

Minutes – Thursday January 11, 2007

### **State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board**

Members Present: Norman Primost, Joseph Pepe Sr., Art Becker, Robert Stothoff, Anthony Tirro, Richard Dalton, and Fred Sickels

Members Absent: Karl Muessig, Peter Demicco

Others Present: Kristin Tedesco (DEP), Holly Papp (DEP), Pat Bono (DEP), Steve Reya (DEP), Brian Buttari (DEP), Michael Schumacher (DEP), Julia Altieri (DEP), Vince Monaco (DEP)

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by N. Primost at 9:35 am with a quorum present.
2. **Review of Minutes from November 21, 2006, Board Meeting** – A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by R. Stothoff, seconded by A. Tirro, and approved unanimously.
3. **Review of Executive Session Minutes from November 21, 2006, Board Meeting** – A motion to accept the minutes was made by F. Sickels, seconded by R. Stothoff, and approved unanimously.
4. **Membership Update** – The Well Permitting Section has forwarded a letter recommending the renewal of the terms of all board members whose positions are expired.
5. **Certification of December 5, 2006, Exam Results for Monitoring Well Driller** – The results of the exam were reviewed. A motion to accept the Monitoring Well Driller scores was made by R. Stothoff, seconded by A. Becker and approved unanimously.
6. **Certification of December 5, 2006, Exam Results for Soil Borers** – The results of the exam were reviewed. A motion to accept the Soil Borer scores was made by A. Becker, seconded by R. Stothoff and approved unanimously.
7. **Certification of December 5, 2006, Exam Results for Pump Installer** – The results of this exam were reviewed. R. Stothoff and J. Pepe questioned why two applicants, Kenneth Perkowski and Paul Denning, had been allowed to sit for the exam. At the November meeting, the Board passed a resolution stating that these two applicants should not be allowed to sit for the December Pump Installer Exam. This was based on the fact that both men worked for New Jersey American Water Company, not a well drilling or pump company. V. Monaco explained that after further consultation with Bureau staff and the Department's legal council, it was determined that both

applications were consistent with what had been accepted in the past. A licensed Master Well Driller and a licensed Pump Installer completed both reference questionnaires. There is no minimum amount of installations and/or hours required by Department regulations. Supervision is also never defined in the regulations so it is unclear whether the supervision is required to be direct onsite supervision. The Bureau did obtain further submittals from each of the applicants detailing the well pumping systems they had worked on over the past year in addition to the drilling company they worked with on the particular job.

A motion to accept the Pump Installer scores was made by R. Dalton and seconded by A. Tirro – F. Sickles, A. Tirro, A. Becker, R. Dalton, N. Primost. Two members, R. Stothoff and J. Pepe, opposed the motion. The Board then discussed how future clarification of the regulations should address the specific information applicants will be required to submit. The idea of issuing business licenses was also discussed. Bureau staff noted that they would have to further research legal issues regarding issuing a company license, not just individual licenses. The Board members expressed the opinion that if the Department were to license the well drilling companies, an enforcement link could be established between the actions of the company and their individual drillers/pump installers. J. Pepe noted that most licensing boards he has worked with issue licenses to companies. He suggested that Bureau staff look into how other agencies handle this issue.

- 8. Subcommittees on Review of Licensing Test Questions** – A motion was made by R. Stothoff, seconded by A. Becker, and approved unanimously to suspend the Open Session and go into Executive Session at 10:22 a.m., to discuss proposed exam questions. The Board came back into Open Session at 11:01 a.m.
- 9. Subcommittees on Review of Test Application Instructions** – A member of the Bureau staff will type up the application instructions and e-mail a copy to A. Becker. A. Becker will work on revising the instructions to make them easier for applicants to complete and hopefully raise the quality of the applications the Bureau receives. A Subcommittee of Board members will then meet and go over the results. Members would comment back to Art Becker who will forward to staff for revisions. A final draft of the application instructions will be brought to the March meeting.
- 10. Subcommittees on Review of Pump Installer Test** – S. Reya would like to review Pump Installer test. A committee will review existing test. J. Pepe Sr. will review test after the March meeting. J. Pepe, R. Stothoff, and N. Primost will stay after the May 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting to go over test with S. Reya. New questions (5 each –R. Stothoff, J. Pepe Sr., N. Primost), will be brought to the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. R. Stothoff and J. Pepe also indicated that they would be willing to meet with S. Reya after the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to get an idea of the current exam format.
- 11. Bylaws**- This will be the first item on the agenda for the May Board meeting. The election of chairman/vice chairman will take place at that time. A. Becker will run the March meeting in N. Primost's absence. A typo on page two of the bylaws will

be revised to clarify the duties of the secretary to the Board. The word “a” in item 3A on page two of the bylaws will be changed to “as.”

The Board then discussed the requirements to serve as chairperson, as detailed in Item 1 on page two. Several members were unsure of whether the language would exclude a Board member who held a Master Driller License but was serving the Board in the capacity of the “licensed category of any class.” All members felt that any Master Driller on the Board would qualify as chairperson. N. Primost believed that the language should be clarified to reflect this.

- 12. Grout Document Update** – no comments have been sent to R. Dalton since the November Board meeting. R. Dalton will bring samples to next meeting. He will also finalize the grout document and distribute upon completion.

**13. Geothermal wells (14 total) grouted with unapproved grout mixture-**

S. Reya requested the Board’s guidance with regard to a proposal submitted by a drilling contractor requesting to have the two altered grout mixes tested at a commercial lab for several parameters. S. Reya questioned whether the three-inch by six-inch sample tube would be large enough to accurately represent the grout used in the geothermal wells. Additionally, he questioned the percentage of deviation from the standard cementitious thermally enhanced grout (T-111) that should be considered acceptable to the Bureau. Finally, he inquired as to whether visible cracking should be noted at the completion of the thermal cycling.

Board members recommended several standards for Morrison Inc. to meet in order to ensure that the grout mixtures used would result in satisfactory geothermal wells. The permeability, infiltration rate, pumpability, bond strength, and resistance to cracking would all have to be acceptable to the Bureau before the grout mixtures would be approved for the fourteen wells in question. Field demonstrations would have to be performed in the presence of Bureau Staff and Board Members to demonstrate the pumpability of the altered grout mixtures. The tremie pipe would have to be the same length and diameter as initially used. Additionally, the same model paddle mixer utilized during initial construction would have to again be used to mix and pump the grout. Several other parameters would also have to be addressed, which were not acceptable in the proposal.

S. Reya noted that he would write a letter detailing the concerns of both the Board and the Bureau. This letter would require the drilling contractor to submit a revised proposal prior to performing any lab testing and/or work at the site. Alternatively, the contractor would still be allowed to drill out the wells in question to the original depth and diameter and properly decommission the boreholes or set new geothermal loops in the cleared borehole.

- 14. Fee Rule** – The well permitting staff is working on response to comments received on the fee rule proposal. The rules sunset on March 3, 2007 and therefore must be

adopted prior to that date. Publication of the adoption document is expected in the spring.

