



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 Conference Call Minutes for August 13, 2020

Approved by the Board on September 24, 2020

Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building: N/A

Board Members Participating Via Telephone: Art Becker (Chairman), Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Gordon Craig, Joe Pepe, Carol Graff, Richard Dalton, and Steve Domber

Board Members Absent: Joe Yost and Jeff Hoffman

Board Legal Representative Present: N/A

NJDEP Water Supply (Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting) Staff Present: Terry Pilawski, Joe Mattle, Steve Reya, and Mark Ortega

Members of the Public: None

1. Call to Order-

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am with a quorum present via telephone.

2. Review and Certification of the July 23, 2020 Conference Call Minutes and Proposed Corrections to the May 21, 2020 Board Conference Call Minutes-

S. Reya explained that there was a mistake in item #4 of the May 21, 2020 minutes in which the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) May 2020 Groundwater Webinar Package was listed as approved for the incorrect amount of continuing education points (CEPs). The Department recently became aware of this mistake and had corrected it on their website. The correction makes it clear that licensees could earn up to six (6) CEPs for the course. It was originally incorrectly listed as being approved for a maximum of five (5) CEPs.

A motion to accept the proposed corrections to the May 21, 2020 minutes and the July 23, 2020 minutes as written was made by G. Poppe. The motion was seconded by C. Graff and approved by all except for J. Pepe and G. Craig, who abstained.

3. Review of Well Driller License Applications-

A. Becker asked if S. Reya knew what project the three drillers who applied for their environmental resource and geotechnical (ERG) licenses would be working on, noting that they were all from Alabama. S. Reya said that these drillers, if approved for licensure, would be drilling diagonal wells with a sonic rig under an active factory for an environmental remediation project in northern New Jersey. A. Becker asked the Board if there was any further discussion about the three licensees. No further discussion was needed.

A motion to approve the three (3) ERG license applicants was made by G. Poppe, seconded by C. Graff, and approved unanimously.

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
Environmental Resource & Geotechnical	Chris Ratley	GSE, Inc.
Environmental Resource & Geotechnical	Jeremy Ryan Bailey	GSE, Inc.
Environmental Resource & Geotechnical	Robert Morgan	GSE, Inc.

4. Review of Continuing Education Course Application-

The application for one course from the American Ground Water Trust (AGWT), NJ Well and Pump Technology Webinar was forwarded to Board members in advance of the call for review. A. Becker confirmed that this course was vetted by the Department and deemed to be administratively complete. He also noted that he knows a lot of the presenters that are listed from attending prior events and believes this will be a good course to fulfil the goal of continuing education. A. Becker asked if any further discussion was needed for the course. No further discussion was needed.

A motion to approve NJ Well and Pump Technology Webinar for six (6) technical CEPs was made by G. Craig, seconded by S. Domber, and approved unanimously.

Course Name	Presented By	Technical Points
NJ Well and Pump Technology Webinar	AGWT	6

5. License Renewals-

S. Reya informed the Board that late fees had been assessed to all licensees who did not pay their bills by the June 30th deadline. S. Reya noted that there was a glitch with the Department’s software which resulted in licensees who did not meet the CEP requirement having their cancelled bills re-opened when late fees were assessed. S. Reya said that the Department also consulted DAG Jill Denyes to notify her of the bills being sent in error. Staff let her know that an email was sent to the Bureau’s distribution list the day the problem was identified to notify recipients as quickly as possible that they should not pay the bill if they did not obtain the CEPs necessary for license renewal eligibility and that any payment made for an ineligible license would be refunded and the new license would not be issued. A letter, similar to the email, is also being sent to everyone who received a bill in error.

A. Becker asked if the Department knew what the cause is and confirmed that it was an issue with the Department’s software and not another entity. S. Reya confirmed that it was the Department’s software and had nothing to do with the Department of Treasury. T. Pilawski speculated that it is a

coding issue and noted that M. Schumacher had forwarded this issue to our IT staff and the software developers.

S. Reya informed the Board that there are no requests for late CEPs or extensions to the deadline for the Board's review at this time.

6. Direct Exchange (DX) Geothermal – Grout Review and Proposed Installation-

S. Reya provided a brief synopsis of the history of the Department and Board's review of Total Green's DX geothermal system, which they have proposed installing in NJ. He stated that the grout permeability test which Total Green submitted to the Board in February 2020 did not meet the Department's requirements, as stipulated in N.J.A.C. 7:9D. A new test was conducted and submitted for the Board's review right before the July meeting. S. Reya said that himself and R. Dalton had reviewed the latest permeability test and that it meets the minimum requirements that are outlined in the rule. He noted that Total Green needs to demonstrate that they can successfully grout both annular spaces (outside and inside the PVC sleeve) of a test well with a ½" tremie pipe. R. Dalton noted that this grout is not certified by the National Sanitation Foundation, but Total Green had supplied the Safety Data Sheets for all of the materials in the grout.

A. Becker asked about the demonstration and whether Total Green intended to drill a vertical or diagonal well. S. Reya said that he did not know yet and that the Board would need to first approve Total Green to conduct a field demonstration before they can submit a well permit application with a deviation and specific plan. G. Poppe stated that he would like to be present for the field demonstration.

A motion was made to allow Total Green to move forward with a field demonstration of their DX geothermal system and proposed grout mix by G. Craig, seconded by G. Poppe, and approved unanimously.

A. Becker asked S. Reya to set up a date for the field demonstration with Total Green representatives. R. Dalton, A. Becker, G. Craig, and G. Poppe volunteered to be present for the field demonstration. The field demonstration would ensure that the product can be installed and grouted in accordance with manufacturer submittals and N.J.A.C. 7:9D.

7. Board Appointments/Vacancies Update-

T. Pilawski said that the Department has received several inquiries regarding the Pump Installer Board vacancy. She said that the Department had it posted on the Board's website and sent an email to all well drillers and pump installers who are registered with the Well Permitting Section's email distribution list. Resumes and letters of interest are due by August 21, 2020 and will be reviewed afterwards. T. Pilawski informed the Board that after an applicant is chosen, all of the new appointments and reappointments will be forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner and Commissioner's Office.

8. Miscellaneous Topics-

Howell Township/New Jersey American Water

T. Pilawski updated the Board about their inquiries of New Jersey American Water's practices in Howell Township. She said that Well Permitting staff had a meeting set up with the Bureau of Water Systems Engineering to discuss in greater detail.

Program Updates

T. Pilawski informed the Board that Michele Putnam, the current Assistant Commissioning of Water Resource Management, is retiring on September 1, 2020. Pat Gardner, the Director of Water Supply and Geoscience, will be replacing her.

Princeton Geothermal Project

A. Becker asked for the status of the Princeton geothermal project. S. Reya said that the Department has been receiving weekly reports. The review of the reports indicates that recently everything is progressing well and that the drilling company is complying with the regulations. S. Reya noted that there is currently only one company on site drilling wells, but other companies will join in September and the two (2) companies will eventually have a total of six (6) rigs onsite.

9. Adjournment-

At 10:43 am, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Poppe, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.