

Well Driller's Meeting Minutes
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2013
Location: 286 Water Street, 3rd Floor

Attendees: Commission Members:
Donald Robbins, Certified Geologist, Public Member, Chairman
Frank Hegarty, Master Pump Installer
David Braley, Senior Geologist, Maine CDC and Prevention
Joe Gallant, Master Driller
Ike Goodwin, Master Driller
Tom Weddle, Hydrogeologist
Absent: Dwight Doughty, Jr. Hydrogeologist, Maine DOT; and Deanna White, Assistant Attorney General – Office of the Attorney General
Legal Counsel: Mark Randlett, Assistant Attorney General – Office of the Attorney General, sitting in for Deanna White
Guest: Lolisa Windover, Complainant

Minutes prepared by: Doris Labranche, Commission Clerk

PROCEEDINGS:

Don Robbins - Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

TOPIC: APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2013 MINUTES

DISCUSSION: Edits to the August minutes were provided to Doris. It was motioned to approve the revised minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous. Doris will update the August minutes and distribute to Commission members.

TOPIC: COMPLAINTS

Lolisa Windover of Peru, ME, regarding Goodwin Well & Water Company. Ike Goodwin recused himself as Commissioner and only represented Goodwin Well and Water, Inc. Ms. Windover voiced her concerns over a recently drilled well on her property. Don Robbins, as well as David Braley, informed her that the Commission does not regulate 'quality' or 'quantity', but ensures that wells are drilled, constructed or abandoned in a proper manner. David Braley informed her that if promises were made between a driller and the homeowner, they are not part of the Commission's rules.

Ike Goodwin stated that he was not made aware of the complaint until just recently. (*No notification had been forwarded to the drilling company.) Ike discussed the homeowner's concerns regarding a written statement she provided of "basically a dug well" and informed her of the two types of drilled wells – bedrock and gravel. Ike discussed what the driller encountered during the process, why casing was not installed at that time, and why the driller did not believe he had found suitable gravel formation.

Joe Gallant informed Ms. Windover that he preferred a gravel well over a bedrock well any day, IF the quantity of water was there. Joe believes that the borehole got lost because of the timeframe the well sat unfinished and stated that this area is a very difficult area to drill.

Mark Randlett, Assistant Attorney General, informed her that the Commission's role was to determine if a violation of the rules/statute had occurred which would warrant some sort of a sanction. If none found, then further discussions between the homeowner and the driller should take place outside the context of the Commission.

David Braley stated that the determination had to be made if a driller violated the rules, and if so, then determine if the Commission would accept the complaint. Although it appears the homeowner has valid issues, it does not appear that the driller has committed any violations. David also stated that he is not certain the Commission would find any violations even if the Commission took several months to investigate the complaint. Normally, an inspector would be sent out to inspect the well, a camera placed inside to view, and then the inspector would report back to the Commission at a subsequent meeting with a determination if a violation had been made or not.

The driller in agreement with the homeowner, have decided to try to work things out prior to the next commission meeting, hopefully come to an agreement, and proceed forward from there. Complaint tabled until October. No action needed at this time.

TOPIC: SPECIALTY WELL APPLICATIONS (SWP)

Theodore Rolfe, WDC – Brent Jordan, Homeowner: Proposed well to be located no closer than 60 feet from the onsite leach field, and 32 feet from onsite septic tank, and no closer than 100 feet from the neighbor's leach field and 60 feet from the neighbor's tank. Proposed well to have a minimum of 90 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 seals, with bottom seal a minimum of 90 feet below grade and top seal up inside 6 inch steel well casing. Bottom and top seals shall be water tight. Annual water testing is recommended.

James Innis, WDC – Rebecca Wood, Homeowner: 2nd attempt – Last month driller drilled 610 feet and hydrofracked. No fractures were found or developed in the process. According to the driller, there is a fracture zone at about 15 feet which the driller would like to access by perforating the casing. The proposed well is to be located no closer than 70 feet from the onsite leach field, and 70 feet from the onsite septic tank. The Commission approved his request to perforate the casing near the top to let in near surface water. Annual water testing is recommended.

Gary Gould, WDC – Patricia Roberts, Homeowner: If dry well ground water system remains, then the proposed well to have a minimum of 120 feet of 6 inch steel casing

sealed into bedrock with a 10 inch borehole, 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 a top and bottom Jaswell type seals with bottom seal a minimum of 120 feet below grade and top seal up inside 6 inch steel well casing. Bottom and top seals shall be water tight. If the dry well ground water system is abandoned, then 90 feet of 6 inch steel casing shall be 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 90 feet below grade and top seal up inside 6 inch steel well casing. Bottom and top seals shall be water tight. Annual water testing is recommended. If this is the first time the well drilling company has grouted a specialty well, then the well drilling company shall contact the Commission for an inspector to be sent out to monitor the process. (Doris left a voice message with the WDC on 9/13/2013.)

TOPIC: WELL REPORTS

David Braley distributed a revised matrix of a draft 'Policy to Determine Casing or Liner & Seals Required for Specialty Well Applications'. Additional recommendations were made, will be included in the policy, and a final review performed at the October meeting.

TOPIC: 3 EXAM APPLICATIONS

Phil Bisson – Master Well Driller Exam Application;
Jason Bisson – Master Well Driller Exam Application, and
Michael Bessler – Journeyman Pump Installers Exam Application.

Based on review of each of the above applications and based on information contained in each of their files, it was determined that each of the above applicants are eligible to set for the above listed exams. Doris to send letters to each individual informing them of their eligibility to sit for the exams.

TOPIC: OTHER

David Braley made a request for the Commission to purchase (for a fee of \$73.00), the latest edition of a water system manual. The vote was unanimous.

TOPIC: PUBLIC COMMENTS None at this time.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:42 a.m.