**15. E-Permitting** – Well permitting has been identified as the highest priority program in Land Use Management to go into an e-permitting program.

**16. List of Tech Rule Issues** – The Department provided a list of tech rule issues that have been compiled from unofficial comments received from the well drilling industry. The Board members will review the list for any additions or changes.

**17. DEP implementation of regulations for use of drive/cutting shoes for wells** – V. Monaco requested the Board's guidance in how the Bureau can enforce regulations concerning the driving of well casing. According to V. Monaco, outer casings, intended solely as temporary casings, are actually being left in the ground at the time the well is completed. Specifically, many wells drilled with air rotary have an outer casing that is often left in the ground and the Bureau is usually unable to determine what attempt, if any, was made to remove the temporary casing. The fact that the outer casing was not installed with a cable-tool rig with a drive shoe larger than the casing diameter has caused concern to some Bureau staff. V. Monaco stated that he believes that any temporary casings must be removed and never left in the ground permanently. A. Tirro felt that the installation of well casing with a cable-tool rig was more destructive to a natural foundation but that method meets the regulations. He also felt that the Bureau should look at different areas of the state and to determine what methods would be acceptable in different geologic conditions. N. Primost felt that this issue would have to be addressed during the revisions of the technical rules since it was a major change in the current regulations and industry practice.

R. Stothoff indicated that the outer casing is generally required to facilitate the construction of the well and that often times it cannot be removed. Also, he noted that in certain parts of the state there is no reasonable way to construct a well without driving an outer casing (excluding eccentric bits and dual-rotary discussed at previous meetings). M. Schumacher stated that during his review of a sampling of well records, he had concluded that drillers appeared to be making an honest attempt to remove outer casings. He had found that many outer casings were pulled from the well upon completion, whereas some others were left in the hole. He did not notice a pattern among certain drilling companies or a tendency for certain companies to always leave the outer casing in the hole. R. Stothoff also suggested that future regulations could require that the inner/permanent casing be set further into rock (as much as fifty feet) to better seal off the uncased portion of the well from any contamination in the overburden. F. Sickels suggested that Bureau staff may want to present a more developed proposal to the Board.

**18. Adjournment** – A motion was made by R. Stothoff, seconded by A. Becker and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

**Action Items:**

- DEP staff will type test application instruction and send to A. Becker
- Steve R. will have the pump installer exams ready for review by J. Pepe and R. Stothoff after the March 8, 2007 Board meeting.
- Kristin T. will send the R. Stothoff the list of Tech Rule Issues
- DEP staff will revise 10 questions on OSHA/NJ One Call for review at March meeting

Minutes-Thursday, March 8, 2007

## **State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board**

Board Members Present: Art Becker, Robert Stothoff, Anthony Tirro, Richard Dalton, Karl Muessing, Peter Demicco

Board Members Absent: Norman Primost, Joseph Pepe, Sr.,

Other DEP staff present: Holly Papp, Pat Bono, Steve Reya, Brian Buttari, Michael Schumacher, Julia Altieri, Fred Sickels, Vince Monaco,

Other members from the Public in attendance: Benjamin Primost (New Jersey Groundwater Association/Pickwick Well Drilling, Inc.), Paul Bent (Pathways Government Relations, LLC), Russell Bent (Pathways Government Relations, LLC), Gus Schultes, IV (A.C. Schultes), Ed Lopez (Morrison Inc.), Mike Rash (Morrison Inc.), Rock Morrison (Morrison Inc.)

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson, A. Becker, at 9:40 AM with a quorum present.
2. **Review of Minutes (Open and Executive Sessions) from Jan. 11, 2006 Board Meeting** – A motion to accept the minutes without change was made by R. Stothoff and seconded by A. Tirro. All members except P. Demicco, who abstained since he did not attend the January meeting, approved the motion.
3. **Review of Certification of Applicants for the April 10, 2007 – Master Well Driller, Journeyman, and Journeyman B Well Driller Exams**– H. Papp informed the Board that one applicant, John Robbins, was listed as “pending” on the applicant roster for the Master Exam. This was due to the fact that Mr. Robbins was issued a Settlement Offer Letter (SOL) several years ago for drilling a well under an expired permit but had not paid the fine. Mr. Robbins had reportedly responded to the SOL, claiming that the permit was valid for two years, since the Department had recently passed regulations that stipulated that domestic well permits were valid for two years. He had never received anything further from the Bureau so he assumed that the issue was resolved. H. Papp stated that she needed H. Chudzik, DAG, to review the issues and determine whether or not Mr. Robbins violated Department Regulations. If it is determined that the SOL should be rescinded, Mr. Robbins will be allowed to sit for the exam.

A motion to certify the Master Well Driller Exam Applicants was made by R. Stothoff, seconded by A. Tirro, and approved unanimously. H. Papp noted that all applicants subject to the current apprentice requirement were provisionally approved. The Fee Rule, which removes the apprentice requirement from the current regulations, is expected to take effect on April 2, 2007. At that time, the applicants who have not fully completed an apprenticeship (and do not currently hold any category of drillers license) would be approved. A motion to

certify the Journeyman Well Driller Exam Applicants was made by R. Stothoff, seconded by P. Demicco, and approved unanimously.

A motion to certify the Journeyman B Well Driller Exam Applicants was made by R. Stothoff, seconded by P. Demicco, and approved unanimously.

- 4. Correction on Pump Installers Test** – S. Reya noted that he had made an error scoring Theodore Alberta's Pump Installer Exam. The initial scoring for the December Exam indicated a score of 100% on part one and 71% on part two. S. Reya stated that he had used the incorrect point total when scoring part two of the exam. The corrected scores would be amended to reflect a score of 80% on part two. Therefore, Mr. Alberta would receive a passing grade and be granted a Pump Installers License. A motion to approve Mr. Alberta's amended scores was made by A. Tirro, seconded by F. Sickels, and approved unanimously.
- 5. Test Applications** – A. Becker discussed clarifying several aspects of the current Journeyman Exam Application. All references to the apprentice well driller requirement will be removed after the Fee Rule is passed (anticipated April 2, 2007). Second, A. Becker suggested that bullet point #4 on page one should be reworded to state that all wells listed as experience had to be within the last three years of the signature date on the application. The current wording merely stated that three years of experience were required, which the Board agreed did not necessarily refer to the last three years. A. Becker also felt that the language in Section B should better state that a total of five wells are required to be listed amongst the reference questionnaires, not five wells on each reference questionnaire. Finally, A. Becker suggested that Section C should make it clear that the references had to be the driller of record for the five wells listed in the drilling experience chart. H. Papp will review the current applications and revise as necessary to facilitate the submittal of technically acceptable applications.
- 6. Testing Geothermal grout mixture – Morrison Inc.-** The Board reviewed item 13 on the minutes from the January Board meeting. S. Reya noted that the Bureau took the Board's input from the previous meeting and responded to Morrison, Inc. in a letter dated February 6, 2007. This letter stated that the December 1, 2006 proposal submitted by Morrison Inc. was insufficient and that additional proofs such as a field pumpability tests would be required before the Bureau would approve the use of the grout for the fourteen wells (previously installed) in question. Additionally, the lab testing was to be more stringent, as it was to be representative of the original T-111 grout testing to assess potential issues related to thermal cycling. Ed Lopez had reportedly contacted P. Bono after receiving the letter, and stated that Morrison Inc. representatives felt the requirements noted in the letter were unreasonable and that they would like to address the Board. F. Sickels, A. Becker, and V. Monaco all stated that the burden of proof to perform testing on the grout lies with Morrison.
- 7. Fee Rule and Other Program Updates-** P. Bono informed the Board that the Bureau had recently sent a mass mailing to all licensed well drillers in New Jersey. The fee increases for both well permit applications and driller/pump installer applications were addressed in the letter. P. Bono also noted that the GPS requirement would not take effect until July 2008.

