



## 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 November 19, 2020**

*Approved by the Board on January 21, 2021*

**Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building:** N/A

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

**Board Members Absent:** Joe Pepe

**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:** Joe Mattle, Julia Altieri, Steve Reya, and Mark Ortega

**Members of the Public:** Eric Hoffmann, Peak Environmental

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am with a quorum present via telephone. A. Becker noted that this meeting was supposed to be held in person, however, due to COVID-19, the meeting was changed to a conference call. He noted that the Department had made the phone number publicly available prior to the meeting via the Board's website.

#### **2. Review and Certification of the October 15, 2020 Draft Conference Call Minutes-**

**A motion to accept the October 15, 2020 minutes as prepared was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Yost, and approved unanimously.**

#### **3. Review of Well Driller License Applications-**

After reviewing the license applicant information, A. Becker asked the Board if there was any further discussion for the four license applicants. No further discussion was needed.

**A motion to approve three Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) and one Pump Installer license applicants for licensure was made by G. Craig, seconded by C. Graff, and approved unanimously.**

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Employer</b>
<b>ERG</b>	Kenneth Friedrich	<b>Environmental Probing Investigations</b>
<b>Pump Installer</b>	Vincent LoVacco	<b>D'Agostino Well</b>
<b>ERG</b>	Anthony Convery	<b>Parratt-Wolff, Inc.</b>
<b>ERG</b>	Ryan Patrick McCormack	<b>GSE, Inc.</b>

**4. Letters for Continuing Education Point (CEP) Deadline Extension/License Reinstatement-**

*Mr. Dennis Gaughan*

A. Becker reminded the Board members that they had initially discussed Mr. Gaughan’s case during the October 15, 2020 meeting. The Board was waiting for additional information to be presented before they could determine whether to grant Mr. Gaughan an extension for his license. S. Reya said that he had spoken with Mr. Gaughan twice since the October meeting, but has not yet received the follow-up information that the Board requested.

*Mr. Leonard Stone*

S. Reya informed the Board that Mr. Stone failed to meet the CEP deadline of March 31, 2020 and submitted a letter asking for the Board to consider his late credits. He added that the Department was contacted by his office in September to discuss how Mr. Stone had been busy and had tried to take the OSHA 8 Hour Refresher course in March 2020, but he did not complete it until September 2020.

A. Becker had asked the Board if any discussion was needed based on Mr. Stone’s letter and S. Reya’s synopsis. No further discussion was needed. A. Becker and the rest of the Board members agreed that since Mr. Stone did not meet the CEP requirement then no further action was needed from the Board. Board members noted that there was no legitimate reason for why he was unable to complete an 8-hour class by the deadline and requested leniency several months after his license lapsed. A. Becker asked for S. Reya to contact Mr. Stone and let him know that the Board would not grant his request for extension.

**5. Discussion of Course Content and Criteria for Evaluation of Whether CEPs may be Awarded for a Proposed Course-**

A. Becker began by discussing the background of the topic. Over the last several meetings, Board members had failed to reach a consensus about courses which are business-related. Some Board members believe that business courses are very important to the growth of well drillers and pump installers. Other Board members believe that while important, the well rule does not indicate that business courses are acceptable content for meeting CEP requirements specific to NJ well drillers and pump installers.

G. Craig suggested that the Board add business courses as a third category and that licensees be able to earn up to four points in this category. There was some discussion about having this be an elective category with a maximum of four points per cycle. S. Reya discussed the Department’s logistical concerns with having business courses be an elective category.

A. Becker asked R. Dalton what his main concern is with business-related courses. R. Dalton said that it concerned him that a licensee could obtain only business and safety courses and not take any

technical courses. J. Yost agreed with R. Dalton's assessment and said that licensees should not be allowed to do that. G. Craig said that the business courses are important to business owners, who are also well drillers, to gain the knowledge to make their employees more well-rounded in the industry. These courses would also be informative for licensees who are looking to own businesses in the future. J. Yost said that he did not believe that the Board should get involved in the business side of the industry. J. Hoffman agreed with J. Yost.

