



Pat Quinn, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's Licensing Board Members
George Gaffke (chair) David Dingledine
Larry Lyons Greg Wilburn
Michael Gross

FROM: Jerry Dalsin
Elaine Beard

DATE: October 20, 2011

SUBJECT: Minutes – April 14, 2011 Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's
Licensing Board Meeting

Attendance and Meeting Location

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. on April 14, 2011. Board members present: David Dingledine, George Gaffke, Michael Gross, Larry Lyons, and Greg Wilburn. Department personnel: Ken Runkle, Dave Johnson, Jamie Tosetti, Elaine Beard and Jerry Dalsin. The meeting was held at the Ramada Limited North, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702.

Licenses Issued - 6

2 – Water Well Contractors (092)
4 – Water Well Pump Installation Contractors (101)

Examination - 26 Applicants -

13 registered to become water well contractors – 1 no show
11 registered to become water well pump installation contractors – 0 no show
2 registered to become water well & pump installation contractors – 0 no show

Well Code had 8 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 6 score of 70 or above

All applicants were mailed their test scores in a letter of pass or fail on April 20, 2011. 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

The agenda that was distributed in advance was adopted without change.

Motion: To Approve the Agenda for the April 14, 2011 Board Meeting

Made By: Greg Wilburn
Seconded By: Michael Gross

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the October 21, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the October 21, 2010 Board meeting.

Motion: To Approve the October 21, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

Made By: David Dingledine
Seconded By: Larry Lyons

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Contractor's License Examinations during October 21, 2011

George Gaffke reminded the Board members of their assignments for the examinations to be given during October 21, 2011.

October 21, 2011 (will begin with Pump Code)

Pump Code – David Dingledine
Pump Experience - Larry Lyons

Well Code – Greg Wilburn
Well Experience - George Gaffke

As a reminder, the examinations during 2012 are scheduled for April 20, 2012 and October 19, 2012.

Filling the Existing Board Member Vacancy

The Board discussed the Board member vacancy left by John Pitz on October 22, 2011. Harold Albrecht was recommended by the Association of Groundwater Professionals to fill the vacancy. He did accept to serve as a Board member; however, his appointment must be made through the governor's office to become official. The Board recommended that the Department invite him to come to the next Board meeting on October 20, 2011. This will give him an idea as to how the Board meetings are conducted. Jerry Dalsin will proceed with the invitation to attend the meeting. If he decides to attend, he will have to bear his own travel expenses if he is not appointed by the meeting date.

Procedure to Follow When a Board member is Contacted by an Applicant, Regarding the Preparation for the License Examination (s)

The Board discussed the tutoring of examination applicants by a Board member. The Board members all agreed that a board member cannot tutor an applicant for a particular examination under any condition, and especially if there would be monetary gain by a Board member. However, a Board member may provide advice in general or generic terms, but give no answers to specific examination questions. Past Board members will have to decide for themselves on this issue.

Legislation to Repeal Provisions for the Sunset of the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors License Act

The Board and the Department discussed the legislation to amend the Regulatory Sunset Act to extend the repeal of the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors License Act from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2022. Three Bills have been introduced to achieve this. Up to this time there have been no objections to extending the Act. Under House Bill 1125, the legislation has progressed through the House and has advanced to the first reading in the Senate and referred to assignments.

Legislation to Require the Registration of Closed Loop Well Contractors and the Permitting of Closed Loop Well Systems

According to George Gaffke, there has been a lot of support on the legislation to register closed loop well contractors and permit the construction of closed loop well systems, e.g., Groundwater Awareness Day. The closed loop well contractor registration requirements would only apply the drilling of the borehole, installation of the vertical closed loop piping, and grouting of the borehole. Licensed water well contractors are already very well qualified to construct vertical closed loop wells, and as such they can be certified for registration without taking the certification examination.

The legislation establishes a six member Closed Loop Well Contractors Certification Board to advise the Director of Public Health in matters pertaining to construction of closed loop wells, and work with the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors Licensing Board on these same matters. There would be no compensation for expenses incurred by the new board members. George Gaffe stated that the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors Licensing Board stand ready to help the Department of Public Health with enacting the closed loop well legislation.