She hopes to schedule a representative from the Department's GIS section to attend the next Board meeting and demonstrate how GIS and GPS systems are used.

P. Bono also informed the Board that the Water Supply website was recently updated to include well search questionnaires and other forms used by the Bureau. Board meeting schedules and minutes from past meetings would also be posted shortly. F. Sickels asked whether there had been any update to the E-permitting initiative. P. Bono said that the Bureau had not been formally contacted about entering E-permitting but she believes the Bureau is still a high priority.

- 8. Testing Geothermal grout mixture – Morrison Inc. (Continued)-** Ed Lopez, Rock Morrison, and Mike Rash, from Morrison Inc. arrived at 11:00 AM. None of the representatives are licensed to drill in NJ. R. Morrison informed the Board that Morrison Inc. began drilling in New Jersey approximately two years ago and staff were not very familiar with the state's regulations at the time. This resulted in construction and licensing errors. Additionally, he reiterated that the fourteen wells (see Item 6) contained a courser form of bentonite, and that the grout for twelve of the wells did not contain superplasticizer. He stated that other than those two issues, the wells were properly grouted and asked whether there was any other way the problem could be resolved other than drilling out the wells or following the Bureau's strict testing requirements.

E. Lopez explained that Morrison Inc. has worked with T-111 since the job in question. He also claimed that the project, Newark Central High School, is currently three years behind schedule and site problems unrelated to the drilling have recently been resolved. Therefore, he felt that the additional requirements of the Board/Bureau were too expensive and time consuming. E. Lopez said that T-111 grout is very robust and they have used it very successfully. He also stated that it bonds to the loops extremely well. When using a pneumatic hammer to break the grout away from the poly loops, the grout apparently takes the writing off of the loops. Mr. Lopez also said that they purchase 3,000 lb. bags of pre-mixed grout so the sand and cement are well blended. E. Lopez felt that the grout mixture they used in the wells in question is "at least as good." According to Mr. Lopez, the wells in the field range from 150 to 300 GPM. He felt that this amount of water would keep the wells around the same temperature. He did not think much expansion and contraction would occur with the loops due to the heat exchange with the water in the formation. F. Sickels talked about the need for Morrison to provide additional data before the Department could assess the environmental impact, if any, of the altered grout mix.

E. Lopez requested that Morrison's initial testing proposal from December 1, 2006 be reevaluated. He also claimed that superplasticizer is only added for pumpability and bentonite is added to reduce sand-cement separation. Therefore, he believed that neither would alter the cured properties of the grout. R. Dalton noted that bentonite mesh size does alter how the grout sets up. He went on to say that every grout mix, including T-111, has undergone the same field test before being approved by the Department. He felt that the altered grout would have to be considered to be a new grout since it was not mixed in accordance with DEP regulations. A. Becker informed Morrison that the scientific burden of proof lies with Morrison. He also told the Morrison representatives that the Board and



Bureau have been reasonable in approving other grouts in the past if the field and lab test results were satisfactory. F. Sickels said that R. Dalton, P. Bono, and S. Reya could take another look at the December proposal. E. Lopez stated that 99% of the grout mix is correct since the superplasticizer and bentonite account for such a small amount of the grout mix. S. Reya clarified the fact that Morrison used a paddle mixer, not a colloidal mixer, so the opinion of Dr. Allan (inventor of T-111), which stated that it might be possible to omit the bentonite and superplasticizer, did not apply in Morrison's case. The field test stipulated in the Bureau's letter was also intended to address that issue.

R. Dalton noted that one company had proposed a geothermal grout mix for use in rock, which did not contain superplasticizer. He stated that the company had submitted some lab data but had never performed any field testing to compare the lab permeability to the field permeability so the grout was never approved. V. Monaco suggested that Morrison representatives review their December proposal, the Bureau's February response, and submit a revised proposal meeting the intent of the Bureau's concerns with less onerous testing. Therefore, the T-111 cementitious thermally enhanced grout is the only geothermal grout currently approved for use in consolidated formations. V. Monaco stated that the Bureau should not review the same proposal already submitted but would review a revised proposal that is more of a "middle ground" should Morrison submit a formal response.

- 9. Conflicts Between Driller/Pump Installer Regulations and Master Plumber Code-** Ben Primost, New Jersey Groundwater Association President and New Jersey Master Well Driller, and Paul Bent, Pathways Government relations, brought up concerns regarding the installation of water treatment equipment. B. Primost and P. Bent discussed the fact that licensed Master Plumbers, Well Drillers, and Pump Installers were all performing this work, however, regulations governing the activity are often vague. B. Primost also noted that there is a discrepancy in the enforcement of such regulations between local health departments and construction code officials. He also pointed out that the term "approved" water source, which is used to regulate the jurisdiction of plumbers, is not defined. Some counties apparently consider the water source to be approved once it has actually passed a water test, which is often not accomplished until some type of water treatment is added. Additionally, DEP regulations refer to "appurtenances" which is also undefined but has traditionally been interpreted to include the installation of water treatment equipment (in addition to storage tanks).

P. Bent added that the Department of Community Affairs, which regulates plumbers through the Master Plumbers Code, has stated that water treatment falls under the jurisdiction of DEP so drillers and pump installers could perform the work. He also said that comments in 2005 by N. Primost and DEP were addressed in the adoption of the new regulations in a statement claiming that they were not imposing on the well driller/pump installer business. P. Bent and B. Primost felt that the implementation of the regulations by local authorities was the problem, not the regulation itself. They also felt that many plumbers were misinterpreting the regulation and attempting to prevent drillers/pump installers from performing the work. V. Monaco suggested that they might want to get in touch with DCA and have them address the issue in their "Code Enforcer" publication to clarify the issue for inspectors. A. Becker

noted that the “house valve” should be looked at as a means of determining the cutoff between the two jurisdictions.

