



## 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 January 19, 2023**

*Approved by the Board on February 16, 2023*

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

**Board Members Participating Via Telephone/Microsoft Teams:** Gary Poppe (Vice-Chairman), Joe Yost, Gordon Craig, Dave Lyman, Eric Hoffmann, Richard Dalton, and Steve Domber

**Board Members Absent:** Art Becker and Jeff Hoffman

**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, Michael Schumacher, Mark Ortega, and Steve Vargo

**Members of the Public:** None

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Vice Chairman G. Poppe 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 Department's website.

#### **2. Review and Certification of the December 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes-**

**A motion to approve the draft minutes from December 15, 2022 as written was made by S. Domber, seconded by R. Dalton, and approved unanimously.**

**3. Review and Certification of License Applications-**

G. Poppe introduced the topic by saying that the Department had reviewed two applications for the Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well driller license. The Department had determined that these license applicants had met all of the requirements. No discussion was needed.

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Devan Albert	TPI Environmental
ERG	Shayne J. Martin	Cascade Remediation Services

**A motion to approve two license applicants for licensure was made by D. Lyman, seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.**

**4. Review of Continuing Education Course Applications-**

S. Reya introduced the two courses which the Board needed to review. The first was from the Maryland Delaware Water Well Association (MDWWA) and the second was from a Journeyman well driller, Mr. John Lamprecht, who was applying as an individual for a course he took in 2021. MDWWA’s course was for their upcoming 2023 Convention, which will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Maryland Delaware Water Well Association (MDWWA) 2023 Convention*

G. Craig asked to go over the full list of courses for discussion before voting. He noted that there were a few which he thought might not be acceptable due to their content. R. Dalton suggested eliminating three courses from the list: Legislative Update, Legislative and Legal Updates Effecting the Water Well Industry, and Maryland Geological Survey: Resources, Recent Studies, and Ongoing Work. M. Ortega discussed the Board’s vote for the MDWWA 2022 Convention. He explained that the Board voted in favor of accepting the Legislative and Legal Updates Effecting the Water Well Industry in 2022 after determining that the course was for the industry. G. Craig proposed accepting Legislative and Legal Updates Effecting the Water Well Industry, but not accepting Legislative Update and Maryland Geological Survey: Resources, Recent Studies, and Ongoing Work.

R. Dalton asked if the DOT Update course was specific to Maryland/Delaware regulations. M. Ortega said that the agenda appears to be general information and federal requirements.

**A motion to accept all of the proposed MDWWA courses except for Legislative Update and Maryland Geological Survey: Resources, Recent Studies, and Ongoing Work courses was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by S. Domber and approved unanimously.**

Course Name	CEPs
VFD’s – A Contractor’s Guide	1 Technical
The Value of the Institutional Market	1 Technical
Simple Muds Solve Problems	1 Technical
Legislative and Legal Updates Effecting the Water Well Industry	1 Technical
PFAS in Water Treatment	1 Technical
Lead in Water Treatment	1 Technical
Three Phase Pumps – What’s Different/What’s the Same	1 Technical
DOT Update	1 Safety

*The Essential Steps for Taking the Mystery Out of the Subsurface*

S. Reya introduced the course, The Essential Steps for Taking the Mystery Out of the Subsurface. He informed the Board that a licensed Journeyman well driller submitted the application for this course that he took in 2021. The course was broken down into three units and each unit was two hours in duration. The applicant requested six CEPs for this course. No further discussion was needed.

**A motion to approve *The Essential Steps for Taking the Mystery Out of the Subsurface* for six technical CEPs was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved by all.**

**5. Review of Currently Approved Courses for Renewal for the 2023-2026 CEP Cycle-**

M. Ortega presented a list of 30 courses for renewal from the current continuing education cycle to the 2023-2026 continuing education cycle. M. Ortega explained that he had started to contact course providers to ensure that the course offerings would be available beginning April 1, 2023. M. Ortega added that all the listed courses have previously been approved by the Board over the last two continuing education cycles. He also noted that the Department has not received any complaints about any of the listed courses. S. Domber asked if the course content was the same for all 30 courses. M. Ortega confirmed that the course content, course instructors, and course duration are the same.

**A motion to approve the 30 courses for renewal for the 2023-2026 continuing education cycle was made by G. Craig. The motion was seconded by S. Domber and approved unanimously.**

M. Ortega thanked the Board and told them that as more course providers get back to him, he'll make additional lists for the Board to review at upcoming Board meetings.

