



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Well and/or Pump Installation Licensing Board Members
George Gaffke (chairman) David Dingledine
John Pitz Greg Wilburn
Larry Lyons Michael Gross

FROM: Jerry Dalsin
Elaine Beard

DATE: January 22, 2009

SUBJECT: Minutes – October 16, 2008 Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors
Licensing Board Meeting

Attendance

Board members present: John Pitz, David Dingledine, George Gaffke, Larry Lyons, Michael Gross and Greg Wilburn. Department personnel: Marlana Bordson, Jerry Dalsin. The meeting was held at the Ramada Limited North, 3281 Northfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois.

Licenses Issued - (4)

4 - Water Well Pump Installation Contractor License (101)

Examination - 26 Applicants -

9 registered to become water well contractors - 2 no show
10 registered to become water well pump installation contractors - 2 no show
7 registered to become water well & pump installation contractors – 2 no show

Well Code had 3 score of 70 or above

Well Experience had 2 scores of 70 or above

Pump Code had 11 scores of 70 or above

Pump Experience had 5 score of 70 or above

All applicants were mailed their test scores in a letter of pass or fail on October 21, 2008. Successful applicants were mailed their licenses. A list of licensees was mailed to the Office of Mines and Minerals, Illinois State Water Survey, IAGP, IDPH regional offices and local health departments.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair George Gaffke opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Jerry Dalsin introduced Marlana Bordson, Acting Chief of the Division of Environmental Health to the Board members. The agenda that was distributed in advance was adopted without change.

Motion: To Approve the Agenda for the October 16, 2008 Board Meeting

Made By: David Dingledine

Seconded By: Greg Wilburn

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the March 13, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the March 13, 2008 Board meeting.

Motion: To Approve the March 13, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

Made By: John Pitz

Seconded By: Michael Gross

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the September 11, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the September 11, 2008 Board meeting.

Motion: To Approve the September 11, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

Made By: David Dingledine

Seconded By: John Pitz

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Contractor's License Examinations

The examinations to be held on March 13, 2009 were rescheduled for April 3, 2009. Owing to inclement weather during March and distances Board members and license applicants must travel to Springfield, future examinations, previously held during March, will be held during April. George Gaffke reminded the Board members of their assignments for the contractor's license examinations to be given on April 3, 2009 and made assignments for the October 16, 2008 examinations as follows:

April 3, 2009 (will begin with Well Code)

Well Code - Mike Gross

Pump Code - Greg Wilburn

Well Experience - George Gaffke

Pump Experience - John Pitz

October 16, 2009 (will begin with Pump Code)

Pump Code - Larry Lyons

Well Code - George Gaffke

Pump Experience - David Dingledine

Well Experience - Mike Gross

The above board members will prepare their exams from the master question lists of the four types of exams and submit them to the Department at least 60 days before the date of the examination.

Submittal of Examinations by Board Members to the Department

The Board discussed George Gaffke's request to submit exams assigned to them at least 60 days prior to the date the examinations are held. They decided that during January Board

meetings, Board members will submit their examinations for both the April and October contractor license examinations. The examinations submitted will also be reviewed by all Board members at that time.

License Requirements for Constructing Radial Collector Wells

Jerry Dalsin stated that he received an inquiry as to whether or not a water well contractor's license is required to construct a radial collector well in Illinois. He also remarked that there are only one or two firms that construct this type of well in the United States. The Board commented that a water well contractor's license is required.

Illinois Water Well Code Section 920.120 c) – Requirement by Lake County Disallowing Clay as a Sealing Material in Certain Situations

The Board discussed Lake County's requirement to only allow bentonite or neat cement for sealing a water well where a water bearing formation is not located. The Well Code, Section 920.120 c) allows sealing with clay. According to Lake County, a non water bearing formation at one location has sufficient water at another location to be classified as an aquifer. They also require the placement of bentonite chips at the top of a well being sealed near the surface, in a "mushroom" fashion, as an additional protective measure. The Board concurred that this requirement is an unnecessary financial burden and does nothing to provide extra protection to the groundwater. The Board decided to prepare a draft letter of clarification for the Department on the above issues at the next January 22-23, 2009 meeting. The Department is to submit the letter to Lake County.

Continuing Education Sessions Online Available through the International School of Well Drilling

Jerry Dalsin handed out to all Board members an online manual of continuing education courses for licensed water well contractors. The International School of Well Drilling requests to be approved as a continuing education course provider of online CEUs for well drillers and pump installers in Illinois.

Taking a cursory look through the manual, the Board raised several issues on it. The content does not relate to Illinois well construction and pump installation requirements, e.g., Code changes, or to new water well industry technology. The Illinois Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's License Code specifies that a continuing education session shall consist of 6 classroom hours - online courses have credits ranging from 1-2 hours per course. What provision is there for monitoring the courses?

Owning the extensive content of training material, the Board will review the manual and provide final comment at the January 22-23, 2009 Board meeting.

Request for Approval of Closed Loop Well Piping Material with Mechanical or Screw on Joints

The Department has been requested to approve piping material for closed loop well construction, utilizing mechanical or screw on joints. The Illinois Water Well Construction Code requires heat fusion joints, and according to the Department, there have been no reports of significant problems with them. According to comments from the ground source heat pump industry, contraction and expansion of the piping caused by heating and cooling can compromise the integrity of its joints. The Board recommended that the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association must first certify the use of piping material with

mechanical or screw on joints before consideration can be made to changing the Well Code to allow such joints.

