MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Well and/or Pump Installation Licensing Board Members

George Gaffke (chair)  David Dingledine
Larry Lyons  Greg Wilburn
Michael Gross  John Pitz

FROM: Jerry Dalsin
Elaine Beard

DATE: March 13, 2008

SUBJECT: Minutes - January 24-25, 2008 Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor Licensing Board Meeting

Attendance
Board members present: David Dingledine, George Gaffke, Michael Gross, Larry Lyons and Greg Wilburn. Due to changing the meeting dates from January 17-18, 2008 to January 24-25, 2008, Board member John Pitz was absent. Department personnel: Bob Cowles and Jerry Dalsin.

Adoption of Agenda
The agenda that was distributed in advance was adopted without change.

Motion: To Approve the Agenda for the January 24-25, 2008 Board Meeting

Made By: David Dingledine
Seconded By: Michael Gross

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the October 18, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes
The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the October 18, 2007 Board meeting with one correction: Larry Lyons abstained from voting on the Freeport abandoned well issue.

Motion: To Approve the October 18, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes

Made By: Michael Gross
Seconded By: David Dingledine

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.
**Contractor’s License Examinations**
George Gaffke reminded the Board members of their assignments for the examinations to be given on March 14, 2008 as follows:

**March 14, 2008 (will begin with Well Code)**
- **Well Code** - Greg Wilburn
- **Pump Code** - Mike Gross
- **Well Experience** - John Pitz
- **Pump Experience** - David Dingleedine

**Stephenson County Well Sealing**
In regards to the abandoned well that was sealed on property owned by the City of Freeport, Illinois by an unlicensed water well contractor during October 5, 2007, the Board recommended that the Department send a letter to the Mayor of the City of Freeport, explaining that the well was improperly sealed. The letter should include copies of the well sealing violation notices previously submitted to Craig Aspinwall, the licensed water well pump installation contractor who illegally sealed to well, and to Edward Specht, Director of Environmental Health, Stephenson County Health Department, who allowed the illegal sealing of the well. Clay Simonson, Supervisor of the Department’s Rockford Region, should note the illegal well sealing the next time he conducts a Local Health Protection Grant review of the Stephenson County Health Department Potable Water Supply Program.

**Roles of Licensing Board Members**
Bob Cowles summarized the duties of the licensing board members, as specified in Section 6 of the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's License Act (225 ILCS 345/6).

**Routing Board Member Communications with the Department through the Licensing Board Chair**
Jerry Dalsin requested Board members to route their communications to the Department through the Board Chair. By doing so will ensure that the Chair has an opportunity to review and clarify their communications before forwarding them to the Department. This will go a long way to improve the communications process by making it both more effective and efficient.

**Ethics Training and What it Means to Persons Who Sign the Document**
George Gaffke summarized ethics training as it pertains to conflicts of interest for Board members, and that it should also apply on the county level.

**Plumbers and Water Treatment Installers Chlorinating Wells and Working on Water Systems**
The Board commented that there have been instances where plumbers have installed pressure tanks and have not wired the electrical components of the water systems correctly; and requested Bob Cowles to examine the Plumbing Code on this issue and provide comment. The Department is drafting a memo to the local health departments, explaining to them the licensing requirements for individuals who install water treatment devices and perform water well disinfection as part of their business service.

**What to Do About Known Abandoned Wells Not Sealed and the Risks They Pose as Sources of Groundwater Contamination**
George Gaffke expressed the Board’s concerns about abandoned wells that are known to exist and are not being sealed. He provided photos of abandoned wells in Lake County. Lake County Health Department is frustrated by the fact that complicated ownerships stand in the way of getting them sealed. To illustrate this on a larger scale, there are
approximately 3500 abandoned wells in the Village of Beach Park. As one solution, local health departments should inform villages of the requirement to seal abandoned wells.

**Reciprocal Comprehensive Well Inspections between Local Health Departments**
The Board asked the Department as to the status of the amendment to the Local Heath Protection Grant Rules (77 Ill. Adm. Code 615), that would allow reciprocal comprehensive well inspections between local health departments, in those situations where a contractor constructs or seals three or fewer wells. Jerry Dalsin responded that the proposed amendments were reviewed by the Legal Division, their comments incorporated, and then resubmitted through the Division of Environmental Health.

**New Questions for Examinations: Constant Pressure and Variable Flow Discharge Equipment**
The Board postponed discussion on new examination questions until the next Board meeting on March 14, 2008.

**Geothermal Grouting Requirements Conflicting with the Illinois Water Well Construction Code**
According to George Gaffke, silica/bentonite based grouts are being used in the construction of closed loop wells. Since silica/bentonite grouts are not addressed in the Illinois Water Well Construction Code, what requirements should there be for them? Can this type of grout also be used in the construction of water wells? He plans to research this type of grout and discuss his findings at the March 14, 2008 Board meeting.

**McHenry County Flowing Well and the Illinois State Geological Survey Response**
George Gaffke discussed the McHenry County flowing well issue and the Illinois State Geological Survey’s response with Dan Guif of McHenry County Health Department. One possible solution would be to seal the well with a super grout while pumping the water from it; however, it would be very costly to do it. The Board’s recommendations remain the same as the they were at the last Board meeting on October 18, 2007: utilize the services of a consulting engineering firm/geotechnical firm to investigate procedures to properly seal the well.

**Requirements for a Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor, Licensed in Indiana, to Drill Wells and Install Water Well Pumps in Illinois**
The Board read and provided comments on a letter from Water Well Drilling, Inc. of Kingman, Indiana, pertaining to licensing requirements for drilling water wells and installing water well pumps in Illinois. In order to perform work in Illinois, Water Well Drilling, Inc. would have to hire an individual, licensed as an Illinois water well and water well pump installation, or hire one individual with an Illinois water well contractor’s license and another individual with an Illinois water well pump installation license. They can also perform well and pump work in Illinois, provided they are supervised by an Illinois licensed water well and/or pump installation contractor.

**Other Business**

**Bob Strange, Sr. and Bob Strange, Jr. Legal Cases** – The Board requested the Department to provide an update at the March 14, 2008 Board meeting on the separate legal cases for Bob Strange, Sr. and Bob Strange, Jr.

**Supervision of Water Well/Pump Installation Work Being Performed by Eric Spietz** – The Board requested the Department to verify if the water well construction/pump installation work being performed in the Champaign area by Eric Spietz, Betech Company,
is being supervised by Arthur Kingsley, licensed water well and pump installation Contractor #102-001450.

**Next Board Meeting**
George Gaffke scheduled the next Board meeting for March 13, 2008, to be held at the Ramada Limited North in Springfield, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**
Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made By: David Dingledine  
Seconded By: David Dingledine

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

cc: Gary Flentge, M.P.H., L.E.H.P., R.E.A.  
   Chief, Division of Environmental Health  
   Robert Cowles, P.E.  
   Chief, Environmental Engineering Section