P. Bent stated that the Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers (under DCA) already agree that the jurisdiction to regulate the area would fall under DEP regulations regarding well drillers and pump installers. The New Jersey Groundwater Association will draft a letter to DCA to obtain something in writing. B. Primost and the Board also discussed whether DEP had any intention of developing a separate license for water treatment installers. B. Primost felt that since DEP regulates the treatment of large water systems, it would be a natural progression for them to regulate all forms of water treatment. F. Sickels, V. Monaco, and P. Bono said that as far as they were aware, the Department did not currently have any plans to do so. R. Stothoff felt that the biggest problem is not the Licensed Driller/Pump Installers and Master Plumbers, but those individuals who are unlicensed.

**10. Closing and Adjournment-** A. Becker requested that Bureau staff inform the Board as to the status of the Morrison issue. He also informed P. Bono that he had researched several GPS units that might meet the Department’s submittal requirements, while costing less than initially thought. He wished to add the item as an agenda for the next meeting. P. Bono stated that if he sent her the information, she could run it by the GIS specialists in DEP and they could discuss it at a presentation at the May meeting if possible.

Board members decided to postpone reviewing the current pump installer’s exam with S. Reya since N. Primost and J. Pepe were not present. Board members were notified to contact S. Reya if they preferred to meet as a subcommittee prior to the May meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 12:28 PM by R. Stothoff, seconded by P. Demicco and approved by all.

**Action Items:**

- Contact GIS representative to speak about GIS/GPS systems and requirements at May meeting
- S. Reya to review pump installer’s exam after May meeting with several board members
- Notify Board Members if Bureau receives a response from Morrison, Inc.

Minutes-Tuesday, May 15, 2007

## **State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board**

Board Members Present: Norman Primost, Art Becker, Joseph Pepe, Sr., Anthony Tirro, Richard Dalton, Karl Muessig, Peter Demicco, Fred Sickels

Board Members Absent: Robert Stothoff

Others Present: Helene Chudzik (DAG), Pat Bono (DEP), Vincent Monaco (DEP), Julia Altieri (DEP), Holly Papp (DEP), Brian Buttari (DEP), Michael Schumacher (DEP), Donna Johnson (DEP)

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Norman Primost at 9:40 AM with a quorum present.
2. **Review of Minutes from March 8, 2007 Board Meeting** – Fred Sickels mentioned he was incorrectly listed in the minutes as “Other DEP staff present” when he is in fact a Board Member. A motion to accept the minutes with this change was made by Art Becker, and seconded by Richard Dalton, and approved unanimously.
3. **Review of Minutes (executive session)** – No executive session took place at the March 8, 2007 meeting, so this item was be stricken from the agenda.
4. **Elections of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson** – Norman Primost asked if there were any Master Well Drillers who would like to serve as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson for the upcoming one-year term. In accordance with the by-laws, only Master Well Drillers are eligible for this position. Anthony Tirro stated he was not interested in serving as Chairperson. Norman Primost suggested secret ballots as a voting method. Norman Primost was elected Chairperson for the Board (received 7 out of 8 votes). Voting for Vice Chairperson was also completed by secret ballot. Art Becker was elected Vice Chairperson by a margin of 7 to 1. A motion to accept the results of the election was made by Fred Sickels, seconded by Peter Demicco, and approved unanimously. This was the first election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson since the by-laws were adopted.
5. **Review of Certification of Applicants for the June 12, 2007 exam for Pump Installer, Soil Borer and Monitoring Well Licenses** – A motion to certify the Pump Installer Exam Applicants was made by Anthony Tirro, seconded by Art Becker, and approved unanimously.

Art Becker questioned why some of the Soil Borer applicants were rejected and Holly Papp explained that some applications were not filled out correctly and the applicants had no chance to correct them before the filling deadline. A motion to certify the Soil Borer Exam

Applicants was made by Karl Muessig, seconded by Peter Demicco, and approved unanimously.

A motion to certify the Monitoring Well Exam Applicants was made by Karl Muessig, seconded by Anthony Tirro, and approved unanimously.

6. **Review and Certification of Exam results from the April 10, 2007 Exams for Master, Journeyman, and Journeyman B licenses** – Norman Primost asked how many of the test takers had taken the Masters exam more than once. Holly Papp mentioned that a few had taken the test more than once. A motion to accept the Master Well Driller Exam scores was made by Richard Dalton, seconded by Anthony Tirro, and the motion carried.

A motion to accept the Journeyman Exam scores was made by Peter Demicco, seconded by Art Becker, and the motion carried.

A motion to accept the Journeyman B Exam scores was made by Anthony Tirro, seconded by Art Becker, and the motion carried.

7. **Dual license holders** – Holly Papp informed the Board that there is an applicant who has applied to take the Journeyman B test who holds a monitoring well license. If they pass the test, they would hold two licenses at the same time, and would essentially have met all the qualifications for a full Journeyman license. Instead of issuing two licenses, it was suggested by Norman Primost that the Department could convert the two licenses into a regular Journeyman license since it would encompass both skills. Each of the other single licenses would become invalid at that point. Board members mentioned that the practice of individuals holding more than one license should be discouraged. A suggestion was made by Norman Primost to automatically convert any individual with a Monitoring and Journeyman B license (and vice versa) to a full Journeyman; the other two licenses would become invalid. A motion was made by Art Becker, seconded by Anthony Tirro, and approved unanimously.

Concern was raised and discussed by Norman Primost and Joe Pepe as to whether combining the two licenses on NJEMS would be possible.

It was noted by Art Becker that the lifting of the apprentice pre-registration requirement increased the number of test applicants.

8. **Cell Phones and Exam Discussion/Misc.** – Art Becker raised concerns that testers are using cell phones to cheat on the exams by taking pictures and calling others when they use the restrooms. Board members agreed that there should be no cell phones or PDA's allowed in the exam room or building and that Bureau of Exams & Licensing should be notified of this new rule. This restriction then should be added to the test info packets and only a hand held calculator (separate from phone) will be permitted in the exam room or building. A motion was made by Art Becker, seconded by Joe Pepe, and approved unanimously.

Karl Muessig raised the question of whether to lower passing scores from 80 to 70 and what the merits would be. Art Becker noted that testers study the regulations but just fail on

technical portions and wonders if it's the semantics or terms used in the exams that causes confusion and incorrect answers. Joe Pepe noted there seems to be no institutionalized way to prepare for pump installer exam. Discussion by Board ended to let presenters begin.

- 9. Presentation by Lou Jacoby (NJDEP) on GPS equipment/reporting** – Lou Jacoby discussed the GPS unit specifications that are required for the Department to accept data. He gave three examples of specific units that qualify, and discussed important features of the units. In addition, he made a brief demonstration on how I-map can be used to help determine the location for a proposed well site. As part of his presentation, he handed out low cost model options available for GPS receivers and cited factors to consider when using them. He stressed the importance of proper training for GPS users since a definite learning curve is involved with using a mapping grade receiver.

