



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHAWN M. LATOURETTE  
*Commissioner*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY AND GEOSCIENCE  
NEW JERSEY GEOLOGICAL AND WATER SURVEY ELEMENT  
BUREAU OF WATER ALLOCATION AND WELL PERMITTING  
401 E. STATE STREET – P.O. BOX 420  
MAIL CODE 401-04Q  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0420  
TELEPHONE: (609) 984-6831  
FAX: (609) 633-1231  
[www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply)

### **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2023**

*Approved by the Board on August 17, 2023*

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

**Board Members Absent:** Joe Yost 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:** Jennifer Myers, Steve Reya, Mark Ortega, Steve Vargo, and Reena Dave

**Other NJDEP Staff Present:** Donald Hirsch, Northern Water Compliance and Enforcement

**Members of the Public:** Brian McGuire, MB Drilling; Dermot Dillon, Summit Drilling/New Jersey Ground Water Association, Mike Faria (9:37 am)

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am 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 Board's website. S. Reya introduced Ms. Reena Dave to the Board. S. Reya informed the Board that R. Dave recently joined the Well Permitting Section, as Ms. Lynn Stout's entry-level backfill in the Well Permitting Unit. A. Becker welcomed R. Dave and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **2. Review and Certification of the June 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes-**

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the June 15<sup>th</sup> draft minutes. A. Becker noted that a correction was needed on page 3, under the Program Updates Staffing topic. He said that the sentence which states, "...if she is retires..." should be modified to the correct tense.

**A motion to approve the draft minutes from June 15, 2023, with the suggested correction, was made by G. Poppe, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.**

**3. Licensing-**

*Review and Certification of License Applications*

A. Becker said that there are two license applications for review: one Pump Installer and one Journeyman (Class B) well driller. A. Becker noted that the Pump Installer applicant had an issue with his application and submitted a letter for review. He suggested that the Board take a vote on the Journeyman (Class B) applicant and then they could discuss the Pump Installer applicant.

**A motion to approve the Journeyman (Class B) applicant for licensure was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.**

A. Becker said that the Pump Installer applicant, Mr. Bruno Carchedi, was unable to provide five instances of work he performed in his application. He provided a letter with his application in which he explained that the company he used to work for is no longer in business. Since the company is out of business, he was unable to obtain addresses where work that he performed was conducted.

A. Becker asked the Department for specifics of Mr. Carchedi's employment history. S. Reya explained that Mr. Carchedi worked for T. Webber Plumbing and Heating between 2016 and 2019. S. Reya explained that while Mr. Carchedi currently works in New Jersey, he obtained his experience out-of-state, according to the application.

S. Reya explained that the Department made changes to the license applications back in October 2022. The biggest change was to create a separate license application for pump installers. Prior to creating a separate application, pump installer applicants were never required to submit proof of five jobs which they worked on. D. Lyman asked if the Board has ever approved an applicant without a paper trail since well permits are not required for pump work. S. Reya noted that applicants have been approved in the past if their references are good or if they provide tax information to validate where they worked.

The Board discussed Mr. Carchedi's experience and certifications. G. Craig explained that Mr. Carchedi met the requirements and should be approved for licensure.

**A motion to approve Mr. Bruno Carchedi for a pump installer license was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.**

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Employer</b>
Pump Installer	Bruno Carchedi	Russo Bros & Co Plumbing
Journeyman (Class B)	Donald Garrison	H.H. Garrison & Sons Inc.

*Discussion of NJ Licensed Well Drillers Residing Within New Jersey*

M. Ortega provided a brief update on the status of license renewals for all well drillers and pump installers. He noted that 652 well drillers and pump installers have renewed their licenses as of July 18, 2023. He added that there are still 19 open bills for eligible license who have not paid for their renewals. Some late renewal bills were sent out at the beginning of July and the rest will be sent out in the following days.

M. Ortega said that during the June meeting, A. Becker had asked him to report to the Board the number of New Jersey licensed well drillers who reside in New Jersey. M. Ortega said that out of the

652 New Jersey licensed well drillers and pump installers, 502 hold well drilling licenses. Of the 502 individuals who hold well drilling licenses, 386 reside in New Jersey, 62 reside in Pennsylvania, and 17 reside in New York.

M. Ortega explained that there were 171 well drillers who recently saw their licenses expire. M. Ortega investigated the number of the well drillers with recently expired licenses to see how many of them were active during the 2020-2023 licensing cycle. He reported that 69 of these individuals resided in New Jersey, but only 24 had submitted a well record or well decommissioning report during the 2020-2023 licensing cycle. Additionally, 18 resided in Pennsylvania, but only four were active during the 2020-2023 licensing cycle. 10 resided in New York, but only two were active during the 2020-2023 licensing cycle. A. Becker thanked M. Ortega for the information.

