



State of New Hampshire  
**WATER WELL BOARD**



Roger B. Skillings, C.W.D. – P.I., *Water Well Contractor*  
David R. Hunt, *Water Well Contractor*  
Stephen R. Smith, *Pump Installer*  
Richard P. Schofield, P.G., *Staff*

Steven Garside, *Technical Driller*  
Rene Pelletier, P.G., *Dept. of Environmental Services*  
Frederick H. Chormann, Jr., P.G., *State Geologist*  
Steve Guercia, Certified Operator, *Public Member*

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NH WATER WELL BOARD MINUTES

September 18, 2014

A meeting of the New Hampshire Water Well Board (“Board”) was held on September 18, 2014, in the Department of Environmental Services Building in room 111, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

Present were: Roger Skillings, Chairman  
Brandon Kernen, for Rene Pelletier  
Board Members: Stephen Smith, Steve Guercia, Steven Garside, and David Hunt  
NH DES Staff: Richard Schofield

Chairman Skillings brought the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

**Administrative Rules**

The meeting was called to review the current rules as proposed and to consider any additional changes, which may be brought forward by the staff or Membership.

Mr. Hunt raised attention to the well siting rules in We 602.06, which establish a table of minimum well casing depths for corresponding reduced setbacks to potential contaminant sources and property boundaries. The prescribed minimum casing depths are designed to protect the water supply from contamination when wells must be constructed closer than 75 feet from an individual sewage disposal system, or a property line, which potentially could be a source of contamination in the future. Mr. Hunt suggested to the Board that the rules would apply to all types of wells and all types of well construction equipment, including wells constructed by cable tool method and gravel well construction including point wells. The rules would in some instances create requirements which would be prohibitive for these well construction methods and well construction types.

The Membership discussed the potential effects of the proposed rules on cable tool drillers and contractors constructing gravel wells against the public health benefits of the proposed rules and the need for consistency.

The Board considered a report published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the causes and potential solutions of naturally occurring contaminants in wells constructed in crystalline bedrock such as arsenic and radon. The report indicated that deeper wells with deeper casings tend to have higher concentrations of these contaminants, and wells targeting shallower bedrock fractures have lower concentrations.

The Membership debated whether to keep the existing minimum casing depth of 40 feet for reduced setbacks to property boundaries the same, and use the table based on the Pythagorean Theorem for reduced setbacks to septic systems only. There was no consensus.

The Membership also discussed the possibility of adopting rules allowing the protective well radius to cross property lines onto lands which are permanently precluded from development, such as state and locally mandated property line septic system setbacks, wetlands, surface waters, roads, and lands with steep slopes. This would be consistent with the DES-Subsurface Systems Bureau rules for protective well radii and would simplify implementation of the rules for both regulatory programs, septic system designers, and water well contractors. It would also provide more options for water well contractors to make decisions on well siting. This approach would also reduce the necessary amount of well casing required for a reduced setback to a property line.

The discussion was tabled. Staff was instructed to draft a review for discussion at the next meeting.

The Board also reviewed additional amendments to the rules proposed by Board members and staff.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Rene Pelletier  
Water Well Board Secretary