had issues with his references and his ability to demonstrate five well pump systems that he worked on during his employment with Robbins Water Service. One of the references that Mr. Phillips had used recently passed away, so the Department could not contact him for additional information. S. Reya added that staff from Robbins Water Service had written to the Department to notify them that they do not believe that Mr. Phillips met the experience requirements of having obtained a full two years of work experience. S. Reya noted that Mr. Phillips’s current application appears to be complete, as he was able to work with a New Jersey licensed pump installer to get five jobs under a licensed well driller. It was also noted that N.J.A.C. 7:9D does not specify specific hours or days needed in the trade for experience; the rule only says two years of experience are needed for a pump installer license.

R. Dalton said that Mr. Phillips should be awarded his pump installer license since he had a signed affidavit from an appropriately licensed individual who reportedly signed off on and verified his experience. J. Yost agreed with R. Dalton. A. Becker talked about water treatment and how the letter from Robbins Water Service said that the applicant mostly engaged in solo water treatment work. S. Reya added that industry experience is thought of as global experience which includes a wide variety of different tasks.

A motion to approve Mr. Andrew Phillips for his pump installer license was made by J. Yost, seconded by R. Dalton, and approved unanimously.

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

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
Master	Mario D' Agostino	D'Agostino Well Water Service
Journeyman	Joshua J. Deridder	Robbins Water Service Inc.
Pump Installer	Jason A. Schumann	Binsky Service
ERG	Douglas J. Foster	East Coast Drilling, Inc.
ERG	William J. Holden	Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates
ERG	Francis X. Harrington	Walker Hill Environmental
Pump Installer	Andrew J. Phillips	AP Water Treatment Service

4. Continuing Education-

A. Becker introduced the two courses up for review. Rutgers applied for an online course named Glacial Deposits of New Jersey. The South Atlantic Well Drillers applied for the 2024 South Atlantic Jubilee.

Rutgers

S. Domber spoke of Dr. Scott Stanford, who is one of the course instructors for the Glacial Deposits of New Jersey course. He added that Dr. Stanford is an excellent speaker and is a former New Jersey Geological Survey employee. R. Dalton noted that the course does not discuss groundwater, and only discusses geology. G. Poppe added that geology is important for drillers in the field. A. Becker and J. Yost agreed with G. Poppe.

A motion to approve Glacial Deposits of New Jersey was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Yost, and approved unanimously.

South Atlantic Well Drillers

A. Becker said that the 2024 South Atlantic Jubilee has 22 courses up for review, each course is one hour in duration. He added that M. Ortega included a few notes to the provided spreadsheet about courses that have been previously approved by the Board for the National Ground Water Association. M. Ortega stated that the instructors are different, but the course material and duration are the same. S. Domber asked if the Board could discuss courses which they thought were questionable and then move to vote on the acceptable courses as a block.

R. Dalton abstained from the discussion. He noted that he did not have an opportunity to review the list.

S. Domber brought up the course named Boosting Business: Marketing Essentials for Well Drillers. He said that he did not believe that this course was relevant. J. Yost agreed with S. Domber. M. Ortega added that the Board has historically denied courses geared towards marketing and social media.

A motion to deny Boosting Business: Marketing Essentials for Well Drillers was made by S. Domber, seconded by J. Yost, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who abstained.

E. Hoffman asked to discuss the course named Drilling Down on Social Media and Youthful Innovation. The Board agreed that this course should not be approved.

A motion to deny Drilling Down on Social Media and Youthful Innovation was made by E. Hoffmann, seconded by J. Yost, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who abstained.

J. Yost asked to discuss What to Expect when Applying for Credit. A. Becker said that he believed that this course is important to business owners. E. Hoffmann noted that this course could foster new business owners. The Board members discussed business courses and whether they are well attended at conventions, along with whether or not they are consistent with the intent of the continuing education requirements in the rules such that they are directly related to the trade of well drilling/pump installation.

A motion to deny What to Expect when Applying for Credit was made by E. Hoffman, seconded by S. Domber, and approved by all except for A. Becker who was opposed and R. Dalton who abstained.

A motion to approve the remaining 19 courses was made by J. Yost, seconded by S. Domber, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who abstained.

Below is a list of courses approved for the 2024 South Atlantic Jubilee:

Course Name	CEPs
2024 State of the U.S. Water Well Industry Report	1 Technical
Fundamentals of Electric Motors	1 Technical
Understanding Stray Voltage	1 Technical
Pumping System Installation Safety	1 Safety
Chlorine, The Most Misunderstood Chemical in the Water Well Industry	1 Technical
Casing Advancement 101	1 Technical
Understand Pump Curves and Proper Sizing	1 Technical
Sizing and Selling a Variable Speed Drive	1 Technical
Aqua-Scopic Well Rehabilitation in Dirty Water & Flocking Agents	1 Technical
DTH Hammer/ Bit Troubleshooting and Maintenance	1 Technical
Air Compressors	1 Technical
Equipment Financing: Financial Statements 101	1 Technical
All Things DTH Hammers and Bits	1 Technical
Drilling Fluids: Your Key to Unlocking Well Development	1 Technical
Update on Legal Issues Impacting the Water Well Industry	1 Technical
VFD's: What am I Missing?	1 Technical
Variable Speed Drive Equipment	1 Technical
Field Experience or the Dos and Don'ts of Well Rehabilitation	1 Technical
Well Inner Liners: More Than Just Lipstick on a Pig	1 Technical

5. Program Updates/New Business-

S. Domber informed the Board that appointments and reappointments are moving forward. He also informed the Board that the Department is working with their legal team to draft language clarifying the information about PFAS potentially being utilized in the manufacture of some coated bentonite pellets used as a well grout material.

A. Becker said that he recently received a call about environmental consultants that he wanted to discuss with the Board. He said that consultants have been putting devices in wells and argued that they do not have the authority to perform this work. He cited several examples of these devices getting stuck in wells. A. Becker asked the Department for their perspective on this. S. Reya cited the rule to A. Becker and noted that a licensed driller or pump installer is required to install permanent pumping equipment, however, no permits are not needed from the Department to install permanent pumping equipment. He also noted that consultants often use a sampling pump to obtain water samples from monitoring wells, but this is not typically viewed as meeting the threshold of pump installation/maintenance for which a license is required. He asked for A. Becker to send specifics of the scenarios he is questioning to the Department so they can evaluate it and seek clarification from DAG J. Denyes, as needed.

E. Hoffmann provided his viewpoint on the topic as someone who works in the environmental consulting field. He explained that they never use permanent pumping equipment and that their methods are not invasive to the sediment. He felt that at the point they need to clear sediment from a well, that constitutes well redevelopment activities, and they would hire a driller to perform any necessary well at that point. R. Dalton talked about sampling wells other than monitoring wells. E. Hoffmann said that his staff knows that disassembling a wellhead is the responsibility of a New Jersey licensed well driller.

S. Reya offered to add this to the list of potential rule changes. R. Dalton noted that the rule should clarify that this work can only be done on monitoring wells.

J. Yost discussed the chlorination issue that was a topic of discussion in prior years. S. Reya explained that the Department drafted a letter on this topic, but it is currently sitting with management in DAG J. Denyes's chain of command. This letter advises of proper disinfection procedures. S. Reya said that this topic can be revisited at a future meeting.

6. Adjournment-

A. Becker thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2024.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 am was made by S. Domber. This motion was seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.