



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: October 16, 2008

SUBJECT: Minutes – March 13, 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: Gary Flentge, Jerry Dalsin

Licenses Issued - (3)

- 1 - Water Well Contractor License (092)
- 2 - Water Well Pump Installation Contractor License (101)

Examination - 34 Applicants -

- 18 registered to become water well contractors - 4 no show
- 24 registered to become water well pump installation contractors - 2 no show

Well Code had 6 score of 70 or above
Pump Code had 10 scores of 70 or above

Well Experience had 4 scores of 70 or above
Pump Experience had 4 score of 70 or above

All applicants were mailed their test scores in a letter of pass or fail on March 20, 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 3:00 p.m. The agenda that was distributed in advance was adopted without change.

Motion: To Approve the Agenda for the March 13, 2008 Board Meeting

Made By: David Dingledine
Seconded By: Greg Wilburn

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the January 24-25, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the January 24-25, 2008 Board meeting with two corrections: Board member John Pitz was absent due to changing the meeting dates from January 17-18, 2008 to January 24-25, 2008; Roles of the Licensing Board Members was amended to read, "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)".

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

Made By: Larry Lyons

Seconded By: John Pitz

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 October 17, 2008 as follows:

October 17, 2008 (will begin with Well Code)

Well Code - John Pitz **Pump Code -** Greg Wilburn

Well Experience - David Dingleline **Pump Experience -** Larry Lyons

The above board members will prepare their selection of questions from the master questions list and submit to the Department for preparation at least 60 days before the date of the examination.

The Board scheduled the water well and pump installation contractor's license examinations during 2009 for March 13, 2009 and October 16, 2009.

Revisions to the Dewatering Well Policy

The Board reviewed and approved the dewatering well policy, dated March 13, 2008 on the condition that the first sentence of the first paragraph is changed to read: "This policy serves as a guidance document for the Department and local health departments, regarding the permitting of dewatering well systems.

Motion: To Approve the Requirements for Dewatering Wells Policy on the basis of the Board's recommendation for revising the first sentence of the first paragraph

Made By: John Pitz

Seconded By: David Dingleline

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Stephenson County Well Sealing Issue

Based on the written correspondence, including the Department's letter to the City of Freeport, the Board and the Department concurred to close the issue surrounding the sealing of a water well, located on property owned by the City of Freeport.

Status of Water Well Evaluations Performed by Licensed Water Well Contractors and Water Well Pump Installation Evaluations Performed by Licensed Water Well Pump Installation Contractors

According to Gary Flentge, the Department of Professional Regulation and the Department of Public Health see no problem with licensed water well contractors performing inspections on water wells and licensed water well pump installation contractors performing inspections on water well pump installations. Under the Licensed Environmental Health Practitioners Act, licensed environmental health practitioners are also qualified to perform these evaluations. Mr. Flentge is finalizing his draft correspondence on this issue.

Used Pipe Being Sold as New in Illinois

George Gaffke described his experience with used water well casing being sold as new pipe with no markings and no paper trail. The threads on the pipe had the appearance of being used. Jerry Dalsin explained that there were similar problems in the past. He responded to them through a memo that explained heat numbers, requirements for marking steel water well casing, certificate of testing, paper trail, and provided examples of recognizing used and reject casing. Mr. Dalsin plans to again send this memo as an updated version to licensed water well contractors and local health departments.

Developing a Policy for Dealing with Abandoned Wells

As a follow-up to the January 24-25, 2008 Board meeting, George Gaffke continued his explanation of the Board's concerns about abandoned wells that are known to exist and are not being sealed. For instance, there is a report of 3600 abandoned in the Beach Park area. Other reasons why owners are reluctant to seal abandoned wells include the costs for sealing them, and in some instances, retaining them for non-potable use, e.g. irrigation of lawns and gardens. An abandoned well should be brought to the attention of the local health department and the land owner informed of the requirement for sealing it. Enforcement is the main issue associated with sealing abandoned wells. Another avenue for enforcement when the owner refuses to seal an abandoned well is through the States Attorney and imposing a fine.

Other Business

Grouting closed loop wells extending into creviced consolidated formations - Jerry Dalsin and George Gaffke discussed a licensed water well contractor's concerns over the drilling of closed loop wells into creviced consolidated formations, e.g., dolomite, limestone, and sandstone, and the possibility of grout, from the boreholes containing the closed loop wells, migrating to nearby water wells. The Board concluded that there is no reason to exclude closed loop wells from extending into creviced formations and there should be no problem with grout migrating to nearby water wells if correct grouting procedures are utilized.

New examination questions – the discussion of new exam questions was tabled. There was concern that discussions pertaining to examination questions could be subject to being revealed through Freedom of Information Act requests. Jerry Dalsin will look into the procedure to follow during a Board meeting, whereby discussions of examinations can be conducted in such a manner as to classify them as non-discoverable.

Board meeting begin time – The Board requested the Department to move the meeting start time from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., for those meeting dates that precede a contractor's license

examination date. Since several of the members have to travel considerable distances to Springfield where the meetings are held, this will allow them additional time for travel. The Department agreed to their request.

Supervision of unlicensed water well driller – David Dingledine again requested the Department to verify water well and pump installation work being performed by Eric Spietz, Betech Company, under the supervision of Arthur Kingsley, licensed water well and pump installation Contractor #102-001450. Jerry Dalsin responded that on February 5, 2008, he requested the Department's Champaign region to contact the local health departments in its area and request them to verify whether or not Mr. Spietz is being supervised by Mr. Kingsley. Thus far, he has not heard from the Champaign region that this is a problem. The Board recommended that a complaint such as this by a licensed contractor be submitted to the Department in writing.

Construction of a monitoring/remediation well in Peoria County – David Dingledine reported that Andrew Weisenhofer, licensed water well contractor #102-003134, commented to him that a contractor from Indiana and not licensed in Illinois constructed a remediation well in Peoria County. According to Dorothy David, Peoria County Health Department, who personally visited the construction site, the well in question is a monitoring well. Plans call for constructing a remediation well in the future and the consulting firm realizes that the contractor who constructs it must be an Illinois licensed water well contractor. The Board again recommended that a complaint such as this by a licensed contractor be submitted to the Department in writing.

Legal cases involving licensed water well and pump installation contractors - The Board and the Department discussed the effectiveness of suspending or revoking a license versus imposing a fine. The Board commented that a fine would be more effective; especially in light of the fact that many water well drilling and pump installation firms have more than one licensed contractor.

Next Board Meeting

George Gaffke scheduled the next Board meeting for October 16, 2008, to be held at the Ramada Limited North in Springfield, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made By: David Dingledine

Seconded By: Michael Gross

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.