Norm Primost asked about the difference between mapping grade and recreational grade receivers. Lou Jacoby explained that recreational grade receivers are not discriminant when collecting signals from a satellite. As a result, the locations are not accurate and cannot be duplicated at a later time. Mapping grade receivers are much more selective when reading signals, and are therefore much more accurate.

- 10. E-Permitting Update – A Discussion with Ken Ratzman (NJDEP)** – Ken Ratzman presented a survey to the board titled “Permitting Questionnaire for Electronic Well Drilling Application”. The survey is designed to allow drillers to provide information to the Department regarding what computer equipment is currently being used by drilling companies on a daily basis, and the level of interest drillers have in submitting electronic well permit applications. In July, the well permitting program is scheduled to begin preliminary design of a program, which would allow for the electronic submittal of well documents. Art Becker recommended that the DEP look into Florida's E-Permitting system since it seems to work pretty well.

## **11. Technical Issues**

- A) Review of Morrison Geothermal Grout Test Proposal** – Pat Bono discussed the most recent activities and correspondence from Morrison, Inc.; including their efforts to seek approval for the grout mixture used for the construction of geothermal wells at two sites. Morrison, Inc. has revised their proposal on how to demonstrate the adequacy of this grout mixture; staff will attempt to arrange a field demonstration with board members as soon as feasible. Brief discussion by the Board.
- B) Decommissioning Proposal and PCB's** - Kristin Tedesco sought the board's input on dealing with the decommissioning of a well in Bergen County where the driller has been unable to remove an old pump. It is believed that the pump may contain 4 to 6 ounces of PCBs. The question to the board, specifically, was whether it poses a greater danger to attempt to remove the pump, and possibly destroying it, thereby releasing the PCBs all at once; or sealing the pump in place, which would hopefully promote a slower release of PCBs over time. The board suggested videotaping the well to see if there is anything on the pump to grab onto. If there isn't, it was suggested to either overdrill the

2 inch riser pipe and dislodge the pump, or to push the pump to the bottom of the well and grout up to grade from there.

- 12. Review of applications for well driller/pump installer licensing examinations** – With suggested changes from board members; Holly Papp revised the applications for the various licensing tests. Board members will review the applications and provide suggestions to staff at the next board meeting.
- 13. Misc. Issues** – Art Becker raised a concern about the transfer of permits between well drilling companies. He stated that consulting firms often have one well driller obtain permits for them and then hire a different drilling company to install the wells. The consultants usually do this as a technique to get the work done more quickly or for a lower price. He is concerned that the recent increase in fees for permits provides more incentives for consulting firms to transfer permits in this manner. Pat Bono explained that the department doesn't allow the transfer of permits from one drilling company to another. The drilling company named on the permit is responsible for submitting either a well record describing the installation of the well, or a cancellation request for that permit. While the drilling company on the permit may "sub-out" all or part of the job to another drilling company/licensed driller, the permit may not be transferred via a 3<sup>rd</sup> party (consultant, property owner) to another drilling company.
- 14. Adjournment** – A motion was made by Art Becker, seconded by Anthony Tirro, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Minutes – Tuesday, July 17, 2007

### **State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board**

Board Members Present: Norman Primost, Art Becker, Karl Muessig, Richard Dalton, Anthony Tirro, Fred Sickels, Pete Demicco

Board Members Absent: Joseph Pepe, Sr., Robert Stothoff (resigned)

Others Present: Helene Chudzick (DAG), Brian Buttari (DEP), Holly Papp (DEP), Melinda Strahle (DEP), Julia Altieri (DEP), Tracy Omrod (DEP), Vince Monaco (DEP)

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Norman Primost at 9:45 AM with a quorum present.
2. Melinda Strahle was introduced to the Board.

Norm Primost announced that Robert Stothoff has resigned from the Board. He read a letter from Robert Stothoff signifying his resignation and stating how much he had enjoyed working on the Board. It was decided that the Board should send out a letter of thanks for Robert's service to the Board, and that Pat, Vince, Fred or Norm should sign the letter.

Vince Monaco noted that since the letter will be available to the public, in an effort to maintain Robert Stothoff's privacy, the letter should be drafted to his last known address. Board member Art Becker stated he would take upon himself to forward the letter to Mr. Stothoff just in case the DEP letter gets returned to sender.

2. **Review of Minutes from the May 15, 2007 Board Meeting** – Karl Muessig suggested changing a portion of the decommissioning proposal (Section 11(B) of the May minutes) to read "It is believed that the pump may contain 4-6 oz. of oil, possibly containing PCBs"; instead of "...pump may contain 4 to 6 ounces of PCBs..." He noted that the pump most likely does not contain 4 to 6 ounces of pure PCBs. A motion to approve the May 15, 2007 minutes with the suggested change was made by Anthony Tirro, and seconded by Pete Demicco; the motion carried.

3. **Board Vacancy** – A notice stating that there is an opening on the Board and requesting applicants for the position has been posted on the NJDEP website (Division of Water Supply). Art Becker has had calls from 3 drillers regarding their interest in the board position, and they say they are planning to submit their resumes.

4. **Testing and Licensing Issues** –

**A. Pump Installers** – It was noted that only one applicant (Richard Paprzycki) passed the exam.

A discussion by the Board ensued; various issues were brought to the table. These issues included 1) the need to review the test questions, specifically the regulation portion of the test, 2) the need for better study materials, 3) that although there is a need to review the tests and come up with better questions and/or study material, the Bureau is understaffed for such an undertaking, 4) if the Bureau should amend the rules to require attendance at a course in order to be allowed to sit for an exam, 5) would it be possible for the NJ Groundwater Association to create better study materials.

Art Becker suggested that a few Board members stay after the next scheduled Board meeting to review the tests and come up with better questions and/or create a study guide. Anthony Tirro suggested that this be done for all classes of tests, not just pump installers. It was decided that Norm Primost, Anthony Tirro, Art Becker, Pete Demicco, and Joe Pepe will meet at the DEP building on Monday, August 27, 2007 at 9:30am to review the tests for PI, SB, MW; and decide which questions need to be removed or revised. There was some concern that there must be no more than 4 board members present in the building at once in order to avoid having a quorum, Helene Chudzik will be consulted on this.

A motion to certify the Pump Installer exam scores was made by Karl Muessing and seconded by Pete Demicco – the motion was carried.

**B. Soil Borer** – Holly Papp noted that there is a mistake on the list of exam scores; Michael Trippett did not pass the technical section of his exam, and therefore, he failed.

Thomas Higgins was accidentally left off of the applicant list, which was approved during the May 15, 2007 meeting. In order for him to be able to sit for the June 12, 2007 test, the Board members voted via email to retroactively accept his application. Karl Muessig motioned to ratify the email vote in order to accept Thomas Higgins' test score, Art Becker seconded the motion, and the motion carried. A motion to approve the soil borer exam scores, with a correction to the outcome of Michael Trippett's exam, was made by Fred Sickels, and seconded by Karl Muessig; the motion carried.



**C. Monitoring Well** – A motion to approve the Monitoring Well exam scores was made by Anthony Tirro and was seconded by Karl Muessig; the motion carried.