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Provider</b>	<b>CEPs</b>
Common Causes of Well Failure	All Star Training	2.5 Technical
Locating Water Wells and Hydrogeology	All Star Training	2 Technical
Updated NJ 7 Hr. Water Well Course	All Star Training	7 Technical
Aquifer Storage Recovery	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Basic Geology	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Drilling Methods Part 1	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Drilling Methods Part 2	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Drilling Methods Part 3	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Drilling Safety	International School of Well Drilling	1 Safety
Generic Well Abandonment in the U.S.A.	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Geothermal Heating and Cooling I	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Geothermal Heating and Cooling II	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Groundwater Basics	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Injection Wells	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Introduction to Pumps	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Pumps II	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Well Development	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Well Rehabilitation I	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical
Well Rehabilitation II	International School of Well Drilling	1 Technical

Groundwater in Fractured Bedrock	Rutgers NJAES	6 Technical
Practical Applications in Hydrogeology	Rutgers NJAES	17 Technical
Effective Environmental Field Sampling and Data Collection	Rutgers NJAES	3.5 Technical
Geology, Hydrogeology, and Chemistry	Rutgers NJAES	6 Technical
Mud Rotary Class	Drill Tech Group LLC	8 Technical
Monitoring Well Construction	Drill Tech Group LLC	8 Technical
OSHA HAZWOPER 8-Hour Refresher	Varies	8 Safety
OSHA 24 Hour HAZWOPER	Varies	11 Safety
OSHA 40 Hour HAZWOPER	Varies	11 Safety
OSHA 10 Hour Construction	Varies	10 Safety
OSHA 30 Hour Construction	Varies	11 Safety

**6. Continuing Education Status of License Holders/Reminder Letter-**

M. Ortega provided the Board with a brief update regarding the continuing education completion status for well drillers and pump installers. He reminded the Board that the Department had estimated that approximately 75 percent of license holders would meet the CEP requirements for this cycle. Currently, M Ortega added, approximately 76 percent of all well drillers and pump installers have started earning points.

M. Ortega said that of the 76 percent of licensees who have already started earning CEPs, 53 percent of them have already met the requirements. In total, 40 percent of all license holders have already met the CEP requirements for this cycle. M. Ortega speculated that there would not be many more new licensees who start earning CEPs at this point in time. He informed the Board that he has been tracking completion numbers since January 2022 in order to better advise the Board during future licensing cycles. He added that he will provided the Board with an update after the cycle ends.

M. Ortega discussed the new reminder letter that the Department would be sending to all licensees. This letter, which will serve as the Department’s final reminder for licensees to meet the continuing education requirements, will be mailed out shortly after the Board meeting. G. Poppe thanked M. Ortega for the update.

**7. Enforcement and Recent Field Work Update-**

S. Vargo informed the Board that the Department recently sent out 15 Notices of Non-Compliance (NONC). These NONCs, which were sent out to individuals and companies, were for perceived violations of the Well Construction and Maintenance; Sealing of Abandoned Wells rule, N.J.A.C. 7:9D.

S. Vargo briefed the Board on the most egregious perceived violation in the batch. He said that the Department received reports where a company used a licensed pump installer to diagnose pump issues, but then used unlicensed workers to do perform the work without the supervision of a licensed pump installer. Additionally, S. Vargo reported that there were six instances of licensed well drillers sealing wells without prior approval and one instance of a well driller sealing a well in a consolidated formation with bentonite grout.

S. Reya discussed the Department's on-going enforcement cases with the Board. He noted that three referrals were sent out recently. S. Reya discussed the Department's enforcement process. He explained that the first step of the enforcement process is the NONC. NONCs which are not rescinded are brought to Compliance and Enforcement in the form of an enforcement referral.

S. Reya discussed the Department's recent field activities with the Board. Recently, S. Reya has been on site for a few days for the installation of a Direct Exchange (DX) geothermal well system. This system was installed in violation of N.J.A.C. 7:9D, which caused multiple days in the field. Additionally, M. Schumacher was out to observe wells be decommissioned and constructed in relation to the blueberry farm inspections which the Department conducted.

T. Pilawski briefly discussed some potential farm inspections for this summer. She also mentioned that some Department staff will be attending the New Jersey Agricultural Convention and Trade Show in Atlantic City in early February. T. Pilawski added that she asked Compliance and Enforcement to take the lead on future inspections of farms to allow Well Permitting staff to be there for support.

