

Well Driller's Meeting Minutes
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2013
Location: 286 Water Street, 3rd Floor

Attendees: Commission Members:
Donald Robbins, Certified Geologist, Public Member, Chairman
Frank Hegarty, Master Pump Installer
Joe Gallant, Master Driller
Ike Goodwin, Master Driller
Tom Weddle, Hydrogeologist, Maine Geological Survey, Department of
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Dwight Doughty, Jr. Hydrogeologist, Maine DOT
David Braley, Senior Geologist, Maine CDC and Prevention
Legal Counsel: Deanna White, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the
Attorney General
Guest: Mike Abbott, Hydrogeologist, Maine CDC and Prevention.

Absent: Doris Labranche, Commission Clerk
Minutes prepared by: Doris Labranche, Commission Clerk

PROCEEDINGS:

Don Robbins - Meeting called to order at 9:20 a.m.

TOPIC: APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2013 MINUTES

DISCUSSION: It was motioned to approve the November minutes. The vote was unanimous with Don Robbins and David Braley abstaining. Doris will distribute to Commission members.

TOPIC: COMPLAINTS

1. Complaint received from Ms. Lisa Pulieris of Windham, ME regarding Atlantic Water Solutions of Alfred, ME.

The Commission reviewed and discussed a complaint received from Ms. Lisa Pulieris concerning a well installed for her by Atlantic Water Solutions. The complaint alleges repeated bacteria problems, including E-coli and total coliform. The question was raised - is the well construction the cause of the water quality issues, or is there another issue going on that has a direct connection to the surface?

The Commission believed that it was unlikely that the driller had been notified concerning the complaint. The Commission decided to ensure that the driller be given adequate notification, then to request that the driller either choose an inspector agreeable to the Commission, or allow the Commission's independent inspector to perform a video inspection of the well. Statute and regulation allow 30 days from receipt of notification for the driller to decide.

David Braley moved to immediately notify the driller (if not done so already by Doris), confirm that the complaint has been received by the driller, request a response from the driller within 14 days after receiving the letter, and request that the driller participate in an independent inspection later in the month, after we receive additional information. Motion was seconded by Frank. Vote was unanimous.

David Braley also moved that subsequent to that we then notify the complainant and the driller of the Commission's intent to perform an inspection to determine if we find a specific threat to public health, seconded by Frank, unanimous vote.

2. Anonymous complaint received regarding Adam Baker Well Drilling Company of Canaan, ME.

The Commission received an anonymous complaint alleging that Adam Baker Well Drilling was installing water wells without appropriate licenses. The Commission has no records of valid licenses for this company or its employees. The Commission shall draft a cease and desist letter notifying the company about the complaint and the licensure requirements in Maine. The company and individuals involved have the opportunity to demonstrate compliance. David Braley stated that in the past, Paul Gauvreau, AAG, indicated that the Attorney General's Office could take subsequent action regarding any unlicensed activity. Frank motioned to have staff send a letter to the driller inquiring on its drilling status. If the license has lapsed for more than 3 years, then the driller would have to sit for another exam and pay licensing fees going back 3 years. It was noted that Adam Baker Well Drilling Inc., company license #WDC0193 expired on 12/31/2011, and Adam Baker, individual well drilling license #WD00355 expired 12/31/2010. Adam Baker's Pump Installer's Apprentice license does not have an expiration date. David Braley amended the motion; that the letter state we have received a complaint of unlicensed drilling and pump installation activities on the part of Adam Baker Well Drilling. We have collected information from a website, Facebook page, and from other drillers who have collaborated the complaint, and he is to cease and desist, or show that they are in compliance with the rules and regulations. Frank agreed with the amended motion; seconded by Joe, and the vote was unanimous.

3. Anonymous complaint received regarding Western Maine Drilling of Limerick, ME.

The Commission received an anonymous complaint alleging that "Western Maine Drilling" had installed a water well less than 45 feet from an existing geothermal well. The Commission reviewed the relevant sections of the rules and determined that there are no required setbacks for water wells from geothermal wells. When the geothermal rules were drafted it was determined that once installed a closed loop geothermal well was not a risk to a drinking water well, and that open loop wells could be treated like drinking water wells. Although the complaint was not accepted by the Commission, a letter will be sent to the driller informing the driller that a complaint was received. The Commission considers this matter closed, no further action will occur.

TOPIC: SPECIALTY WELL APPLICATIONS (SWP)

None at this time.

TOPIC: EXAM APPLICATION

Journeyman Well Driller Application received from Hollis Temple of Bob Temple Well Drilling Co. – tabled pending 3 references.

TOPIC: FINANCES

Finances are handled by the department. We haven't heard anything. We haven't had any expenses. The biggest expense used to be the inspections which were performed monthly, however, that number has been reduced to several a year. No known issues at this time.

TOPIC: PUBLIC COMMENTS None at this time.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:50 a.m.