

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Board of Environmental Health Practitioners

Meeting Date: September 25, 2007
 Meeting Convened: 1:11 p.m.
 Meeting Adjourned: 3:02 p.m.
 Meeting Location: Chicago office, Conference Room 9-171A

Members Present: Marlana Bordson, Chairperson
 Michael J. McMillan, Vice Chairperson
 Margaret Leonard, Public Member

Members Absent: Kenneth Pannaralla, Member

Staff Present: Mark Thompson, General Counsel
 Todd Robertson, Board Liaison

Guests Present: Gary Flentge, Illinois Department of Public Health

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order/Roll Call		Meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m., and per the Chairperson's request, a roll call was initiated.
<p>New Business</p> <p><u>Approval of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Health Inspectors</u></p>	<p>The Board reviewed minutes of the business meeting held on June 26, 2007.</p> <p>Mr. Thompson responded to an issue raised as to whether county and municipal health inspectors are subject to the licensure requirements of the Environmental Health Practitioner Licensing Act (225 ILCS 37).</p> <p>Mr. Thompson stated that the Act has no language that would exempt county and municipal health inspectors from the licensing requirements. Therefore, it is the position of the Division that the Environmental Health Practitioner Licensing Act does apply to county and municipal health inspectors.</p> <p>Mr. Thompson stated that health inspectors must be licensed under the</p>	<p>Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as written.</p> <p>Mr. Robertson will forward the written opinion as provided by General Counsel to Board members.</p>

<p><u>Enforcement Statistics</u></p> <p>Figures are current as of 9/25/07</p> <p><u>Practice Complaints</u></p>	<p>Act or under the direct supervision of either an individual licensed under the Act or a licensed engineer.</p> <p>Chairperson Bordson asked Mr. Thompson how the Division would inform the profession regarding this opinion.</p> <p>Mr. Thompson advised that there would be a written opinion provided.</p> <p>The Division has received 106 complaints related to environmental health practitioners since 2003.</p> <p>There are currently 6 open cases. 2 cases from 2006 are referred for Prosecution review. 4 cases from 2007 are under investigation.</p> <p>Gary Flentge, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) was in attendance to discuss specific entities licensed by IDPH related to environmental health practice. This included private sewage disposal system installation contractors and private sewage disposal system pumping contractors under the Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act. It also included water well contractors and water well and pump installation contractors under the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's License Act.</p> <p>Mr. Flentge stated that the question has been raised regarding who is authorized to inspect the systems under the above-named Acts. Mr. Flentge stated that it has been the contention of IDPH since the licensing laws went into effect that those who are licensed to install the systems also have the authority to maintain, service, operate, repair, modify and do anything to the matter of which they are licensed to install.</p>	<p>IDPH General Counsel will provide a written opinion to IDPR that interprets the Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act (225 ILCS 225) and the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's License Act (225 ILCS 345) to authorize licensees to inspect the systems they maintain.</p>
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<p><u>NEHA basic science hour policy</u></p>	<p>In a manner of those licensees being able to perform maintenance, modification and repair to those systems, the licensees would be able to inspect the systems to determine if such was required.</p> <p>Mr. Flentge stated that IDPH has received correspondence and has been in discussion with IDPR regarding a specific individual who received a cease and desist order for inspecting private sewage disposal systems, which IDPH states is allowed under the Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act. He stated that IDPH has an unwritten understanding that if IDPH licensees maintain the systems they can also inspect the systems to determine if they are working properly.</p> <p>Mr. Thompson responded that IDPR had previously inquired with IDPH if their General Counsel's office had a written opinion or could issue a written opinion stating that IDPH is interpreting the Act to include inspections. If provided, IDPR would defer to IDPH with respect to their licensees performing inspections.</p> <p>Mr. Flentge advised that IDPH General Counsel would be providing the written opinion to IDPR.</p> <p>The Board discussed the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) change in basic science hour policy as it relates to the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) exam.</p> <p>The NEHA Board of Directors voted to define "basic sciences" as biological, physical, natural, and health sciences. This policy was amended to make the transcript review process more uniform.</p>	<p>The change in NEHA's basic science hour policy does not affect the requirements for environmental health practitioner licensure in Illinois.</p>
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	<p>The Board noted that while this change has been made at the national level, the Environmental Health Practitioners Licensing Act and Administrative Rules provide the requirements for EHP licensure in Illinois.</p> <p>It was the consensus of the Board that IDPR's education requirements are more specific and protective of environmental health practitioner licensure.</p>	
Application Review	<p>The Board reviewed:</p> <p>EHP Exam Applications</p> <p>EHP in Training Applications</p>	<p>The Board:</p> <p>Recommended (3) applications be approved (Action Sheets 073332-073334)</p> <p>Recommended (5) applications be approved (Action Sheets 073335-073339)</p>
Signatures	Action Sheets	The Board affixed their signatures to Action Sheets 073332-073339.
Adjournment	No further discussion	The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.