A. Becker expressed his concerns about the lack of labor in the industry. He noted that the 386 drillers in New Jersey is even less when you consider that not all of them are actively drilling. A. Becker and G. Poppe noted that it is very difficult to hire individuals who are currently New Jersey licensed well drillers.

M. Ortega discussed the Board's history of denying courses geared towards hiring and empowering the future generations. He recommended that the Board start to consider these courses if they feel like the industry is being heavily impacted by not being able to maintain and grow their staff. The Board discussed other factors, which included municipal water systems serving large portions of the state and local ordinances which restrict the use of irrigation wells. A. Becker added that it is not just New Jersey that is experiencing these issues.

#### **4. Mike Faria Follow Up to Waiver Request-**

A. Becker provided some background information on the topic. He reminded the Board that Mr. Mike Faria had requested a waiver from the continuing education requirements during the June 2023 meeting. The Board reviewed Mr. Faria's letter and ultimately denied his request. Mr. Faria requested to speak to the Board regarding the denial of his request. A. Becker welcomed Mr. Faria to the meeting and opened the discussion.

Mr. Faria thanked the Board for allowing him time to speak. Mr. Faria said that he is looking for relief from the continuing education requirements due to some medical issues that he experienced. He noted that he returned to work in February 2023. He also said that he can earn all his points before the year is over but is looking for relief from paying the \$500 late continuing education point (CEP) fee.

Mr. Faria said that he has been out of the environmental drilling industry since 2016. He explained that being out of the industry has kept him out of the loop. Due to his medical issues, he is still suffering financially, and would not be able to pay the \$500 CEP late fee, he added.

A. Becker said that the Board sympathizes with him but explained that the Board has a limited purview. A. Becker and the Board agreed that Mr. Faria still had time to earn all his points before his license becomes invalid on December 31, 2023. The Board also explained that many well drillers and pump installers earned all their points between February and March, right before the deadline ended. A. Becker noted that the Board does not have the authority to waive the CEP late fee.

Mr. Faria asked what the Board can provide for medical relief. He explained that he lost a lot of time due to his medical issues. A. Becker explained that there were several licensees who started and met the requirements during the last week of the cycle. Mr. Faria explained that this is subjective and that his circumstances are different than others.

E. Hoffmann suggested that Mr. Faria reach out to some drilling companies to see if they would be willing to cover the fees and training needed for his license. E. Hoffmann referenced M. Ortega's discussion earlier and cited a need for licensed individuals who reside in the state. Mr. Faria stated that he is currently employed and works in the foundation drilling industry. A. Becker suggested to Mr. Faria that he earns his CEPs, and the Board would discuss again at a later date, if needed. The Board thanked Mr. Faria for joining the call.

After Mr. Faria departed the call, there was a brief discussion about whether the Board needed to enter an executive session to discuss further. The Board decided that it was not necessary to enter executive session.

D. Lyman asked about the criteria for a medical exemption. S. Reya explained the language in the Well Construction and Maintenance; Sealing of Abandoned Wells rule, N.J.A.C. 7:9D. He added that there is no provision for the Department or the Board to waive the \$500 late CEP fee. The only allowance to licensees is additional time to meet the requirements, in conjunction with the late fees.

A. Becker asked if anyone changed their stance after hearing Mr. Faria speak. G. Poppe said that his opinion did not change. E. Hoffmann brought up how continuing education is especially important for Mr. Faria because he is no longer in the industry.

A. Becker asked DAG J. Denyes if a new motion was needed. J. Denyes said that if the Board has not changed their decision, then a new motion is not needed. A. Becker asked S. Reya to draft a letter to Mr. Faria regarding the Board's decision on behalf of the Board. J. Myers asked if there was any way a late fee could be waived. J. Denyes said that she is unsure of any mechanism that allows for that if it is not included in the rule.

## **5. Review of Continuing Education Courses-**

A. Becker said that the Department determined that the course application submitted by the South Atlantic Well Drillers for the 2023 South Atlantic Jubilee was administratively complete. A. Becker asked if any discussion was needed for the courses within the seminar. R. Dalton said that he had questions on about 75 percent of the course offerings. A. Becker said that there were about six courses that he felt additional discussion was needed.

The Board discussed each class individually and made motions on each course. Below is a list of their motions.