Discussion of the Nebraska Grout Study and Implications for Illinois Water Well and Closed Loop Well Construction

To the Board, the Nebraska Grout Study was an eye opener as to the effectiveness of grouting to seal the annular space between the borehole and the outer casing. In the past, extending the casing sufficiently deep into bedrock was very effective to preventing contamination of water wells prior to the time when the requirement for grouting took effect over 15 years ago. As an example, water from the majority of water wells in Lake County still tests safe for drinking. According to the Nebraska Study, chips made a better seal over the liquid grout. This is most likely due to the inconsistency of mixing and applying liquid grout. Since grouting is a costly component of water well construction, its effectiveness in providing an adequate seal must be revisited by the Board and the Department.

The subject of grouting will be discussed in more detail at the October 20, 2011 Board meeting, taking into consideration the results of the Nebraska Grout and similar studies made by the grout manufacturers to provide a water well industry perspective on the issue.

Differentiating Setback Requirements Separately for Horizontal and Vertical Closed Loop Wells – Proposed New Well code Table of Minimum Setbacks

According to Jerry Dalsin, at least two local health departments have concerns over the most recent proposed table of minimum lateral distances between water wells, closed loop wells, and sources of contamination, whereby the distances are differentiated as to whether or not USP food grade propylene glycol is used as the coolant versus other authorized coolants. These local health departments prefer the previous version of the table, whereby

the setbacks are determined not only by the type of coolant used, but also provided separate setbacks for horizontal and vertical closed loop wells. The Board recommended the most current version for now, as coolants not classified as USP or food grade propylene glycol can leak from both horizontal and vertical closed loop wells. The Department concurred with the Board's recommendation.

Other Business

Local Health Protection Grant Rules – Larry Lyons expressed the concerns of licensed water well contractors and local health departments, regarding the amendments to the Local Health Protection Grant Rules to reduce the minimum number of comprehensive water well construction and water well sealing inspections per licensed water well contractor, and to allow reciprocal inspections between local health departments for the same licensed water well contractor. He asked if any progress has been made with amendments to the Local Health Protection Grant Rules on this issue. According to Ken Runkle and Jerry Dalsin, the revisions to allow reciprocal comprehensive well inspections have been made and they are currently in the Office of Health Protection for review.

Examination and Board meeting During February 2012 - The Board discussed holding their annual board meeting and the water well and pump installation license examinations concurrently with Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals (IAGP) annual expo and conference, beginning in 2012. The Board meeting would be 6 hours long and possible held during the day before the expo and conference; the Department could give the Board members a one day continuing education credit for attending their Board meeting. This would save the state the expense of holding a Board meeting and examinations during April. IAGP may be able to get the Board meeting and examination rooms free from the entity where the expo and conference will be held. There would still be a Board meeting and examinations held during October.

The Department concurred with their recommendations and will contact IAGP to see if such arrangements are possible during their annual expo and conference.

Examination Location and Beginning Time – George Gaffke recommended that the examinations begin at 8:00 a.m. rather than at 9:00 a.m. to allow the Board members sufficient time to travel back to their homes, as several of them must travel distances of two hundred miles or more one way. If the Ramada Ltd. North can provide an examination room for no charge, the Board requested that the location of the examinations be moved from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Building, located in the Illinois State Fairgrounds, back to the Ramada Ltd. North. This may be feasible since the Board members and a number of the examination applicants obtain their lodging at the Ramada Ltd. North. Additionally, the Ramada Ltd. North is much easier to find and is located close to the I-55 interchange.

The other Board members and the Department did not have a problem with the new starting time and location arrangements for the license examinations. George Gaffke will make a follow-up with Ramada Ltd. North to see if the arrangements can be made.

Next Meeting

George Gaffke Scheduled the next Board meeting for October 20, 2011, to be held at the Ramada Limited North in Springfield, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the Board meeting.

Made By: Greg Wilburn

Seconded By: David Dingledine

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.