Request for Approval of Closed Loop Well Grout Thermally Enhanced with Graphite

The Department has also been requested to approve closed loop well thermally enhanced grouts, consisting of a mixture of bentonite and graphite. The Department has concerns as to the fate or movement of graphite in a groundwater environment. The mixture does not meet NSF requirements. The Board also has concerns as to what would happen if the grout dries and latter rehydrates. Before consideration can be made to approve the grout, the Board and the Department need to look at research findings on its performance in the field. At this point, the grout is not approved.

Sampling Private Wells at Risk for Arsenic Contamination

Jerry Dalsin discussed the ongoing problem of excessive arsenic concentrations, exceeding 10 parts per billion, in shallow aquifers of glacial origin, primarily in the northern two thirds part of the state. Private wells are constructed in these areas and there is no mandatory testing requirement for arsenic, as there is in Minnesota. McHenry and Tazewell Counties are proactive toward encouraging private well owners to test their water for arsenic. There have been studies by the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) on the occurrence of arsenic and they have mapped areas depicting where its concentration is found to be excessive. The ISWS laboratory has been testing water samples from private water wells for arsenic since 2002. With the additional data generated from this testing, the Department plans to meet with the ISWS and discuss with them the need for an updated map of arsenic prone areas and how soon they could produce it.

As a way to resolve the arsenic issue, the Board referenced the Illinois Water Well Construction Code, Section 920.130 f) Groundwater Contamination. As a condition for issuing a permit to constructing a well in a arsenic prone area, the well owner would be required to test the well water for arsenic, and if the concentration is found to be excessive, the well owner shall provide treatment to reduce the contaminant level below the maximum level as specified in the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Department is drafting a guidance document for local health departments on addressing the arsenic issue, emphasizing the testing of private, semi-private, and transient non-community water wells for arsenic and providing treatment where it is found to be in excessive concentrations.

New Examination Questions

As an agenda item for the January 22-23, 2009 meeting, the Board scheduled review of the April 3 and March 16, 2009 examinations, as well as other questions on the master examination lists and will add new questions at that time. As part of the review process, existing examination questions will be evaluated as to their relevancy to current water well construction, pump installation, and closed loop well industry standards and technology. George Gaffke assigned Board members to lead discussions on the exam master lists as follows: Well Code – Mike Gross; Well Experience – George Gaffke; Pump Code - Greg Wilburn; and Pump Experience – John Pitz. The examination questions will be discussed in a recorded closed session.

Other Business

Jeffery Hoshaw's letter – The Board discussed Mr. Jeffery Hoshaw's letter of April 8, 2008 to the Department, regarding the Illinois Water Well Pump Installation Contractor's License examination. Jerry Dalsin's written response was that the Water Well and Pump Installation

Contractor's License Code, Section 915.20 e) prohibits individuals from reviewing their examinations; Mr. Hoshaw's comments were submitted to the Board; he was provided with a list of references used for the examination.

The Board had several comments to make on Mr. Hoshaw's letter. They reiterated that the License Code prohibits applicants from reviewing the examination. Questions are pure and simple multiple choice. To help prepare for the examination, there are continuing education sessions for licensed water well and pump installation contractors, and tutorials are given from time to time. Applicants are allowed to ask questions of clarification only during the examination. All information needed to answer a particular question is given in the question itself. All the examinee has to do is apply that information to answer the question.

SB 2514 to Amend the Illinois Water Well Construction Code Requirements for Closed Loop Wells – George Gaffke commented that there still is a possibility that SB2514 could pass by the end of November. If it does pass, the Board would have to prepare an examination for closed loop well contractor registration. The examination would be based on the Illinois Water Well Construction Law and Code.

Code Changes – The Board commented that the proposed changes to the Illinois Water Well Construction Code and the Local Health Protection Grant Rules, submitted during the last several years, have not made it through the rulemaking process. Marlana Bordson commented that Code changes are slow due to other types of rules having priority, along with staffing, and mechanics of rulemaking issues.

Ethics Training – The Board had comments, regarding the annual ethics training requirement. The deadline was too short, as more advance notice is needed to complete the training by October 31, 2008, and they would like to avoid the last minute rush. The Department should provide instructions to Board members in a timelier manner on completing the training online.

Comprehensive Well Inspections – Larry Lyons commented that some local health departments are requiring comprehensive well inspections based on different well drilling machines, rather than on individuals licensed as water well contractors. The license is inspected, not the well drilling rig. The Local Health Protection Grant Rules have still not been changed to allow reciprocity for these inspections between local health departments. John Pitz emphasized the importance of performing the inspections, especially if a contractor is constructing a large number of wells in a particular county.

Stephenson County's Letter – Larry Lyons brought up the issue of Stephenson County's letter to Freeport area realtors, dated February 5, 2007, telling them that only licensed environmental health practitioners may perform evaluations of private water systems. Jerry Dalsin commented that the Department issued a memorandum, dated April 17, 2008, to local health departments and the Department's regions, clarifying that persons licensed under the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors Act may perform inspections of water wells. Several Board members said that they did not receive a copy of the Department's April 17, 2008 memorandum overturning Stephenson's. Jerry Dalsin is to send a copy of it to all Board members.

Next Board Meeting

George Gaffke scheduled the next Board meeting for January 22-23, 2008, to be held at the Ramada Limited North in Springfield, beginning at 12:00 Noon on January 22 and ending no later than 12:00 Noon on January 23.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.