J. Hoffman said that the Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) Board does not approve business courses for LSRPs but does approve ethics courses as a third category. Eric Hoffmann, LSRP with Peak Environmental who was also present on the call, further clarified that the ethics courses are not business ethics but pertain to the ethics of their site work as it relates to applicable regulations. M. Ortega brought up that when a member of the LSRP Board came in to discuss their CEP program, they said that not many ethics courses are offered, and it often becomes problematic when it gets close to the deadline. He also noted that it could be problematic for licensees if an additional category was created for business courses due to the lack of course offerings.

**A motion to accept business courses as technical credits was made by G. Craig and seconded by C. Graff. A. Becker asked for a vote from all the Board members for this motion. G. Craig, C. Graff, G. Poppe, and A. Becker voted in favor. J. Yost, J. Hoffman, S. Domber, and R. Dalton voted against. After the vote ended in a tie, J. Yost changed his vote to be in favor of the motion. The motion passes.**

The Board members were reminded that this is not a blanket approval for all business courses. Each course will continue to be reviewed for content on a case by case basis.

#### **6. Continuing Education Course Application Review-**

*WorldWide Drilling Resource, Inc. (WorldWide)*

S. Reya informed the Board that a representative from WorldWide had emailed the Department after their course, WorldWide DownHome DrillFest™, was approved in October. One of the previously approved courses, Saving Money Pumping Groundwater, needed to be replaced with a new course. If the replacement course was approved, the seminar would be worth up to six CEPs. WorldWide had proposed the new course, "Down Hole Video."

**A motion to accept Down Hole Video as a replacement for Saving Money Pumping Groundwater was made by J. Yost, seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.**

*George Cruz – New Jersey Water Association Course*

A. Becker asked J. Yost if this course was good for his water treatment license and J. Yost said that it was. A. Becker read the course description to the Board. C. Graff confirmed that Mr. Cruz was not teaching the course but attended the course and was applying as an individual for course approval.

**A motion to accept Water Well Rehabilitation and Maintenance course for Mr. George Cruz was made by G. Poppe, seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.**

*National Drilling Association (NDA)*

A. Becker asked S. Reya about how many credits NDA was requesting. S. Reya said that NDA did not request a specific amount of points. The Board members reviewed the courses for the NDA 2020 Buckeye Chapter Virtual Fall Training Expo. A. Becker asked if any further discussion was needed for the courses.

**A motion to approve the NDA 2020 Buckeye Chapter Virtual Fall Training Expo for two (2) technical and two (2) safety CEPs was made by G. Craig, seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.**

<b>Approved NDA 2020 Buckeye Chapter Virtual Fall Training Expo Course Names</b>	<b>CEPs</b>
Drilling with Diamond Bits	1 Technical
Encountering Odorous Gases and Vapors	1 Technical
“CALL BEFORE YOU DIG” It’s the LAW	1 Safety
Common Issues Identified by Commercial Enforcement Officials	1 Safety

*National Ground Water Association (NGWA)*

A. Becker asked the Board members to go through all the courses which NGWA submitted for credit for Groundwater Week 2020. The Board members decided to approve all the courses which they believed to be acceptable at the end and would make individual motions for courses which they deemed unacceptable. Courses which were under 30 minutes long were not reviewed by the Board, as they do not meet the threshold for the minimum acceptable course duration set by prior Board motion.

**A motion to approve 40 courses for 2020 NGWA Groundwater Week was made by G. Poppe, seconded by R. Dalton, and approved unanimously.**