The new *No cell phone or PDA policy* was sent out as a notice before the last testing period and the rule was enforced at the tests.

5. **DEP handles complaints** – Norm Primost brought up the subject of possibly beginning to take away or suspend drillers' licenses who are repeat offenders. He states that the provision to do so is in the regs, yet not utilized. Although offenses are reported and some action is taken (depending on the nature of the offense), it is unusual for a license to be suspended or taken away. Norm states that if this kind of consequence was enforced on repeat offenders, the word would get out among the drilling community and perhaps drillers would more closely adhere to the regs. He believes this is a common interest for both the industry and the DEP, and it is important in order to protect the future of honest and good Well Drillers. Additionally, he believes that the public needs access to more information regarding drillers in order to make more informed comparisons when choosing one. Norm had drafted a "Notice to Consumers" for posting on the DEP website that he asked the Board to review.

Upon review, Fred Sickels noted that complaints regarding drillers and their actions should come to the DEP first, and not the Board. He stated that only problems that may require suspension or revocation of a license should be brought to the Board for discussion. Julia Altieri noted that she receives a majority of the complaints about drillers and that probably 99% of those complaints are non-enforceable violations. However, when a serious violation is registered, the DEP takes (when feasible) immediate action. Richard Dalton noted that we don't have a set of penalties for specific violations in place that would make it easier to enforce. He suggested that when the regs are re-drafted, a penalty table should be added. Vince Monaco agreed for a more aggressive enforcement program; he thinks we should bring the worst offenders in front of the Board for discussions of suspension or revocation of their licenses.

Norm Primost now agrees that most enforcement issues shouldn't come in front of the Board, citing competitor issues. However, he believes the public and other well drillers need to be aware of punishment that is meted for violators; when guilt has been established and punishment handed-out, it needs to be publicized. Fred Sickels agreed that only closed, finalized cases should be published and that that a review of the schedule of penalties needs to be done.

Helene Chudzik stated that the statute needs a front-to-back update. The procedure sequence is confusing and the statute pre-dates the Administrative Procedures Act. She said that when a case might end up in enforcement action, a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge should first be held so that both the driller in question and the DEP can present their case and a record can be created.

The Board then reviews that record. Fred Sickels suggested adding a “Recent Enforcement Actions” section to the Board agenda.

When a discussion of how much of the historical violations should be made public was started, Helene Chudzik recommended we consider using a points system (similar to the DMV). Certain point values will be awarded to differing violations, and once a specified drop-off point has been established, those points would be removed from the driller’s public record if no other violations were incurred during that time period. Pete Demicco noted that Pennsylvania and North Carolina send out newsletters, which contain a section listing all the enforcement actions taken against drillers in that state.

Norm Primost’s draft needs to be revised.

## **6. Technical Issues**

Morrison performed a field demo of their proposed Geothermal Grout Mix on Wednesday, July 11, 2007. Richard Dalton, Anthony Tirro, Art Becker, and Steve Reya attended the demonstration. Richard Dalton stated that the first batch they mixed was too watery and Morrison admitted that they made a mistake mixing that batch. He says that the second batch was a little better, but still thin. It was noted that they had no way of measuring the amount of grout and/or water they were using to create the mix. Steve Reya had also expressed concern that the proposal stated that they would use 3x6 sample tubes and Morrison only had 2x4 sample tubes onsite. It was noted that other aspects of the proposal were not replicated onsite.

Concern was raised by Anthony Tirro as to whether pumping the mix for 100 ft horizontally in any way mirrors the conditions that would be created when grouting a 500 ft well with that same material. Art Becker was disappointed with the demo, calling it a “comedy of errors”. There were problems with the equipment, they didn’t meet the specs with their mud scale, they had no way to measure the amount of water they were using, and they brought different equipment than they included on the proposal.

Helene Chudzik stated that the Board/DEP needs to be clear about what is and is not acceptable for these procedures, and that they need to tell the company beforehand exactly what they are looking for.

Norm Primost motioned to have all future field demonstrations replicate the actual conditions on which the process or material in question would exist; Tony Tirro seconded it – and the motion carried.

Vince Monaco stated that Steve Reya will prepare a formal response to Morrison concerning the demo and will forward the response to Board members for their review and added input. Karl Muessig suggested to not wait for the permeability tests to come back before preparing the response. He thinks we should tell them

right away that we don't approve of their methods and that they didn't do what they said they were going to do. Art Becker noted that the drill rig was shut down when they arrived onsite and was not run the entire time that they were there. He suggests keeping an eye on them for improper drilling techniques. Norm Primost noted that they can not have the only onsite licensed driller drilling a well while someone else is grouting at the same time.

A response to the DEP's letter to Morrison will be requested in which they will be required to state what they are going to change about their procedures and methods and how it will work.

**7. Meeting adjourned by Norm Primost, seconded by Art Becker at 11:56 AM.**

Minutes – Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007

**State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board**

Board Members Present: Pete Demicco, Art Becker, Dick Dalton, Joseph Pepe Sr., Karl Muessig, Fred Sickels, Anthony Tirro (via speakerphone)

Board Members Absent: Norman Primost

Others Present: Helene Chudzick (DAG), Michael Schumacher (DEP), Holly Papp (DEP), Melinda Strahle (DEP), Tracy Omrod (DEP), Brian Buttari (DEP), Steve Reya (DEP), Pat Bono (DEP), Julia Altieri (DEP), Vince Monaco (DEP), Gary Poppe

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Art Becker at 10:01 am with a quorum present.
2. **Review of Minutes from July 17, 2007 meeting** – Fred Sickels suggested to remove the reason why the conference room was needed by noon. A motion to remove that from the July minutes was made by Fred Sickels; seconded by Karl Muessig. Karl Muessig made a motion to approve the July 17, 2007 minutes with the suggested change and it was seconded by Pete Demicco; the motion carried.
3. **Certification of test applicants** – After a review of the test applicant lists, a motion to approve the Master Well Driller applicants was made by Dick Dalton and was seconded by Fred Sickels; the motion carried.

Along with his application, a letter had been submitted on behalf of Max Dieber, which requested that he be allowed to sit for the Journeyman exam even though he had not fulfilled all the requirements (5 wells drilled within the past 3 years). Helene Chudzick suggested that his request be denied because he could have made sure to fulfill the requirements like everyone else. Art Becker said a letter needs to be written to Max Dieber explaining that he should drill the needed number of wells and apply to sit for the next test. Max Deiber's application will be rejected.

A total of 4 rejections for Journeyman and Journeyman B were noted and a motion to approve the accepted applications for both drilling classes was made by Karl Muessig and was seconded by Dick Dalton; the motion carried.

