



## 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 October 17, 2024**

*Approved by the Board on November 21, 2024*

**Board Members Participating Via Telephone/Microsoft Teams:** Art Becker (Chairman), Joe Yost, Gordon Craig, Eric Hoffmann, and Richard Dalton

**Board Members Absent:** Gary Poppe, Dave Lyman, and Steve Domber

**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:** Steve Reya, Kat Burkhard, Mark Miller, and Mark Ortega

**Other NJDEP Staff Present:** Don Hirsch, Northern Water Compliance and Enforcement; Alexandra Carone, Geological Mapping and Coastal Geology Section

**Members of the Public:** Brian McGuire, MB Drilling and New Jersey Ground Water Association (NJGWA)

#### **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. A. Becker thanked everyone for attending.

#### **2. Review and Certification of the September 19, 2024, Meeting Minutes-**

A. Becker asked if anyone had any comments on the draft minutes from the September 19, 2024, Board meeting. A. Becker pointed out two grammatical errors in the minutes that needed to be addressed. The first was on the last paragraph of the second page. A. Becker pointed out that the word "as" should have been written as "ask." The second error that A. Becker pointed out was on the fourth page. A. Becker pointed out that the word "be" should have been written as "being" in the first bullet under the Enforcement Update. No other comments were made on the draft minutes.

**A motion to approve the draft minutes from September 19, 2024, after the corrections are made, was made by G. Craig, seconded by J. Yost, and approved by all except for A. Becker who abstained.**

**3. Proposed Board Meeting Dates for 2025-**

A. Becker read the list of proposed meeting dates to the Board. The meetings will tentatively be scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. The January, March, May, July, September, and November meetings will contain full agendas. The February, April, June, August, October, and December meetings will only serve to discuss license applications, continuing education applications, and other emergency topics. A. Becker asked if any of the Board members had any comments on the proposed dates. There were no comments.

**A motion to approve the proposed 2025 Board meeting dates was made by J. Yost, seconded by R. Dalton, and approved unanimously.**

Below is a list of Board meeting dates for 2025. The Board meetings will continue to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams:

Thursday, January 16, 2025	Thursday, July 17, 2025
Thursday, February 20, 2025	Thursday, August 21, 2025
Thursday, March 20, 2025	Thursday, September 18, 2025
Thursday, April 17, 2025	Thursday, October 16, 2025
Thursday, May 15, 2025	Thursday, November 20, 2025
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Thursday, December 18, 2025

R. Dalton informed the Board that he will not be available to attend the upcoming December Board meeting. A. Becker thanked R. Dalton for letting him know.

**4. Review and Certification of Well Driller and Pump Installer License Applications-**

A. Becker listed the names of the two license applicants who were deemed administratively complete by the Department. There was one Environmental Resource and Geotechnical (ERG) well driller license applicant and one Journeyman well driller license applicant. A. Becker pointed out that the Department reviewed three additional license applications which were deemed to be incomplete and an additional application was listed as pending. A. Becker asked if there were any comments on the two license applicants. No comments were made.

**A motion to approve the two license applicants deemed acceptable by the Department was made by J. Yost, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.**

Below is a list of license applicants approved for licensure:

License Type	Applicant Name	Employer
ERG	Cody R. Allen	Summit Drilling LLC
Journeyman	Brian J. McGuire	MB Drilling, LLC

S. Reya provided a follow-up to the Board regarding the application for Mr. Thomas Achilles. S. Reya stated that M. Ortega contacted Mr. Anthony Favorito at the behest of the Board at the

conclusion of the October meeting. S. Reya reported that Mr. Favorito has been very responsive and has been working on providing the required information to the Department and the Board.

## **5. Review of Continuing Education Course Offerings-**

*A. O. Smith*

S. Reya introduced the topic. He noted that there were three course applications that were deemed to be administratively complete by the Department. The first course, Water Source, Contaminants, and Treatment Technologies, presented by A.O. Smith, is a follow-up from the September meeting. During the September meeting, the Board asked the Department to inquire approximately how much time was spent discussing surface water treatment versus groundwater treatment. The course provider pointed out that the course syllabus lists how much time is spent on each topic. The course provider also submitted a revised course application to document that the course instructor would be different. No further discussion was needed.