<b>Approved NGWA Groundwater Week 2020 Course Names</b>	<b>CEPs</b>
Asset Management for Sustainable Wells: Not Just for Utility Water Supply	1 Technical
Basic Curves and Residential Sizing Examples	1 Technical
Biology and Chemistry of In Situ Activated Carbon during Remediation Applications	1.5 Technical
Drones plus Geophysics: A Better Platform for Better Site Characterization	1 Technical
Family Business Succession in the Water Well Industry	1 Technical
Federal Legislative Issues Affecting the Water Well Industry	1 Technical
Friction Loss Defined and Basic Friction Loss Calculations	1 Technical
Groundwater Remediation Technologies	1 Technical
Grouting and Drilling Jobs that Didn’t Follow the Book	1 Technical
Helping Well Owners Understand their Risks and Well Vulnerability	1 Technical
Hey Hey PFAS Go Away! – The Forever Chemical That’s Finite	1 Technical
How to Read a Profit and Loss Statement: More Than Just Numbers	1 Technical
How to Upgrade Your Irrigation Pump Motor Control to Reduce Downtime	1 Technical
Hydrogeologic Classification System for Water-Well Boreholes	1 Technical
Improving Effectiveness (OEE) for a Single Irrigation System or Across All Your Systems Using Cloud Technology	1 Technical
Improving the Value of Legacy Data Sets Using Modern Methods	1.5 Technical
Installing All Types of Pump Controls at the Well	1 Technical
Large Wells/Small Spaces: The Challenges of Urban Drilling	1 Technical
Liability and Technical Considerations for GHX Design & Installation for GSHP Systems	1 Technical
Motor Mysteries Solved	1 Technical

NPSH and Avoiding Cavitation	1 Technical
Peristaltic Chemical Feed Metering Pumps: Installation and Maintenance	1 Technical
Power Quality and Pumps – Is Your Power Killing Your Pumps?	1 Technical
Predictive Maintenance of Heavy Equipment	1 Technical
Pressure Hazards in the Groundwater Industry	1 Safety
Profiting from Adding Water Treatment and Service Operations	1 Technical
Proper Drill Site Assessment, Preparation, and Execution	1 Safety
Proper Pump Selection Minimizes Operation and Maintenance Costs	1 Technical
Realistic Budgeting to Reinvest in Your Business	1 Technical
Remote Monitoring for Irrigation Systems that Continue to Run When Communication Links are Lost	1 Technical
Select the Right Pump for You Job: Vertical Lineshaft and Submersible Turbines	1 Technical
Single Phase Motor and Control Testing	1 Technical
Smarter and Faster – Tools to Manage Your Day-to-Day Operations	1 Technical
Solar Groundwater Pumping Systems	1 Technical
Sustainable Groundwater Management: Explaining How Our Metrics and Modeling Approaches Support Our Decision-Making	1 Technical
The Holy Grail – In Search of ASR Well Development Optimization	1 Technical
Things You Didn't Know You could do with a Variable Frequency Drive	1 Technical
Water Well Cleaning and Maintenance – Maintaining Quantity and Quality	1 Technical
Water Well Inspections for Real Estate Transactions in Your State	1 Technical
Well Cleaning Chemicals: Selection, Application, and the Treatment Process	1 Technical

The following courses were not approved by the Board:

**A motion to not recommend “EcoVoices Immediately: Community Service and Outreach with Theatrical Energy!” was made by G. Poppe, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “Federal Business Income Taxation Update” was made by G. Craig, seconded by J. Hoffman, and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “Five Ways to Build a Workplace Employees Love” was made by G. Craig seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “Groundwater Guardians: Spreading the Word to Protect the Resource” was made by C. Graff, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “Groundwater is Captivating: Engaging Grades 3 – 12!” was made by G. Craig, seconded by G. Poppe, and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “How COVID-19 Affected Our Business Operations: Lessons Learned” was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “Managing Remote Employees” was made by S. Domber, seconded by G. Poppe, and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “Marketing Your Business for the Future” was made by J. Yost, seconded by S. Domber, and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “New Recovery Wellfield Due-Diligence and Design in Southern Arizona” was made by S. Domber, seconded by G. Poppe, and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “Showcasing Your Business Online” was made by J. Yost, G. Poppe, and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to not recommend “State and Local Tax – Updates, Pitfalls, and Opportunities” was made by R. Dalton, seconded by C. Graff, and approved unanimously.**

G. Craig left the meeting at 11:04 am, a quorum was still present as the Board voted on the courses.

## **7. Enforcement Update-**

J. Altieri provided the Board with an update on the Well Permitting Section’s enforcement activities between September 24, 2020 and November 19, 2020.

