

MAINE WATER WELL COMMISSION

Minutes of September 12, 2012 Meeting

Members Present:

Donald Robbins, Chairman
Tom Weddle, MGS
Joseph Gallant, Driller
Edward Bowie, Driller
Ike Goodwin, Driller
David Braley, DHHS

Others Present:

Paul Gauvreau, AAG
Frank Haggerty, public
William Fortin, public

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 A.M.

Approval of August 8, 2012 meeting minutes:

Ike Goodwin motioned to accept the August 8, 2012 minutes as amended. Joe Gallant 2nd the motion. Passed 5 - 0. Ed Bowie abstained.

Pending Complaints:

Complaint received from: Anonymous

Owner is Mr & Mrs. 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

Discussion:

The Commission viewed the inspection video from the August 21, 2012 inspection.

Paul Gauvreau summarized the status of the complaint investigation to date.

Findings of Fact:

January 19, 2012, written confirmation that previously ordered corrective action had been completed was received from Affordable Well Drilling. The confirmation included submission of a Setback Reduction Notification Form and the installation of a liner and seal.

January 19, 2012, the Commission clerk, Jessica Bishop, contacted the driller by e-mail for clarification regarding the installation of the liner and seals, as the Commission's order of corrective action required "a liner and seals" be installed. The drilling company responded using e-mail, amending the initial submission to include two (2) seals being installed on the top and bottom of the PVC liner. The initial confirmation was purported to be in error.

On June 8, 2012, the Commission's independent inspector, David Philbrook, inspected the well. The drilling company declined an invitation to participate. The Commission determined after reviewing the results of the inspection during the June 13, 2012 meeting, that water was flowing over the top of the liner, an indication of either a leaking top seal, or that no top seal had been installed.

The Commission determined that the well should be re-inspected to verify the installation of a top seal by viewing joints in the PVC and requested that its independent inspector complete the re-inspection and report back at the July 13, 2012 meeting. The inspector reported to the Commission at the July meeting that access had been denied by the home owner. The Commission directed the Office of Attorney General to seek a warrant to allow the inspection. Subsequently the Maine District Court issued an administrative inspection warrant, authorizing the Commission to inspect the well to determine whether the driller had performed the required corrective action.

On July 21 the Commission's independent inspector re-inspected the well, with Commission Chairman Don Robbins assisting. The Austin's were present; the drilling company declined an invitation to participate. The inspection was reviewed by the Commission at the September 12, 2012 meeting. The inspection showed iron staining on the inside of the PVC liner, indicative of flowing water. Using the location of joints inside the PVC liner the Commission determined that the bottom of the liner appeared to have a Jazzwell type PVC seal installed, there was no evidence of a similar type seal at the top of the PVC liner.

Moved for acceptance by Ike Goodwin, 2nd by Ed Bowie. Passed unanimously.

Commission Action:

Affordable Well Drilling shall be notified that the Commission has determined that the top seal is not functioning as required by the Rules, 144 CMR 232, Chapter 4 Section 401.5.8 - **"Jaswell" type seals installed on liners: When "Jaswell" type seal tips are installed on liners, they shall be water-tight and leak-free.** The driller must take appropriate action to install a liner and top and bottom seal assembly that is water tight and leak free as required by the Rules. All work must be completed in the presence of the Commission's independent inspector. The driller must coordinate the work with the inspector and property owner.

Moved for acceptance by Ed Bowie, 2nd by Joe Gallant. Passed unanimously.

New Complaints:

Complaint received from: William Fortin, property owner

Allegation: Well drilled by-passed a significant water bearing zone near the surface by the installation of extra casing, causing the well to be lower yielding than necessary.

Well Drilling Company: Moosehead Water Wells, LLC

Responsible Master Driller: Tom Mason

Discussion:

Mr. Fortin explained that he felt it was inappropriate for the driller to install extra casing to seal off near-surface water bearing fractures. Several members of the Commission explained to Mr. Fortin that near surface groundwater has a high likelihood of including bacteria, viruses and sediment and that the Rules require drillers to use professional judgment when determining how much casing is required. The matter was tabled until the October meeting to allow the driller to prepare and participate.

Specialty Well Applications:

None

Specialty Well Applications done "in House"

Scot Patterson by James Philbrick Well Drilling, Inc. Well to be located 45 from on-site leach field, 60 from on-site septic tank, all others 100+ feet away. Approved with 120 feet of casing or liner with top and bottom seals.

Exams requested:

None

Examinations Passed:

None

New Business:

The process of hiring a new clerk has been initiated. It should take a few weeks to complete.

Frank Haggerty has been appointed by the Governor to the Commission seat vacated by Ed Bowie.

The Commission expressed its gratitude to Mr. Bowie for his years of service to the Commission and the Maine well drilling industry, and noted that the October meeting will be the first in the history of the Well Drillers Commission without a Bowie as a member.

Meeting Dates for 2012

January 11, 2012	July 13, 2012
February 8, 2012	August 8, 2012
March 14, 2012	September 12, 2012
April 11, 2012	October 10, 2012
May 9, 2012	November 14, 2012
June 13, 2012	December 12, 2012

Subject to change.

The next Well Drillers Meeting will be: **Wednesday, October 10 at 9:00, Key Bank, 286 Water Street, Augusta ME.**

Meeting Adjourned 11:45 A.M.