**A motion to approve, Drilling Basics- The Breakdowns you Want to Know, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to approve, Protecting Your Fleet- An In-Depth Presentation of the Importance of Compliance in the Commercial Vehicle Industry, for two safety CEPs was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.**

**A motion to approve, Diversifying Your Business into Industrial Drilling Driven by Government Funds Geothermal/Cathodic, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved by all except for R. Dalton who was opposed.**

A motion to approve, Optimize Irrigation Jobs: Tips and Expert Insights for Selecting the Best Pumping Solution for the Application, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.

A motion to approved, Geothermal Roundtable on Entering the Industry and Tax Incentives lasting until 2031, for one technical CEP was made by D. Lyman. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, Pump Install Review, for one technical CEP was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by E. Hoffmann and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, Damage Prevention and Pipeline Safety, for one safety CEP was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, Equipment Finance: An Essential Part of Your Next Investment and What You Need to Know About It, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and was approved by all except for R. Dalton, S. Domber, and E. Hoffmann.

A motion to approve, Get Ready for What's Next: Trends in Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) for Water Systems, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, Well Rehabilitation Made Easy with a TDS/TEMP/CAMERA, for one technical CEP was made by D. Lyman. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

A motion to deny, HR Basics for Small to Medium Size Companies, was made by S. Domber. This motion was seconded by E. Hoffmann and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, Cement: What we Don't Know About the New Type 1L, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, Troubleshooting Hammers, for one technical CEP was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.

A motion to deny, Maximize Your Online Presence: Leveraging Ratings, Comments, and Social Media for Business Success, was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, VFD's: Did You Know, for one technical CEP was made by D. Lyman. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, Well Fouling Indicators: Observations and Case Studies from the Lab, for one technical CEP was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.

A motion to deny, World of Wells Chapter 4, was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by S. Domber and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, **Solar Pumping Technology and Applications**, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, **Arsenic Treatment - Understanding Arsenic Treatment for Private Wells**, for one technical CEP was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.

A motion to deny, **State of the US Water Well Industry/Water Well Trust Update**, was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by R. Dalton and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, **Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants and What to Know**, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, **Evaluating Filter Pack Options and Impacts on Well Longevity**, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by S. Domber and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve, **Contract Basics for the Water Well Industry**, for one technical CEP was made by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved by all except for S. Domber and E. Hoffmann.

A motion to deny, **2023 Who Wants to be a Millionaire Driller**, was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by R. Dalton and approved unanimously.

Below is a list of approved courses for the 2023 South Atlantic Jubilee:

Course Name	CEPs
Drilling Basics - The Breakdowns you WANT to Know	1 Technical
Protecting Your Fleet - An In-Depth Presentation of the Importance of Compliance in the Commercial Vehicle Industry	2 Safety
Diversifying Your Business into Industrial Drilling Driven by Government Funds Geothermal/Cathodic	1 Technical
Optimize Irrigation Jobs: Tips and Expert Insights for Selecting the Best Pumping Solution for the Application	1 Technical
Geothermal Roundtable on Entering the Industry and Tax Incentives lasting until 2031	1 Technical
Pump Install Review	1 Technical
Damage Prevention and Pipeline Safety	1 Safety
Equipment Finance: An Essential Part of Your Next Investment and What You Need to Know About It	1 Technical
Get Ready for What's Next: Trends in Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) for Water Systems	1 Technical
Well Rehabilitation Made Easy with a TDS/TEMP/CAMERA	1 Technical
Cement: What we Don't Know About the New Type 1L	1 Technical
Troubleshooting Hammers	1 Technical
VFD's: Did You Know?	1 Technical
Well Fouling Indicators: Observations and Case Studies from the Lab	1 Technical

Solar Pumping Technology and Applications	1 Technical
Arsenic Treatment - Understanding Arsenic Treatment for Private Wells	1 Technical
Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants and What to Know	1 Technical
Evaluating Filter Pack Options and Impacts on Well Longevity	1 Technical
Contract Basics for the Water Well Industry	1 Technical

Below is a list of courses which were not recommended for approval for the 2023 South Atlantic Jubilee:

Course Name
HR Basics for Small to Medium Size Companies
Maximize Your Online Presence: Leveraging Ratings, Comments, and Social Media for Business Success
World of Wells Chapter 4
State of the US Water Well Industry/Water Well Trust Update
2023 Who Wants to be a Millionaire Driller

**6. Complaint Referral from the Ocean County Department of Consumer Affairs-**

A. Becker introduced the topic by reading a complaint sent to the Board by the Ocean County Department of Consumer Affairs. After reading the letter, he expressed to the Board that he does not think that they can take any action because the issues are business-related. D. Lyman agreed with A. Becker’s assessment of the complaint.

