



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 August 17, 2023

Approved by the Board on September 21, 2023

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

Board Members Absent: Eric Hoffmann

Board Legal Representative Present: Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Kevin DeCristofer, NJ Division of Law

NJDEP Water Supply (Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting) Staff Present: Jennifer Myers, Steve Reya, Mark Ortega, and Steve Vargo

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 (NJGWA)

1. Call to Order and Introductions-

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 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.

2. Review and Certification of the July 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes-

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the July 20th draft minutes. No discussion was needed.

A motion to approve the draft minutes from July 20, 2023, as written, was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Lyman, and approved unanimously.

3. Review and Certification of License Applications-

A. Becker said that there are four license applications for review: one Master well driller, one Journeyman (Class B) well driller, and two Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well drillers. A. Becker noted that the Master well driller applicant and the Journeyman (Class B) applicant were upgrading their licenses.

R. Dalton asked why a person would upgrade from a Pump Installer license to a Journeyman (Class B) license. S. Reya explained the difference between a Journeyman license and a Journeyman (Class B) license. No further discussion was needed about the license applicants.

A motion to approve the four license applicants for licensure was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved unanimously. The approved license applicants are listed on the following table:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
Master	Luke Dvorak	A.C. Schultes
Journeyman (Class B)	Adam Primost	Pickwick Well Drilling
ERG	Michael D. Clark	Redox Tech LLC
ERG	Michael J. Kondas	Environmental Probing Investigations

4. Review of Continuing Education Courses-

National Drilling Association (NDA)

A. Becker said that NDA requested five points for their upcoming convention. S. Reya noted that the convention will take place on September 14th in Kentucky. A. Becker indicated that at least one continuing education point (CEP) should be in the safety category. R. Dalton said that he believed that two courses were not relevant to the industry. The Board discussed R. Dalton’s concerns but the other members believed that these courses were relevant.

A motion to approve the NDA 2023 Convention for four technical CEPs and one safety CEP was made by J. Yost. This motion was seconded by G. Craig and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who was opposed to the number of CEPs granted.

NJGWA

A. Becker said that NJGWA is requesting two CEPs for their upcoming September membership meeting. One CEP would be for the meeting and then another CEP would be for the Stop the Bleed presentation. R. Dalton indicated that he believed that the meeting should only count for half of a CEP instead of one. No additional discussion was needed.

A motion to approve the NJGWA September 2023 Membership Meeting with Stop the Bleed Presentation for one technical CEP and one safety CEP was made by D. Lyman. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved by all except for R. Dalton.

Florida Ground Water Association (FGWA) – Mr. Stefan Burns

A. Becker introduced the topic. Mr. Stefan Burns, a licensed New Jersey Journeyman well driller, attended the 2023 FGWA Convention and requested 10 CEPs for attending the seminar. A. Becker asked if there was any discussion needed for the convention. R. Dalton said that there were three

courses that he would not recommend approving. S. Domber asked for the Board to go through the classes individually.

The Board voted on each class that Mr. Burns took:

A motion to not approve the FGWA Annual Business Meeting was made by J. Hoffman. This motion was seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the Friday Trade Show Hall for two technical CEPs was made by G. Craig. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved by all except for R. Dalton and S. Domber.

A motion to approve Mixing Drilling Fluids and Pumpable Grouts for one technical CEP was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by D. Lyman and approved unanimously.

A motion to not approve Water Management District Panel Presentation was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.

A motion to not approve Water Well Rules and How to Break Them was made by D. Lyman. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve Introduction to Well Rehabilitation and Maintenance for one technical CEP was made by S. Domber. This motion was seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the Saturday Trade Show Hall for two technical CEPs was made by R. Dalton. This motion was seconded by J. Yost and approved by all except for S. Domber who was opposed.

Below is a list of courses recommended for approval for Mr. Burns:

Course Name	CEPs
Trade Show Hall (Friday)	2 Technical
Mixing Drilling Fluids and Pumpable Grouts	1 Technical
Introduction to Well Rehabilitation and Maintenance	1 Technical
Trade Show Hall (Saturday)	1 Technical

Below is a list of courses which were not recommended for approval for Mr. Burns:

Course Name
FGWA Annual Business Meeting
Water Management District Panel Presentation
Water Well Rules and How to Break Them

5. Program Updates-

S. Reya provided an update regarding the Board’s discussion of Mr. Mike Faria’s continuing education waiver request from prior meetings. He explained that following the July meeting, DAG J. Denyes further researched the rule language in N.J.A.C. 7:9D-1.9(f)4 and concluded that the

Department needs to make the final decision for waiver requests. J. Denyes informed S. Reya before the August meeting that her office is further evaluating this matter.

A. Becker briefly discussed enforcement and the structure of the Board meetings. He informed the Board that he had reach out to the Department to inquire why enforcement was not a topic on this meeting agenda. S. Reya discussed the structure of Board meetings with the Board. He noted that historically, the Board met for full meetings every other month. Two conference calls were added for the Board to verify license exam applicants. When the continuing education program was introduced, the Board expanded to meetings every month, with the off months being meant primarily to discuss licensing and continuing education.

A. Becker discussed his involvement with the Empire State Water Well Drillers Association in New York. He said that there has been discussion there regarding some confusion with the National Ground Water Association's test vendor, PSI. The Empire State Water Well Drillers Association believes that they can only schedule one test with PSI per day. A. Becker said that he has spoken with a representative with the National Ground Water Association, and they indicated to him that there was no limit to the number of tests an individual can take in a day. Mr. Brian McGuire said that in his experience, a person can only take two tests per day due to the facilities only offering two time slots for tests per day. A. Becker thanked B. McGuire for the insight.

G. Poppe departed the call at 10:10 am.

6. Adjournment-

S. Reya said that the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023. A. Becker thanked everyone for attending. The meeting ended at 10:13 am.