



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 July 18, 2024

Approved by the Board on August 15, 2024

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

Board Members Absent: Joe Yost and Steve Domber

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: 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 and New Jersey Ground Water Association

1. Call to Order and Introductions-

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 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 June 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes-

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the draft minutes from the June 20, 2024, Board meeting. No further discussion was needed.

A motion to approve the draft minutes from June 20, 2024, as written, was made by G. Poppe, seconded by E. Hoffmann, and approved by all except for G. Craig and D. Lyman, who were 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 was one additional license application that was deemed incomplete. There were two Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well driller license applicants, one Dewatering well driller license applicant, 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 D. Lyman, and approved unanimously.

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

| License Type | Applicant Name | Employer |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ERG | Matthew M. Murtagh | Boring Brothers Inc. |
| Pump Installer | Clayton G. Robbins | Robbins Water Service Inc. |
| Dewatering | David Tersigni | Mersino Dewatering, LLC |
| ERG | Brian Van Doren | Hillis Carnes Engineering Associates |

4. Enforcement/Field Work Update-

S. Vargo informed the Board that 11 cases have been referred to Water Compliance and Enforcement since the last update in May. All but one case was referred to Southern Enforcement and most of the referrals were for two well drillers. S. Vargo described some of the referrals to the Board, which included instances of unlicensed pump work and not constructing wells in accordance with permit conditions.

S. Vargo informed the Board that the Department received 16 Notice of Non-Compliance (NONC) responses. The Department was awaiting 6 additional responses, which were all from the same company. Most of the responses resulted in the NONCs being rescinded. Well drillers are citing administrative issues for incorrectly submitted well records. Well Permitting staff is currently working on scheduling field inspections to televise two wells and verify well construction details, in response to NONCs. S. Vargo said that the Department sent out another five NONCs in June.

S. Vargo provided an update on Well Permitting’s recent field presence and explained that 40 conditions to notify the Department three days prior to drilling have been placed on well permits. He described some of the field work that had been conducted by staff, including witnessing a successfully constructed irrigation well in Lacey Township. There were four instances of well drillers not notifying the Department prior to drilling pursuant to the well permit requirements; the Department will follow up with NONCs to these companies.

M. Miller informed the Board that Well Permitting has been working with Water Compliance and Enforcement’s management to address the volume of referrals being sent to their program. K. Burkhard has a follow up meeting with Enforcement in early August to address the growing backlog.

A. Becker talked about the administrative issues cited by well drillers when submitting well records and well decommissioning reports. He said that some well drillers are under the impression that it is an office issue when documents do not get submitted correctly. He reiterated that the well drillers are ultimately responsible for what is submitted to the Department. He explained that office staff should

not be certifying well records or well decommissioning reports. M. Miller noted that the Bureau agrees with this assessment and stressed that the licensed drillers need to take accountability regarding submission of required documents.

A. Becker thanked S. Vargo for the update.

5. Type 1L Cement-

A. Becker said that he recently sent a notice to S. Reya regarding Florida's requirements for Type 1L Portland cement (Type 1L cement). According to this notice, Florida approved Type 1L cement for well grouting in December 2022. R. Dalton pointed out that there are no permeability requirements for cement grouts in Florida; Florida only has permeability requirements for their bentonite grouts. S. Reya pointed out that the notice does not specifically note the grout mix ratio and mentioned how G. Craig and others have previously noted that the increased limestone quantity in Type 1L may alter the quantity of water required to achieve the same workability and ability to pump, when compared to Type 1.

S. Reya discussed the progress of the study which the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) had undertaken to study Type 1L cement. He reminded the Board that former State Geologist, J. Hoffman, had worked with the Department's Division of Science and Research to contract NJIT to perform permeability tests, strength tests, and pumpability tests of Type 1L cement. S. Reya informed the Board that the tests have been completed and NJIT is in the process of finalizing their report. The draft report should be ready in September 2024. S. Reya thanked G. Craig, on behalf of the Department, for conducting some of the preliminary testing of Type 1L cement. E. Hoffmann asked if NJIT conducted any pH testing, but S. Reya said that he was unsure if that was one of the testing parameters.

6. Program Updates/New Business-

There were no updates from the Department or new business discussed by the Board.

7. Adjournment-

A. Becker thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15, 2024.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 am was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by E. Hoffmann and approved unanimously.