



## 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 December 17, 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), Gordon Craig, Carol Graff, Jeff Hoffman, Richard Dalton and Steve Domber

**Board Members Absent:** Gary Poppe, Joe Yost, and 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 10:05 am.

**Note:** Following this meeting it was determined that although five (5) Board members were in attendance, no quorum was obtained as three (3) licensees are necessary per the quorum requirements prescribed by N.J.A.C. 7:9D-1.10(d). Only two (2) were present. The following represents the events of the meeting, however, any items on which the Board sought to pass a motion will be addressed at the January 21, 2021 meeting.

#### **2. Review and Certification of the November 19, 2020 Conference Call Minutes-**

**A motion to accept the November 19, 2020 minutes was made by G. Craig, seconded by S. Domber, and approved unanimously.**

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

S. Reya noted that Allied Well Drilling submitted five Vertical Closed Loop Geothermal well driller license applications shortly before the November 19, 2020 meeting. These applications were sent

back due to being administratively incomplete. S. Reya indicated the Bureau was working with Allied staff on the necessary revisions to the applications, however, the Department had not received the corrected applications at the time of the Board meeting. No action from the Board was necessary as these applications have not yet been deemed administratively complete by the Bureau.

A. Becker asked if Allied Well Drilling was one of the companies involved with the Princeton geothermal project. S. Reya said that Allied is one of the companies conducting work at Princeton. He added that Allied has several drill rigs on site and have hired New Jersey licensed well drillers of the proper class to oversee the operations of each drill rig.

A. Becker asked if any further discussion was needed for the two license applications. No further discussion was needed.

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

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Matthew Daniel	Boring Brothers Inc.
Pump Installer	Edward W. Del Carlo Jr.	D&L Pump Company

**4. Letter for Continuing Education Point (CEP) Deadline Extension-**

Mr. Michael Davidson, a former Journeyman well driller, had submitted a request that the Board consider a temporary reinstatement of his license so that he could obtain CEPs which he had failed to obtain prior to the March 31, 2020 deadline. S. Reya said that the Department had originally obtained the request in September, shortly after invoices were erroneously sent to ineligible individuals. He reminded the Board that the Department had sent letters to all individuals saying that the bills were sent in error and to disregard.

S. Reya noted that after receiving the original letter from Mr. Davidson's daughter, M. Ortega had flagged the letter because they had stated that Mr. Davidson had intended on attending a course in April, which was after the March 31, 2020 deadline. M. Ortega had received a revised letter stating that Mr. Davidson had intended to attend a Rutgers class in March 2020, prior to the deadline, but could not make it due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a stay-at-home order in his town. M. Ortega had reached out to Mr. Davidson to try to confirm if he had registered for the course prior to it being rescheduled, but Mr. Davidson did not have any documentation. M. Ortega reached out to the Department's contact at Rutgers to see if Mr. Davidson had registered for the class before it was rescheduled, but Rutgers did not have his name on the registration list.

A. Becker said that his case is very similar to one from the November 19, 2020 meeting and that Mr. Davidson did not meet the requirement, thus an extension could not be granted. A. Becker asked the other Board members for their opinion and they all agreed. A. Becker asked the Department to send a letter to Mr. Davidson of the Board's decision.

**5. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)-**

As noted during previous meetings, the Department's Science Advisory Board (SAB) has been tasked with evaluating HDD technology and providing a report of their findings to the Department. On December 14, 2020 engineers and contractors with direct experience designing and conducting HDDs and other trenchless technology presented background information and case studies to the SAB and

Department staff. J. Hoffman, R. Dalton, T. Pilawski, J. Mattle and S. Reya all attended the video presentations. S. Reya explained that the SAB is comprised of academics, scientists and industry professionals.

T. Pilawski suggested that the licensed members of the Well Board be asked to be subject matter experts for the SAB. It was her belief that the Board's position that HDD be regulated due to the potential to impact groundwater resources was one of the driving factors behind their meetings and asked if any members would be willing to speak with SAB representatives. A. Becker said that he could provide some comments, but he is not an expert with HDD technology. J. Hoffman, R. Dalton and S. Reya clarified that any member of the Board who is a licensed well driller would be providing guidance based on their knowledge of wells which they drill and general drilling/grouting practices. G. Craig said that he would join A. Becker as an adviser if needed. A. Becker stressed the importance of evaluating HDDs and said that he felt that the Board and Department will be working on this for many years to come and that the amount of large-scale HDD projects has been increasing recently.

## **6. Geothermal Update-**

### *Princeton*

A. Becker asked for a status update for the Princeton geothermal project. S. Reya said that there is not a significant update from the November 19, 2020 meeting. He said that the Bureau continues to receive weekly reports that both drilling contractors occasionally drill into previously constructed geothermal loops, which then need to be properly decommissioned and replaced. A. Becker asked if any of the companies have considered using new tools to avert the issue of boreholes intersecting downhole. G. Craig said that the drilling contractors are having issues with snapping drill rods downhole. A general discussion of drill rods, drill bits and distance between the wells ensued.

R. Dalton asked how they know when a previously constructed well had been intercepted by a new borehole. It was noted that drill mud "return" from within the geothermal piping of an adjacent geothermal loop is often the first indicator that the loop has been damaged and pressure testing of the geothermal loops would show if the integrity was compromised. R. Dalton said that the contractors could also encounter drill fluid migration problems due to the fractures in the bedrock.

## **7. Adjournment-**

A. Becker wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and thanked everyone for their work for 2020.

At 10:33 am a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Craig, seconded by S. Domber, and approved unanimously.