**A motion to approve Water Source, Contaminants, and Treatment Technologies was made by R. Dalton, seconded by J. Yost, and approved unanimously.**

*NJGWA*

S. Reya provided background information on NJGWA's November 2024 Membership Meeting with The Five Step Process to Building a Drilling Fluid. S. Reya explained that the drilling fluid course was originally supposed to be offered in May but had to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. The Board already vetted the course content, but it is being brought before the Board again because the content of the membership meeting is different. No further discussion was needed.

**A motion to approve the November 2024 Membership Meeting with The Five Step Process to Building a Drilling Fluid was made by G. Craig, seconded by J. Yost, and approved by all except for R. Dalton, who was opposed.**

*Parkhurst Distributing and Marshall + Sterling, Inc.*

S. Reya introduced Parkhurst Distributing and Marshall + Sterling's safety course to the Board. He noted that this course will be held on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. A. Becker asked if this course would only be held for their customers. S. Reya said that no contact information was provided yet, so the Department's assumption was that this course would only be offered to Parkhurst customers.

**A motion to approve the Drillers OSHA/Safety course was made by E. Hoffmann, seconded by R. Dalton, and approved by all except for J. Yost who was opposed.**

## **6. License Report-**

S. Reya provided some background information on the topic. He reminded the Board that A. Becker requested a report during the August meeting to show license statistics. M. Ortega briefed the Board on his report.

M. Ortega explained that his report looked at all licenses granted between July 2008 and August 2024 by license type. M. Ortega showed three graphs to the Board: one showing licenses issued by license type by year, one showing licenses issued by license type by licensing cycle, and one showing net gains and losses by license type during each licensing cycle. The graphs can be found at the end of the minutes.

M. Ortega confirmed what A. Becker originally believed, which was that most new licenses issued are mostly for ERG well drillers and pump installers. M. Ortega noted that there has been a steady decline in the issuance of every license type since the 2008-2011 licensing cycle. He pointed out that there has been an overall net loss of 348 New Jersey licensed well drillers and pump installers for the period he ran the report. The bulk of the losses were Journeyman well drillers and pump installers. M. Ortega also pointed out that there have not been many new Master well driller licenses issued since the 2014-2017 licensing cycle.

M. Ortega discussed the current trend with the Board. He explained that the 2023-2026 licensing cycle is on track to see the most licenses issued since the 2011-2014 cycle, where 127 new licenses were issued.

A. Becker thanked M. Ortega for the report. The Board discussed the potential causes of ERG well drillers and pump installer licenses being greater in number than any other license type. The two suggestions were that it was an easier point of entry or there is a greater demand for that work.

**7. Program Updates/New Business-**

S. Reya informed the Board that one of the staff members in the Well Permitting Unit has recently left for another job. M. Schumacher will be working on hiring a replacement for his group. S. Reya noted that another staff member in the Well Permitting Unit is on maternity leave, so the group is currently down to two reviewers. S. Reya urged patience if wait times for permit reviews take a little longer over the next few months. He advised the Board members to have individuals email the Well Permitting mailbox with permit emergencies that need to be expedited.

K. Burkhard discussed the status of Board appointments and reappointments. She said that there still is no update, and she has reached up the chain for an update. She thanked E. Hoffmann for continuing to serve.