## **8. Program Updates-**

### Type 1L Cement

R. Dalton said that J. Hoffman received a proposal from the Department's Division of Science and Research (Science and Research). This is in reference to the Board's request for the Department to obtain permeability data for Type 1L cement, which will replace Type 1 cement in the near future. R. Dalton added that the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) submitted a proposal to complete some grout tests. He advised the other Board members that the work cannot start until the summer and will take six months to complete. R. Dalton said that he is concerned about the proposed timing. He also mentioned that the proposal does not use ASTM D5084, but seems pretty thorough.

G. Craig said that he will reach out to cement companies to try to figure out a date when Type 1L will be sold in New Jersey. S. Reya thanked G. Craig for looking into that. S. Reya and R. Dalton will look over NJIT's proposal and will likely ask other Board members to review the scope of work. The Board's main concern is the ratio of cement to water because limestone absorbs a lot of water.

G. Craig, D. Lyman, and E. Hoffmann volunteered to lend the Department with assistance. S. Reya said that he will reach out to people when he has more information.

### Jacobs Creed Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)

S. Reya discussed the details of the project. The pilot hole, which begins in Upper Makefield, Pennsylvania, would be drilled under the Delaware River and come out on the border of Ewing and Hopewell Townships. A 10" pilot hole will be drilled approximately 2500 linear feet, as deep as 85 feet below the base of the Delaware River. The pilot hole will be reamed to 20" and a 14" pipe will be installed.

S. Reya continued by stating that as of January 3, 2023, the contractor is currently in the reaming phase of the project. He informed the Board that there was a reported inadvertent return (IR). He added that while the IR was only two gallons of drilling fluid that reached the surface, the contractor contained it and followed all protocol in their response plan.

### Princeton Geothermal

S. Reya provided a brief update regarding the large geothermal site at Princeton University. He said that the university is in the process of redoing their circulating plant. They have proposed using

additives to their circulating fluids, which have been sent to the Science and Research for review. These additives are meant to be used as biological growth and corrosion inhibitors. S. Reya said that he is waiting for Science and Research to complete their review of the proposed additives and would brief the Board once they reach a conclusion.

Other Program Updates

T. Pilawski informed the Board that the Administrative Analyst 4 position, which is L. Stout's replacement in the Well Permitting Unit, was posted for qualified individuals to apply. She added that interviews will likely start in early-February. Additionally the Environmental Specialist 4 position, which is J. Altieri's replacement in the Technical Assistance and Licensing Unit, should be posted in the coming weeks. There is still an entry-level backfill needed for the Well Permitting Unit, which T. Pilawski expects to be posted with the Environmental Specialist 4 position.

T. Pilawski reminded the Board that J. Mattle will be retiring on May 1, 2023. She announced that she will be moving her retirement up from December 1, 2023 to July 1 2023. She said that she already sent something to her management to start the process of backfilling the two positions.

T. Pilawski mentioned that the letter which the Board sent to the Assistant Commissioner of Water Resources Management, Ms. Patricia Gardner. E. Hoffmann said that he's been having conversations with some well drillers and they have recommended using recently retired well drillers and pump installers to do inspections. T. Pilawski thanked E. Hoffmann for the recommendation and said that she would look into his suggestion.

**9. New Business-**

S. Reya asked M. Schumacher to speak on a recent development regarding the Regulatory Services Portal (RSP), otherwise known as the electronic permitting system. M Schumacher explained that he has received complaints regarding the RSP over the last several years, specifically regarding the performance and speed of the website. He informed the Board that the Department has started to move to new servers to boost the performance of the RSP.

E. Hoffmann asked if there was a possibility to have State Plane Coordinates verify the address automatically when a well permit was submitted. He explained that he had recently talked with some well drillers who expressed frustration with the RSP's functionality and the Department's review of well permits when it comes to geographic information systems (GIS) coordinates and property addresses. M. Schumacher explained that the only automated check that is completed with submitted GIS coordinates is to ensure that the provided coordinates are in the appropriate county. He explained that there is no real time state-wide coverage for GIS coordinates and parcel data. M. Schumacher explained that it would cause more errors if the State were to attempt that. E. Hoffmann thanked M. Schumacher for the explanation.

M. Schumacher briefly discussed the Department's transition to a new database management system. He explained that the Department is in the process of transitioning away from using the New Jersey Environmental Management System (NJEMS), to a new system called PEGA. NJEMS has been in use since 2007 and had a life expectancy of 10-years. He noted that the RSP will also likely be upgraded in the coming years.

**10. Adjournment-**

G. Poppe thanked everyone for their time. S. Reya informed the Board that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, February 16, 2023.

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