R. Dalton brought up that the complaint mentioned that there was debris in the water. He suggested that the well was screened improperly. A. Becker said that there is not enough information to determine if there was improper well construction. There was additional conversation about the iron staining discussed in the complaint, but the Board members pointed out that a well driller cannot guarantee the water quality.

R. Dalton asked if the company listed in the complaint has had issues in the past. G. Poppe said that the company has had issues, but this appears to be unrelated since it’s business-related.

A. Becker noted that the situation is unfortunate. He summarized by noting that the water quality is not the fault of the well driller and that there are no regulatory issues described in the letter. Therefore, A. Becker added, the complaint is outside of the purview of the Board. A. Becker asked how the Department has responded to these complaints in the past. S. Reya said that the Department has a template letter that they can use to send to the Ocean County Department of Community Affairs.

**7. Enforcement Update/List of Frequent Violators/Unresolved Issues – Requested by the Board During the May Meeting-**

S. Reya expressed to the Board that the Department has taken their concerns regarding enforcement very seriously. During the May meeting, the Board had requested a Notice of Non-Compliance (NONC) list from the Department. S. Reya explained that M. Ortega created a spreadsheet which shows the number of all NONCs issued between March 2018 through July 2023. He created another spreadsheet which shows NONCs which are unresolved. Unresolved NONCs are a combination of

the violator not responding, the Department not following up, pending action with Water Compliance and Enforcement, or pending with the Department's Office of Dispute Resolution. S. Reya said that this was a good exercise for Wel Permitting.

S. Reya explained the second report, which was developed by M. Schumacher. M. Schumacher's report identifies companies who have outstanding well record submittals. S. Reya complimented S. Vargo for helping to track everything and for his work on outgoing referrals.

A. Becker asked if companies with a lot of outstanding well records will be receiving fines. S. Reya explained that the Department will send out letters to the companies first and give them an opportunity to comply.

## **8. Board Business-**

S. Reya informed the Board that he would send them their mandatory ethics training soon. He explained that there are two types of ethics training, but they only need to take the short version this year. S. Reya said that he will send the link to the Board members after the meeting. He added that the Board members who are employed by the Department do not have to take the training if they have already done so.

S. Reya reminded the Board members that their terms expire in February 2024. He asked the Board members to take the next two weeks to think about whether they intend to stay on the Board for another term. A. Becker asked the Board to email S. Reya if they do not plan on staying on the Board for another term.

## **9. Program Updates-**

### *Well Permitting Staffing Update*

S. Reya reintroduced Reena Dave to the Board. He said that she will be reporting to Michael Schumacher in the Well Permitting Unit. M. Schumacher was recently selected to replace Ms. Lynn Stout as the Well Permitting Unit's supervisor. S. Reya said that the Department still needs to fill the vacant Environmental Specialist 4 and Section Chief positions. Additionally, the Bureau Chief position, vacated by T. Pilawski, also needs to be filled. S. Reya reminded the Board that J. Myers is acting in the role of Bureau Chief, until the position is officially filled. J. Myers informed the Board that she has filled in for T. Pilawski before and she has already been added to new well permits.

### *NJ Master Plumber/Well Driller and Pump Installer Jurisdiction*

S. Reya told the Board that him and M. Schumacher were recently contacted by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). He said that the DCA received a letter questioning jurisdictional issues between master plumbers licensed by DCA and well drillers/pump installers licensed by DEP. Additionally, the implication of where a shut off valve can be placed in relation to water treatment components were raised.

S. Reya and M. Schumacher met with the DCA representative on July 6<sup>th</sup>. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, S. Reya and M. Schumacher attended a meeting of the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers meeting. S. Reya cited DCA Bulletin 88-10, which established the licensing jurisdiction of private on-site water supply systems and stipulates that the main water supply valve is the point of separation between the two licensed groups. During the meeting, the longstanding jurisdictional issues that code officials and health officers encounter regularly and lack of consistent interpretation of DCA rules and N.J.A.C. 7:9D were discussed. A motion was passed, which requested that DCA staff work with their DEP counterparts to attempt to resolve this situation. S. Reya noted that this could potentially result in



future rule revisions and asked for volunteers from the Board to form a subcommittee to discuss in the future to assist with technical questions related to well systems. G. Poppe and D. Lyman volunteered. A. Becker thanked them.

**10. Adjournment-**

S. Reya said that the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 17, 2023. A. Becker thanked everyone for attending.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 11:36 am by G. Poppe. This motion was seconded by E. Hoffmann and approved unanimously.**