4. **Written Challenges to Test Questions** – At 10:12am, Open Session was suspended and the Board entered an Executive Session in order to review the questions which were being challenged. The Board returned to Open Session at 10:47am.
5. **Summary of Test Questions Review** – Joe Pepe and Norman Primost reviewed and revised the Pump Installers exam. Some questions were eliminated and some were revised. Questions that tested more technical knowledge were added, along with more questions being added to the regulatory section. Norm Primost and Joe Pepe believe the Pump Installers exam is now complete and correct.
6. **Board Vacancy** – Eight applications have been received. A recommendation needs to be given to the commissioner, so DEP staff asked the Board members for their input on what expertise might be missing from the Board. Art Becker mentioned that the Board lost someone with experience in North Jersey (hard rock). He also noted that he has mostly environmental experience, Anthony Tirro has more geotech experience, and Norm Primost has water well experience. He suggests possibly looking for someone with experience installing large, deep, production wells. It was also mentioned that someone with obstruction (fishing) experience would be useful. Fred Sickels suggested having conversations with each applicant in order to gauge their level of interest in the position. Joe Pepe would like someone with more pump experience. Karl Muessing suggested possibly choosing a Master Well Driller because they tend to have more experience with a wider range of issues.
7. **Technical Issues** – Steve Reya reviewed recent correspondence and actions with regards to the Morrison grout demonstration. A letter dated August 6, 2007 was received by the Bureau, which stated that Morrison recognizes that the grout mixture did not meet regulatory specifications and noted that the pump was malfunctioning the day of the demonstration. Morrison later notified the Bureau that they would not be scheduling a new grout demonstration; they would instead be drilling-out the 14 wells that were grouted with the flawed mixture and one additional well that they were not able to grout properly due to suspected borehole collapse. The Bureau sent a letter on September 10, 2007 stating that Morrison must notify the Bureau of all pending drilling and/or re-drilling so that the Bureau can be onsite. This work is anticipated to occur within approximately 6 weeks.
8. **Status of Continuing Education** – Melinda Strahle presented a summary of her research on other states' continuing education programs for well drillers (hand-out in meeting folders). 22 of 50 states have continuing education for their licensed well drillers. Art Becker noted that numerous states are also trying to start CE programs and he would find out who they are. He mentioned that Florida and North Carolina have the most strict and demanding CE programs that he knows

of; suggested looking at those programs for ideas. Fred Sickels suggested looking at other areas of the DEP that have CE programs and discerning if BWS&WP could copy-cat their programs. Art Becker noted that CE would help the NJ Groundwater Association financially, especially if the number of internet credits is limited. Fred Sickels left the meeting at 12:12 pm.

- 9. Progress of E-Permitting Development** – Michael Schumacher gave a presentation of the E-Permitting system (showed web pages, etc).
- 10. Reporting Pumping Capacities** – Vince Monaco discussed how the Bureau is looking to identify entities with wells that contain pumps that are rated greater than 35 gpm (in the Highlands) and greater than 70 gpm (rest of the state). The Bureau would like to have wells/pumps registered (water use registration). Initially this registration would be voluntary, however we will eventually change the rules. The Bureau will ask drillers and pump installers for help in getting the information out to homeowners. Joe Pepe asked what was the proper way to report a pump installation in a residential well; Bureau said he could submit a “revised” well record. Joe Pepe suggested adding an additional screen to E-Permitting for that purpose. Pat Bono will email information to the NJGWA to be put in the newsletter, information will be added to the Well Permitting website, and flyers will be sent out with permits.
- 11. Obtaining Pre-Approvals for Setback Minimums** – The Bureau is having trouble making informed decisions about setbacks with the limited information that is submitted with permit applications; wants homeowners to get variance approvals from their local authorities before submitting a well permit request via a driller. Art Becker questioned how this new policy would be implemented, how it would impact the industry, and was concerned that it would become another task for the drillers to do. He asked the Bureau to make sure that the wording of the regulation will specifically state who’s responsibility it is to get the local approval.
- 12. New Business/Public Comments** – Gary Poppe had previously submitted a letter to the Board regarding a complaint against John Ricigliano (Well Doctor). He cited a number of instances where Mr. Ricigliano has been involved in questionable practices regarding well construction and/or lack of permitting. Art Becker employed the Bureau to take action in this matter. He stated his frustration with the lack of enforcement action against negligence, and believes it sends the wrong message to drillers who do the right thing. Joe Pepe wanted to know the procedure for moving forward with action, legal complaints, etc. Pat Bono mentioned that allegations are being brought to Enforcement. Vince Monaco said that the Bureau would look into the matter, along with other “bad actors”. Julia Altieri noted that Notices of Non-Compliance (NONC’s) and Settlement Offer Letters (SOL’s) are sent and that most matters get resolved, however there is a

point at which some disputes stall; never making it to the point where a license is revoked. Pat Bono offered that it is often difficult to get evidence against a disreputable driller because homeowners don't cooperate. Vince Monaco encouraged the submission of complaint letters like Gary Poppe's.

**13. Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe Pepe and was seconded by Pete Demicco. Art Becker adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

Minutes – Thursday, November 8, 2007

**State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board**

Board Members Present: Norman Primost, Anthony Tirro, Joseph Pepe, Sr., Art Becker, Pete Demicco, Karl Muessig, Dick Dalton, Fred Sickels

Others Present: Holly Papp (DEP), Steve Reya (DEP), Pat Bono (DEP), Melinda Strahle (DEP), Tracy Omrod (DEP), Vince Monaco (DEP), Anthony Stegner, Gary Poppe

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Norman Primost at 9:40 AM with a quorum present.
2. **Review of Minutes from September 13, 2007 meeting** – Change Fred Sickels from “others present” to “Board Members present”. A motion to accept the minutes with the change was made by Tony Tirro and was seconded by Art Becker. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Review of Executive Minutes from September 13, 2007 meeting** – A motion to accept the minutes with the same change as the regular minutes was made by Dick Dalton, seconded by Art Becker, and unanimously approved.

3. **Testing and Licensing Issues**  
Melinda Strahle explained that there is an applicant who is unable to obtain a copy of his high school diploma, however submitted documentation showing that he had secondary education past high school which would have required a high school diploma. The board agreed that his alternate forms of proving graduation from high school were acceptable; no vote is needed, application will be accepted.

Certification of Pump Installer Exam Applicants – This testing cycle, 20 pump installer applicants were accepted and 3 were rejected. Fred Sickels asked why there were three rejected, Steve Reya explained that it was mostly due to lack of experience, and/or problems with the application such as an incorrect signature page. Joe Pepe asked how pump installer applicants’ listed experience is verified. Steve Reya stated that the current regulations only



require that two references certify the applicants' experience and that their signature pages are notarized. A motion to accept the list as prepared was made by Pete Demicco and was second by Karl Muessig and the motion carried.

