

Well Driller's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2017

Location: MGS 17 Elkins Lane, Augusta, ME

Attendees: Commission Members:
Dwight Doughty, Hydrogeologist, DOT, Chairman
David Braley, Hydrogeologist, MeCDC
Mike Otley, Public Member
Frank Hegarty, Master Well Driller
Ryan Gordon, Hydrogeologist, Maine Geological Survey
Glenn Dyer, Master Well Driller

Legal Counsel, Deanna White, AAG
Debbie Dyer, Public

Minutes prepared by: David Braley

PROCEEDINGS:

Dwight Doughty - Meeting called to order at 9:17 A.M.

TOPIC: February 2017 Meeting

Motion: Mike motioned to approve the June minutes. Glenn 2nd

Vote: Unanimous to approve June 14, 2017 minutes.

TOPIC: Specialty Well Applications

None

TOPIC: Exam Applications

Nicholas King – Journeyman Pump Installer, Goodwin Well & Water. David motioned to approve (will verify license status of references), Frank 2nd. Unanimous to approve application to sit for the Journeyman Pump Installer exam.

TOPIC: Complaints:

Maine Drinking Water Program vs Danny Marquis/Marquis Well Drilling: The Commission received an email complaint regarding the installation of a drinking water well to be used as a public water supply source without prior approval from the Drinking Water Program. The driller/company is Danny Marquis, Marquis Well Drilling. The well was drilled at the Lister-Knowlton VFW in

Caribou. The well has been approved “After-The-Fact” by the Drinking Water Program. There was miscommunication between the driller and the project managers. The Commission determined that the driller should have questioned the status of the well prior to drilling. Public supply wells must be located and constructed as required by the Drinking Water Program, the Well Drillers Rules do not have standards for the construction of public water supply wells. David motioned that a violation of Section 400.1.2 of the Well Drillers and Pump Installers Rules had occurred. Mike 2nd. David motioned that no penalties would be imposed, but a warning letter would be sent to the driller. Glenn 2nd. Complaint closed.

David Munson vs Flemings Water Treatment: Mr. Munson alleges that an employee of “Fleming Water Treatment Co” (actually Peter Fleming’s Pump Service) pulled the pipe from his well, replaced a foot valve and because he had difficulties re-installing the pipe he left with the pipe un-installed and Mr. Munson with no water. Mr. Munson states that he had to have neighbors install the pipe and they noticed that the pipe had been damaged. Glenn motioned to accept the complaint, Frank 2nd. Unanimous to accept. Frank motioned to send the Commission’s inspector and if the inspector finds no water and a violation as the cause that David could respond using the Commission’s authorities to respond to significant threats to public health and order corrective action that must be completed within 48 hours. Mike 2nd. A letter will be sent to the licensee requesting additional information.

TOPIC: Other Business

The Commission discussed the minimum age for granting licenses for well drilling and pump installation, including Apprentice licenses. AAG Deanna White summarized the requirements of the Maine Department of Labor regulations, 12-170 CMR 11. Those state rules state:

Children under 14 years old are not allowed to work as an occupation;
Children under 16 years old are not allowed to work on or near power driven equipment (drill rigs and pump pullers);
Children 16 or 17 years old are not allowed to work on or near:
 Mechanical hoisting equipment (drill rigs);
 Excavation operations (excavators and backhoes);
 Welding, cutting, burning or brazing (cutting and welding casing);
 Indirect contact with pesticides (chlorine is pesticide).
There are no exceptions for immediate family members.

Given these state regulations the Commission determined that absent an apprentice program approved by the Maine Department of Labor no licenses, including Apprentice licenses, shall be granted to individuals that have not obtained the age of 18. Applications will be modified as required to insure the age of applicants can be determined during application review. Motioned by Mike, 2nd by David. Unanimous to approve motion.

The Commission discussed LD 454 which requires the Commission to draft regulations requiring well drillers provide customers with information concerning appropriate water testing. The Department has information and will be updating it to comply with this new law. The Maine Groundwater Association may wish to participate in the creation of these materials and include other information not expressly required by the law.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2017 MGS 17 Elkins Lane, Augusta, Maine 9:00 A.M.

Adjourned at 10:12 A.M. Mike motioned, Glenn 2nd. Unanimous.