

## MAINE WATER WELL COMMISSION

Minutes of October 17, 2011 Meeting

### Members Present:

Ed Bowie, Chairman  
David Braley, DHHS  
Ike Goodwin, Well Driller  
Dwight Doughty, DOT  
Joe Gallant, Well Driller  
Don Robbins, Public Member  
Tom Weddle, MGS

### Others Present:

Jessica Bishop, Board Clerk  
Paul Gauvreau, AAG  
David Philbrook, Inspector

### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM.

### Approval of September 23, 2011 meeting minutes:

Don Robbins motions to approve the September 23, 2011 minutes with corrections. Dwight Doughty 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Commission approves.

### Pending Complaints:

#### Complaint received from: Ron Poulin

Allegation: Ferrous smell, very low pH and poor water quality.

Well Drilling Company: James Philbrick Well Drilling

Responsible Master Driller: James Philbrick

#### Fact Finding:

Ike Goodwin recused himself as a commissioner and is present for this complaint as a Goodwill Well & Water Representative only.

Don Robbins moves that based upon review of the inspector's video; the commission has identified a shallow bedrock fracture contributing turbid water to the well. The most likely source of the turbidity are fine grained particles originating at or near the surface in the fractures. Joe Gallant 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Commission approves. Passed.

Commission action:

The commission viewed the video taken during the down-hole camera inspection of the well completed by David Philbrook, the Commission's independent inspector.

Violation:

Don Robbins moved that James Philbrick Well Drilling is in violation of Commission rule 401.5 for not installing a sufficient length of well casing into the bedrock ... to prevent surface water and shallow ground water from transmitting gravel, sand, silt, clay and coliform bacteria into the wellbore. Tom Weddle 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Commission approves. Passed.

Corrective Action:

Joe Gallant moves that the well be repaired using a liner and top and bottom jaspwell type seals or additional casing set in competent bedrock. David Braley amended the motion to require the well be altered to affect a competent seal below the fractured zone contributing turbid water to the well which effectively prevents that turbid water from entering the well in the manner preferred by the driller, whether with a liner and seals or installing additional casing. The driller could also choose to drill a new well. Don Robbins 2<sup>nd</sup> the amended version details. Commission approves. Passed.

**Complaint received from: Anonymous**

Owner is to be Cynthia Austin.

Allegation: Well Drilled does not meet the minimum requirement of no closer than 100 feet to the leach field.

Well Drilling Company: Affordable Well Drilling

Responsible Master Driller: James Bisson

Commission action: On-going investigation.

**New Complaints:**

None

**Specialty Well Applications:**

None

**Specialty Well Applications done "in House"**

Rolfe's Well Drilling, Ted Rolfe: Peter & Kristin Shumway, 45  
North Gayton Lane, Winthrop, ME. 04364

PROPOSED WELL TO BE LOCATED NO CLOSER THEN 65 FEET FROM THE LEACH  
FIELD AND 40 FEET FROM SEPTIC TANK ON PROPERTY.

PROPOSED WELL TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF 70 FEET OF 6 INCH STEEL CASING  
SEALED INTO BEDROCK OR AS AN ALTERNATIVE, A MINIMUM OF 20 FEET OF  
6 INCH STEEL CASING SHALL BE SEALED INTO BEDROCK WITH A SOLID 4  
INCH LINER INSTALLED WITH TOP AND BOTTOM JASWELL TYPE STEEL CORE  
SEALS WITH BOTTOM SEAL A MINIMUM OF 70 FEET BELOW GRADE AND TOP  
SEAL UP INSIDE 6 INCH STEEL WELL CASING. BOTTOM AND TOP SEALS  
SHALL BE WATER TIGHT.

Rolfe's Well Drilling, Ted Rolfe: Mark Morissette, 116 Park Lane,  
Vassalboro, ME. 04989

PROPOSED WELL TO BE LOCATED NO CLOSER THEN 53 FEET FROM LEACHFIELD  
AND 50 FEET FROM SEPTIC TANK ON PROPERTY AND 40 FEET FROM THE  
NEIGHTBOR'S SEPTIC TANK.