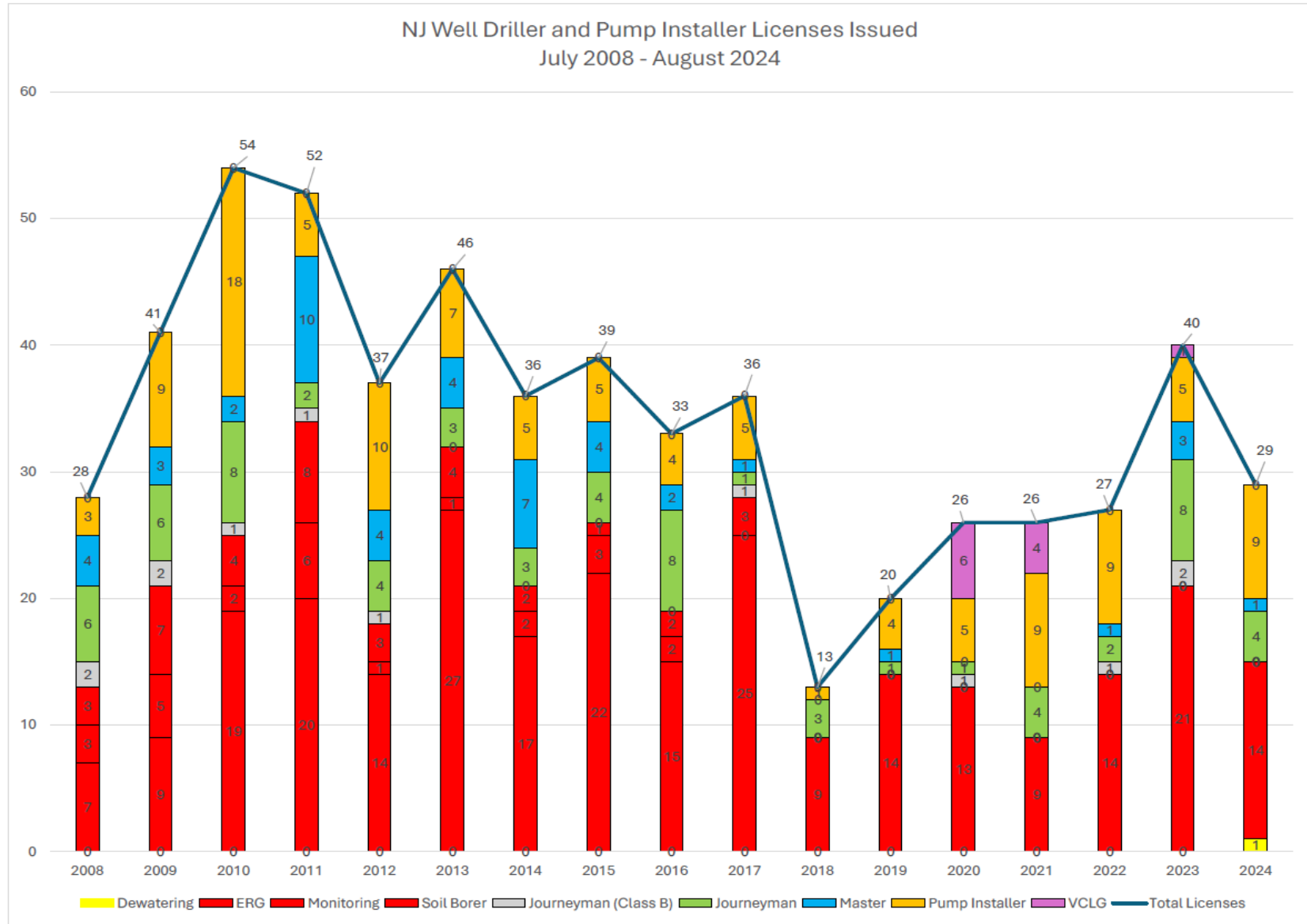
A. Becker asked M. Ortega if he could resume the continuing education completion reports to the Board since the last year of the continuing education cycle starts soon. M. Ortega said that he will begin preparing the reports for the January meeting.

