

**MAINE FUEL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: October 9, 2014
Meeting Location: Central Conference Room
Time Meeting Began: 9:05 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chair, Barry Austin, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Barry Austin
Paul McClay
Lionel Landry
Jeffrey Choate
Charles Martin
Mark Bossie
Dale Canning
Jonathan Klages

The following members were absent:

David Foster

Staff Present:

Catherine Carroll, Board Administrator
Vickey Gray, Board Clerk
Peter Holmes, Senior Inspector

AAG Present:

Judith Peters

OLD BUSINESS

Action on Board Minutes of August 21, 2014 - A motion was made to approve the August 21, 2014 minutes as written.

Motion: Paul McClay
Second: Dale Canning
Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

Maine Energy Systems – Emerging Technologies Project – Request for Extension

At 9:08 a.m., a motion was made to enter executive session to obtain legal advice from the Assistant Attorney General.

Motion: Jonathan Klages

Second: Charles Martin

Unanimous

At 9:22 a.m., the chair reconvened the meeting.

A motion was made to deny the request for an extension of the Emerging Technologies Project because the Board does not have the authority to waive a statutory requirement.

Motion: Jonathan Klages

Second: Charles Martin

Unanimous

Building Performance Institute – Revised Energy Auditor Program

Liz Moberg from Maine State Housing gave the members an in-depth review of the contents contained in the Building Performance Institutes' *Quality Control Inspector* course.

A motion was made to accept the *Quality Control Inspector* course as meeting the educational requirement for the Limited Energy Auditor license.

Motion: Lionel Landry

Second: Jeffrey Choate

Unanimous

Administrators Report

Catherine Carroll informed the members that the Fuel Board Rules became effective on 9/27/14 with the exception of Section 13.7.

Catherine advised the members that a Section 13.7(gas conversion burners) subcommittee has been formed and hoped to convene their first meeting in November.

The members approved the 2015 board meeting dates calendar as presented.

Senior Inspector's Report

Peter Holmes reported on the following:

Emerging Technologies Project

- No other companies have applied for a similar pilot project.

Maine State Fire Marshal's Office

- There were 3 requests for assistance.
There was an explosion where it was determined that gas had accumulated after a homeowner repaired a cook range. A small fire at the range was extinguished prior to shutting off the gas. While in the process of shutting off the gas, the accumulate gas found an ignition source in an adjacent room and exploded.

There was a fire at a restaurant where it was determined that the gas appliances were not contributing factors.

There was a fire in a house where there was an oil boiler and a wood stove. The boiler was ruled out but repairs to a wood stove along with the proximity to combustibles could not be ruled out.
- An assist request from the Lewiston F.D. was received on a liquid LP leak at a bulk plant. Very old piping under a building was leaking. The gas company was able to isolate the leak and will re-pipe without going under the building.
- The inspection staff was asked by a gas company to investigate a reported explosion. The gas company was advised that the Maine Fuel Board does not do investigations of this nature except at the request of the State Fire Marshal's Office (SMFO). When the SFMO contacted an inspector, he went with the SFMO inspector and observed a blocked chimney and determined that since there was no injury or fire, and minimal damage, that it was an insurance company issue and closed the case without further investigation.

Fairs

- The fair season has wrapped up. The majority of the tanks inspected at the fairs were in good condition. The most common violations were the lack of adequate tank support and use of outdated tanks.

Dispensers

- The information in the ALMS database with respect to dispensers is getting "cleaned up". The inspectors are discovering many dispensers which do not have current licenses that are still in service.
- The current trend in the new dispensing station applications is for vehicle fueling dispensers. Several school departments are changing part or all of their fleet to LP gas. Note: A standard school bus fitted for LP carries a 100 gallon LP tank.

CNG

- There is no additional information on the construction on a CNG dispenser at the Eliot compressor station.

Bulk Permits

- There have been 12 bulk permits issued this year to date. At least six more are expected by year's end. Many of these are additions to existing bulk plants in an effort to reduce shortage issues caused by transportation problems last year.

Natural Gas

- There are many conversions expected in the Kennebec Valley.
- There is no permitting or reporting required so we really have only third party information.
- Because there is no reporting requirement on issues, we will only know if there is a major incident if we are called by the Fire Department or the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- Summit Natural Gas applied for and was granted permission by PUC to form an installation company to do conversions. Summit Natural Gas is aware of the licensing requirement with the Board.

Lorax Systems

- Peter Holmes visited the installation of a Lorax Systems oil line safety system, which is a mechanical valve that monitors the integrity of the product delivery line and ensures that it has not been compromised in any way. Even though the valves are supposedly listed as thermal valves, Peter required the use of "lever or wheel" thermal valves as required by the Board's rules. Lorax Systems may be asking the Board for acceptance of their valves in lieu of lever or wheel valves.
- One issue with their valve is that the valve at the burner is not manually closeable which is necessary for servicing the pump without causing a spill. It is unlikely that a technician would remember to go to the tank and turn off that end prior to doing service on the burner especially if it is a "no heat" call and they have to change a pump or clean a clogged strainer. Removal of the pump cover without shutting off the oil will result in an oil spill.

OTHER BUSINESS

Peter Holmes advised the members that the inspection staff would like to have December 1, 2014 as the implementation and enforcement date for the recently adopted Fuel Board Rules.

A motion was made to accept the inspection staff's request to have December 1, 2014 the implementation and enforcement date for the Fuel Board Rules.

Motion: Dale Canning
Second: Lionel Landry
Unanimous

Jonathan Klages advised members that the Department of Transportation is doing a Webinar on Cylinder safety for the Fire Marshall's Office and 1st responders which he will attend.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 11:40 a.m.

Motion: Jonathan Klages
Second: Paul McClay
Unanimous

*Respectfully submitted,
Vickey Gray*