Certification of Soil Borer Exam Applicants – This testing cycle, 19 soil borer applicants were accepted, 1 was rejected, and one applicant is pending. Pending applicant Anthony Stegner is present at the meeting to request a variance of an application requirement. A prior application of his was rejected in 2005 because he had not been on the apprentice list for long enough. He has drilled Category 5 wells deeper than 50 ft (requirement), however, because he works on federal land under federal programs (EPA), none of his greater than 50-ft wells have been permitted by the Department. He is asking the Board to approve the referenced work without a permit/record so that he may sit for the exam. A discussion of administrative issues such as this case and the disagreement about the need to permit federal projects ensued. A motion to approve Anthony Stegner's application was made by Dick Dalton and was seconded by Art Becker; the motion carried. A motion to accept the rest of the approved test applicants was made by Karl Muessig and was seconded by Tony Tirro; the motion carried.

Certification of Monitoring Well Exam Applicants – This testing cycle, 23 monitoring well driller applicants were accepted, none were rejected, and one is pending. Anthony Alexander's application status changes from "pending" to "approved" due to the agreement to accept alternate certification for high school graduation. A motion to accept the list as amended was made by Art Becker and was seconded by Pete Demicco; the motion carried.

Certification of Scores from October Master Driller Exams – All of the examinees either failed the exam or were "no shows". Vince Monaco mentioned that the Department is looking into changing the regulations so that smaller public supply wells may not require a Master Driller's license (based on the complexity of the well, not the use). A motion to accept the list as prepared was made by Dick Dalton, seconded by Pete Demicco, and approved unanimously.

Certification of Scores from October Journeyman Exams – Joe Pepe asked how the Department allows testers to come in and review their exam results. Holly Papp explained that it is in the regulations that they have 30 days to review the exam from the date of their score letter. The Board discussed the possibility of lowering passing scores. Vince Monaco stated that the requirement to complete a course prior to taking the exam might be added when the Continuing Education program is started. Norm Primost noted that an assessment of the level of competency in the drilling world might be needed when deciding whether or not to lower the standards. Joe Pepe suggested that the minimum amount of experience required to take the pump

installers test might need to be raised. A motion to accept the list as prepared was made by Karl Muessig, seconded by Dick Dalton, and passed unanimously.

Certification of Scores from October Journeyman B Exams – Norm Primost asked how many of the testers had taken the exam before, Melinda Strahle noted that 4 of the 7 had taken the exam on previous dates. Gary Poppe thinks it comes down to a lack of studying. Fred Sickels believes a lot of it is attitude. Art Becker suggested that the Board take a look at the technical section of the exams. A comment was made attesting to the fact that two of the drillers who failed the test are good drillers. Fred Sickels thinks that maybe we need to take other areas into consideration for good drillers who aren't "book people". Norm Primost added that the Board needs to review the Journeyman, Journeyman B, and Monitoring Well exams all at the same time (side by side). The Board will set aside a time to review those three exams and the suggested study material as well. Dick Dalton noted that a lot of the questions have ambiguous answers. Art Becker, Tony Tirro, and Dick Dalton volunteered to look at the exams. A motion to accept the list as prepared was made by Karl Muessig, seconded by Dick Dalton, and the motion carried.

4. **Proposed 2008 Board Meeting Dates** – January 10, March 18, May 22, July 10, September 18, and November 18 were accepted as the 2008 State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Meeting dates. The Department will post the meeting dates on the NJDEP website and send out public notifications. Art Becker suggested adding another tab or link on the website to make it easier to find the dates of tests and Board meetings.
5. **Technical Issues**  
Update on grout demo – Steve Reya said that there is currently no new update. The drilling company's job is on hold; a new date will be scheduled.

Discussion of GPS Units – Norm Primost has researched handheld GPS units with Art Becker and George Striker. They were looking to find some that will be acceptable for use in order to meet the requirements set forth in the regulations that go into effect on July 1, 2008. Norm Primost reviewed with the Board the three units that he believes would be best. Pat Bono suggested taking the three units in the field with someone from the Department (Lou Jacoby) and someone from NJGS in order to test each unit. The Board asked how the Department is planning to enforce the new standards. Pat Bono explained that they will use a variety of methods; some submittals will be blatantly wrong, and the Department will eventually be taking a look at the data to see how accurate it is. E-Permitting will help. The Board also asked if there will be penalties for "willful non-compliance". Fred Sickels said we will need to talk to Enforcement and that it is important for the drilling community to understand that many groups (within and outside of the Department) will use this information and it needs to be accurate. Norm

Primost suggests encouraging drillers to keep data so that it can be verified if it is ever questioned. The Department agreed to give the NJGWA a list of all NJ licensed drillers so that the association can include non-members when they send-out information concerning suggested GPS units. Tony Tirro asked if the submittal of coordinates will be required for soil borings? The Department stated that they are still considering that point.

6. **Update on Board Vacancy Applicants/Process** – Pat Bono explained that there were 8 applicants for the vacancy of a driller of any class (Dan Bowen, Joseph Yost, Gary Poppe, Jeffrey Marchesi, Charlton McGinnis Jr, Joseph Neri, Ben Thies, and Michael Gunther). The Department has reviewed any current or past enforcement actions against applicants and has taken into account what knowledge/experience the Board had recommended looking for in an applicant. The Department has recommended 2 of the applicants to the Commissioner; the Commissioner will appoint one of them to the Board. After the appointment has been made, thank you letters will go out to the 7 other applicants with encouragement to apply again the next time there is an opening. Norm Primost announced that he is retiring from the board in July 2008. He will be available if anything is needed. Pete Demicco announced that he has accepted a new job in Delaware and will most likely be moving there and resigning from the Board in July 2008 as well. This will make two openings in the Board that will need to be filled. Fred Sickels noted that he appreciates the quality and professionalism that the board displays.
7. **Program Updates**
  - New SOP for Deviations from Set-back Minimums – Pat Bono discussed the new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for obtaining pre-approvals for domestic (new or replacement) wells that will not meet the minimum setback distance requirements from potential sources of contamination. The Department now requires an approval from the local administrative authority (health department) before it will approve a well permit for a well that will not meet the minimum setback distances. The well owner or driller are required to provide the local administrative authority with a photocopy of the well permit application which accurately depicts site features and shows the reasons the minimum set-back distances cannot be met. The local administrative authority then verifies the information and faxes the approved permit copy to the Department. The procedure was recently instated and is working.
  - E-permitting – The Department has been finalizing the design with the consultant, however, a final draft has not yet been realized. No drastic changes have been made. However, more work needs to be done to make the NJEMS interface function properly. Licensed drillers will enter their “portal account” by entering with their license number instead of their registration number; entry will be password protected. This web-based program will handle well permitting, cancellations, records, modifications, and

abandonments. There will be a way to upload drawings/maps and additional documents.

8. **Other Issues**

Review of revised exam questions by Board members – A motion to enter Executive Session was made by Art Becker and was seconded by Tony Tirro; Open Session was suspended and Executive Session was entered at 2:50 PM. The Board returned to Open Session at 3:40 PM with a motion made by Art Becker and seconded by Pete Demicco.

9. **Adjournment**

At 3:45 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tony Tirro, and was seconded by Pete Demicco. The meeting was adjourned by Norm Primost.