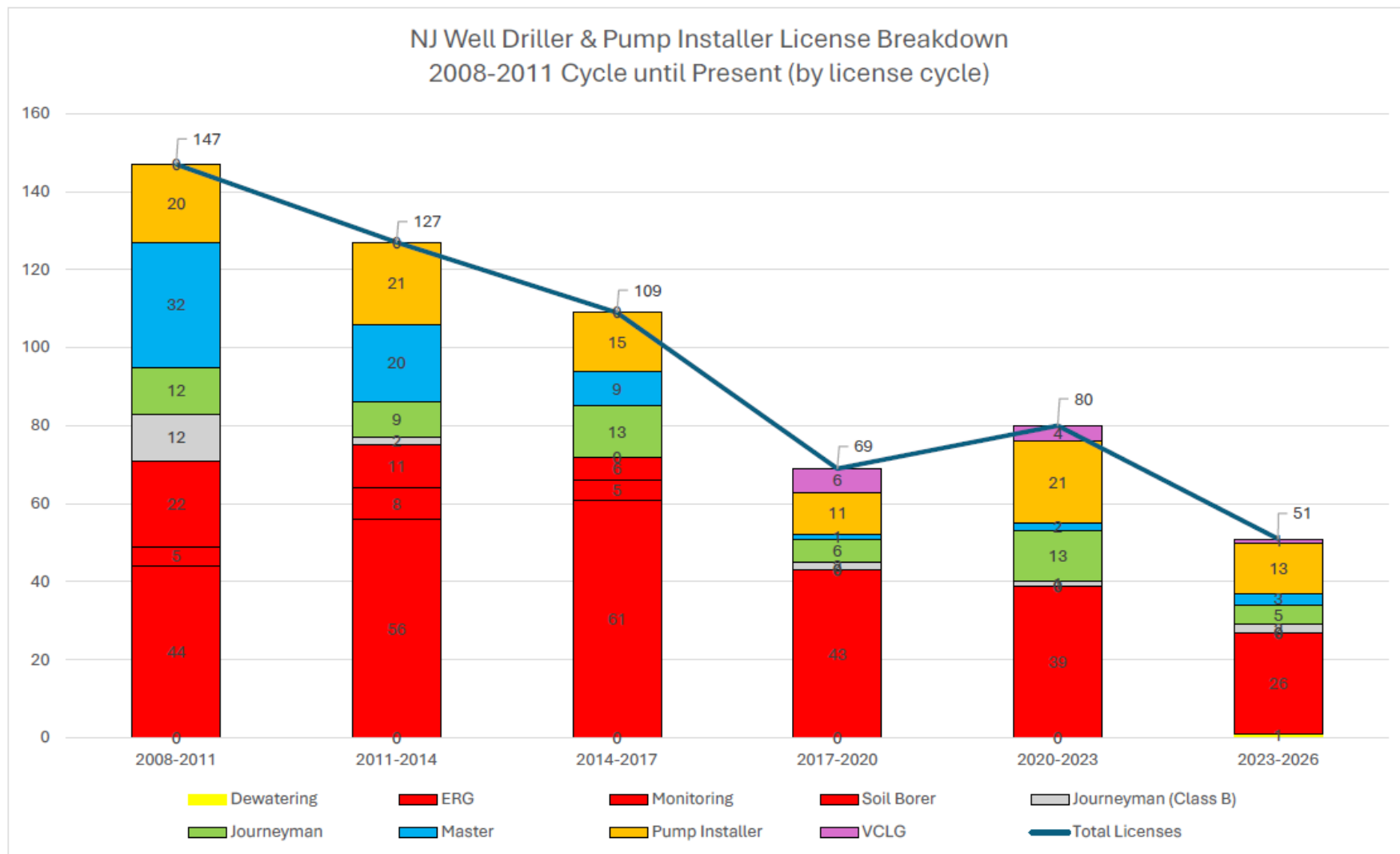
E. Hoffmann briefly discussed something that he encountered at a site that he wanted to share with the Board. He told the Board that they recently found a case where they found vaporized hydrochloric acid while remediating vinyl chloride. He wanted the Board to know in case they encounter something like that.

**8. Adjournment-**

A. Becker thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 am was made by E. Hoffmann, seconded by G. Craig, and approved unanimously.**





# NJ Well Driller and Pump Installer Licences Net Gains and Losses (by license cycle)