**New Investigation** – Improper well decommissioning – Lebanon Twp., Hunterdon County

**Issue:** Homeowner improperly filled in (not tremie-grouted) a cased well while constructing new home and did so without a license. Homeowner alerted Department after County requested a completed decommissioning report for the old well, which is now within the footprint of his home.

**Enforcement Action:** After investigation, the property owner claims the original well driller of new replacement well never came back to decommission old well, so he filled the well in with cement on his own. Homeowner was advised to try and access the well if possible, to have licensed well driller drill out any material to depth and redo grouting for proper decommissioning. Department staff to follow up.

**New Investigation** – Unpermitted/unlicensed mon. well construction – Freehold Boro, Monmouth Co. – Three wells total

**Issue:** LSRP requested completed well records for three monitoring wells from Department after original well driller refused to submit records for well permits, he obtained but was not on-site when the wells were constructed. LSRP confirmed that an unlicensed well driller constructed the wells without licensed well driller supervision for three out of seven permits obtained.

**Enforcement Action:** Bureau staff ordered three wells to be properly decommissioned by a licensed well driller with alternate decommissioning method (drill out) under Bureau supervision. Remaining four permits need to be cancelled by original well driller since they are no longer valid (expired).

**Ongoing Investigations** – Improper well construction-Gloucester County

**Issue:** One instance of improper well construction of a domestic replacement well whereas the licensed Journeyman well driller did not construct a well with enough grouted length of casing to case off a potential source of contamination. The well to be constructed was short of the minimum distance to a septic system so the approved permit was issued with a condition to install additional casing and grout as usual permitting procedures.

**Update:** The driller claims there was an error in identification of septic distances to well after closer inspection. Driller needs to submit additional documentation to verify error before issue of Non-compliance is resolved. Still pending resolution.

#### **8. Rule Status Update-**

J. Mattle informed the Board that the well rule (N.J.A.C. 7:9D) is on two separate paths in the proposal/adoption process. The first path, which the Board has been updated on over the last several months, is currently in the public comment period for revisions to continuing education and other administrative clarifications. Due to the timing of the rule update, the well rule, as it is currently written, is going to sunset on January 31, 2021. As a result, the alternate path that the well rule is going to take is to readopt the current rule without any changes because the rule would expire if not extended since the sunset date is before the proposed rule update could be adopted and operable. J. Mattle explained that the changes that are proposed and are undergoing public comments are still following the prescribed timeframe and members should not be alarmed if they see a notice that says the Department is proposing to readopt the rule without change.

#### **9. Geothermal Projects Update-**

##### Direct Exchange (DX)

S. Reya informed the Board that there has been some movement recently with the proposed DX well installation and grout demo. He said that he was recently contacted by a contractor and a well driller who were looking for some information on the necessary remaining steps for the installation and for potential state-wide approval of the technology. S. Reya said that he would follow up with the Board volunteers who expressed interest in attending if and when he receives any additional information.

##### Princeton

S. Reya noted that 184 wells have been completed for the Princeton geothermal well field. The Department has received reports of a few wells which were damaged when new wells were being constructed. Some newly constructed wells had intercepted previously constructed wells. S. Reya continues to work with the drilling contractors to properly decommission or replace these wells, however, the destruction of numerous wells during the drilling of adjacent bores has caused concern.

A. Becker asked how far apart the wells are on the site. S. Reya said that he believed that the wells were about 20 to 25 feet apart. S. Reya noted that the original test well which was installed had also drifted over 100 feet from vertical at the bottom of the hole though that well was significantly deeper than the current wells being drilled (850 ft.). S. Reya said that from a regulatory standpoint, things are going very well. There are currently six drill rigs on the site and having the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association inspectors on site overseeing and reporting the drilling and grouting activities has been extremely beneficial in ensuring compliance.

##### Woodbury Geothermal Site Recommissioning

S. Reya informed the Board that approximately 60 wells have been successfully overdrilled and have had conforming wells installed. There are still some remaining wells that cannot be located or accessed due to site constraints. The contractor performing the re-commissioning also believes that some of the wells on the site plan were never installed. They are continuing to perform excavation and site work and will document their findings and submit them to the Department for review.

**10. Adjournment-**

**At 11:28 am, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by C. Graff, seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.**