PROPOSED WELL TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF 100 FEET OF 6 INCH STEEL CASING  
SEALED INTO BEDROCK OR AS AN ALTERNATIVE, A MINIMUM OF 20 FEET OF  
6 INCH STEEL CASING SHALL BE SEALED INTO BEDROCK WITH A SOLID 4  
INCH LINER INSTALLED WITH TOP AND BOTTOM JASWELL TYPE STEEL CORE  
SEALS WITH BOTTOM SEAL A MINIMUM OF 100 FEET BELOW GRADE AND TOP  
SEAL UP INSIDE 6 INCH STEEL WELL CASING. BOTTOM AND TOP SEALS  
SHALL BE WATER TIGHT.

Bowie Bros, Inc, Ed Bowie: Robert Weimont & Margaret Chadwick,  
Fellows Cove Road, Fayette, ME. 04349

PROPOSED WELL TO BE LOCATED NO CLOSER THEN 53 FEET FROM THE ONSITE  
TANK.

PROPOSED WELL TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF 60 FEET OF 6 INCH STEEL CASING SEALED INTO BEDROCK OR AS AN ALTERNATIVE, A MINIMUM OF 20 FEET OF 6 INCH STEEL CASING SHALL BE SEALED INTO BEDROCK WITH A SOLID 4 INCH LINER INSTALLED WITH TOP AND BOTTOM JASWELL TYPE STEEL CORE SEALS WITH BOTTOM SEAL A MINIMUM OF 60 FEET BELOW GRADE AND TOP SEAL UP INSIDE 6 INCH STEEL WELL CASING. BOTTOM AND TOP SEALS SHALL BE WATER TIGHT.

**Exams requested:**

James D Watson: Don Robbins moves that he be approved to sit for the Journeyman Well Driller's exam. Joe Gallant 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Commission approves. Passed.

Clerk will put in the letter that if exam is taken and passed by November 21<sup>st</sup> that he can ask for the closed loop endorsement since he meets those qualifications as well.

**Examinations Passed:**

None

**New Business:**

Paul Gauvreau presented a draft policy for Commission consideration that would guide the Commission as it responds to complaints. The Commission will review the draft and consider its adoption at its next regular meeting.

The Commission has no jurisdiction to investigate non-licensed activities. However, staff can send a letter of notification to non-licensed drillers and cc the AG's office. The notice could include an application for licensure. David will work on a draft for the next meeting.

**Geothermal:**

The public comment period for the geothermal construction rules is now over. There were two verbal comments received at the public hearing. One regarded required setbacks from septic systems for closed loop geothermal wells. Section 601.1 requires a setback of at least 50 feet for closed loop wells from non-engineered septic systems. The Commission discussed the comment and determined that the need to protect drinking water wells and groundwater quality was sufficient to require the 50 foot

setback. Reducing the setback would result in closed loop wells being installed closer to septic systems even on properties with sufficient room for increased, and safer, setbacks. Reductions to this setback can be granted on a case by case basis through the Specialty well process for those instances where adequate room isn't available. A second comment was received concerning a requirement that the Commission be sent a copy of the drillers log for all closed loop wells. The Commission agreed that this was unnecessary and decided to strike the requirement from section 607.1.2.

Commenter(s) will be sent responses explaining the Commission's decisions.

David will make the change; submit the rules to the Governor's office and the Office of the Attorney General for final review before submission to the Secretary of State.

#### Meeting Dates for 2011

January 13, 2011	July 5, 2011
February 1, 2011	August 17, 2011
March 14, 2011	September 23, 2011
April 5, 2011	October 17, 2011
May 3, 2011	November 2, 2011
June 7, 2011	December 14, 2011

#### *Subject to change.*

The next Well Drillers Meeting will be: **Wednesday, November, 9, 2011, at 9:00, Key Bank, 286 Water Street, Augusta ME.**

Meeting Adjourned 4:45 PM.