



State of New Jersey

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Conference Call Minutes for February 11, 2021

Approved by the Board on March 25, 2021

Board Members Present at NJDEP Headquarters Building: N/A

Board Members Participating Via Telephone: Art Becker (Chairman), Joe Yost, Gordon Craig, David Lyman, Eric Hoffmann, Jeff Hoffman, Richard Dalton, and Steve Domber

Board Members Absent: Gary Poppe

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: Terry Pilawski, Joe Mattle, Steve Reya and Mark Ortega

Members of the Public: N/A

1. Call to Order-

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am with a quorum present via telephone.

2. Board Member Appointments and Welcome to New Members-

A. Becker requested confirmation from Department staff that the Board members no longer serve staggered terms. S. Reya noted that the recent order from the Commissioner appointed all nine members to three-year terms, which begin and end at the same time. Due to the need to renew all Board members and the reappointment process it was not practical to appoint members to staggered terms. A. Becker thanked outgoing members Joe Pepe and Carol Graff for their service on the Board and read thank you letters he wrote to both members for their service. They were not able to be present for the meeting, but the letters will be mailed to them as well. A. Becker then welcomed new members Eric Hoffmann and David Lyman to the Board.

3. Review and Certification of the January 21, 2021 Conference Call Minutes-
A motion to approve the draft minutes as prepared was made by S. Domber, seconded by J. Hoffman, and approved by everyone except for J. Yost who abstained as he was not present for the January meeting.

4. Licensing-

The Board members reviewed the information for the one pump installer license applicant. A. Becker asked if there was any discussion needed for the license candidate. No further discussion was needed for the applicant, whose information is summarized in the table below.

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
Pump Installer	Daniel Mancini	D'Agostino Well & Water Services

A

motion to approve Daniel Mancini for a New Jersey pump installer license was made by J. Yost, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved unanimously.

5. Continuing Education-

All Star Training (All Star)

S. Reya recapped what was discussed during the January 2021 meeting and the Board's input on an All Star class that reportedly allowed students to complete the course in significantly less time than their application indicated the course would take and the expected duration for which equivalent continuing education points (CEPs) were awarded by the Board and Department. J. Pepe previously brought this issue to the Board's attention and the Board had made a motion for the Department to contact All Star to turn on their course timer that was referenced in their application material as being something they could do, if desired by the Board.

S. Reya noted that he contacted All Star via email to follow up on the Board's motion and had inquired what protections were in place to ensure that licensees who were taking the course were taking it for the full seven-hour period. The representative from All Star said that there was a glitch with the course which had resulted in the timer being disabled for users.

All Star granted an access code to the Department log in and take the course, with the activated timer. S. Reya said he took the course and reported that there was a 50-minute timer for each module. He noted that a user could easily read the information in a shorter amount of time and just wait for the timer to expire to move on to the next module and that there was a large disparity in the number of pages in each section. The timer prevents moving on to the next module but there are large periods of inactivity waiting for the timer to elapse, said S. Reya.

It was further noted that Department representatives discussed this situation with DAG J. Denyes and A. Becker on February 10, 2021. The well rule does not have any language that explicitly states that a course can be revoked and discussed the Board motion that one CEP is equal to one hour of training, though the Board and Department have discussed potential recourse that can be taken for this previously approved course and/or the provider. Following some discussion, Board members recommended giving the course provider an opportunity to address the situation by submitting additional information for review.

J. Yost asked if there was a test/quiz at the end of each section. S. Reya said that there was a short quiz at the end of each module. He continued by stating that each module is between nine and 20 pages, but you have the same amount of time to complete each module. J. Yost asked how the

International School of Well Drilling (ISWD) courses are formatted compared to the All Star course since those are also offered online. S. Reya noted that ISWD had submitted timed outlines and have recorded sessions though the Department has not actually taken any of the modules. J. Hoffman recommended that All Star convert their modules to an audio format to accurately time each module.

A. Becker discussed the course approval and renewal process with D. Lyman and E. Hoffmann. After providing the new Board members with a recap on the process to approve and renew courses, A. Becker made it clear that the Board needs to express their concerns about this course now. If the course provider fails to take action, then it would jeopardize their chances of renewal for the 2023 – 2026 cycle. Having a course approved for a number of CEPs inconsistent with the course duration also would set an unacceptable precedent moving forward so members all agreed this apparent deficiency needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

J. Yost made a motion to have the Department contact All Star to submit a revised course application to either adjust the number of CEPs to be awarded or the format of the course. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved by all Board members except for R. Dalton, who abstained.

Rutgers University

M. Ortega informed the Board that Rutgers is changing the format of their Effective Environmental Field Sampling and Data Collection course. The course was approved in 2020 and renewed as an in-person course. This course will be converted to a self-paced online course which could be taken over the course of a week. M. Ortega stated that he is bringing it to the Board's attention due the change in format and the Board's recent interest in time tracking for self-paced courses. After further discussion on the specific of Rutgers University's proposed format, the Board and Department determined that the methods that Rutgers uses to track time for their users was sufficient.

6. Program Updates-

Well Rule and Well Permitting

T. Pilawski indicated that the rule is inching closer to being adopted. The Well Permitting Section recently hired one new hourly employee, Jillian Walker. She also said Well Permitting has been approved to hire one more hourly employee and one permanent employee, which they intend to do shortly. T. Pilawski discussed the challenges with training new employees virtually.

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)

S. Reya said that A. Becker and G. Craig will be meeting with the Science Advisory Board about HDD on February 18th. S. Reya, R. Dalton, J. Hoffman, and Water Enforcement and Compliance recently attended an HDD demonstration in Chesterfield. T. Pilawski said that Well Permitting met with Department management about HDD and had received support for amending the well rule to include standards for this type of drilling; there will be further discussions about potential statutory changes.

A. Becker brought D. Lyman and E. Hoffmann up to speed about the rule adoption. E. Hoffmann asked if HDD is part of the proposed amendments, but A. Becker said that HDD is not part of the amendments. It was noted that many of the changes that are pending in the upcoming rule amendments are administrative and related to licensing and continuing education matters.

7. Geothermal Projects Update-

Princeton

S. Reya reported that things are going well at the Princeton site from a compliance perspective. He noted that the companies are not breaking drill rods as often anymore. Princeton is also seeking to install temperature observation wells around the perimeter of the wellfield, which was suggested by Department staff as it will allow the University to monitor any offsite thermal impacts that could potentially adversely affect nearby Lake Carnegie or any other surface water bodies.

Woodbury

S. Reya said that the contractor was able to successfully recommission all accessible wells. S. Reya provided background on the site's history to D. Lyman and E. Hoffmann. He noted that there are still two wells that are inaccessible and believed to be under a generator. The Department is waiting for the property owner to submit a plan to address these inaccessible wells; the deadline for the report is on March 1st.

8. Adjournment-

A. Becker reminded the Board members that the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 25 at 9:30 am.

At 10:37 am, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by J. Hoffman, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.