

Guiding Document

Continuing Education
Program (CEP)
for Certified
Water Well Drillers, Diggers
and Pump Installers

Revised April 2009
Voted on and accepted
by NSGWA Members
at 2010 AGM

(2009 revision)

1. Introduction:

As in all industries, technology, interpretations, regulations, guidelines, policies, and standards in the groundwater industry are changing all the time. To keep up to date with these changes, one must strive to be as well informed as possible and remain actively involved in some form of continuing education.

This is a program by which Water Well Drillers, Well Diggers and Pump Installers to whom Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) has issued a Certificate of Qualification, may obtain and demonstrate that they have obtained the continuing education needed to maintain their respective levels of certification. This program is based on a point system whereby each person must accumulate 100 points over a 4 year period. Failure to accumulate the required number of points within these time periods will be cause for that person to re-certify at their own time and expense.

2. Administration and responsibilities:

The administration of the points system will be carried out by the Continuing Education Program Committee (CEPC), which will be responsible for: assigning a point value to any courses or other continuing education activities not already given a point value; maintaining a list of all persons who have been issued Certificates of Qualifications and who are eligible and registered under this program; and maintaining a database of the yearly points and accumulated 4 year point running total for each qualified person registered under the program.

The CEPC will consist of five persons: one (1) chair who may be from either NSGWA or NSE; two (2) members in good standing of the Nova Scotia Ground Water Association (NSGWA); one (1) staff person from NSE; and the secretary of the NSGWA. All but the secretary of the NSGWA will be voting members of the CEPC.

2.1 NSGWA responsibilities:

NSGWA will to make a certain number of points available to all its members and will strive to do so by way of carrying out at least six (6) regional meetings, and one (1) annual general meeting, which will each contain at least one technical presentation relating to groundwater. The NSGWA may offer its members other opportunities to accumulate points, such as through additional meetings as may be deemed necessary, and through the development/presentation of special courses and/or training seminars.

The NSGWA, through its secretary member on the CEPC, will be in charge of maintaining the database of names and points of all qualified persons registered under this program.

The NSGWA reserves the right to solicit persons registered under this program who are not members of the NSGWA, to become members of the association. Also, since the NSGWA pays to arrange for its regional meetings and annual general meeting, the NSGWA reserves the right to charge non-members for attendance at these functions. The NSGWA reserves the right also to set charges and fees for both its members and non-members for attendance at special meetings, special courses, or training seminars.

2.2 NSE responsibilities:

NSE will maintain sole responsibility for the CEP as may relate to any dispute arising from this program that could affect the ability for an individual who either has a Certificate of Qualification, or who would like to obtain one, to keep such Certification, per the Regulations Respecting Well Construction (382/2007), in which Sections 10 and 11 state:

Renewing certificate of qualification

10 A certificate holder may apply to renew their certificate of qualification by following the application requirements of Section 9 and providing proof that they have participated in and successfully completed a continuing education program established or adopted by the Department.

Refusal to issue or renew certificate of qualification

11 (1) An application for a certificate of qualification or for renewal of a certificate of qualification under these regulations may be refused by the Minister if the applicant or certificate holder fails to comply with the Act, these regulations, or any term or condition imposed by their certificate of qualification.

(2) The Minister must notify an applicant or certificate holder in writing of a refusal to issue or renew a certificate of qualification together with reasons for the decision.

NSE will also whenever possible assist the NSGWA in developing and/or presenting courses and/or seminars, through the use of its own resources.

3. Point system:

The points system will be based on a four year review. Each qualified person must accumulate a minimum of 100 points within a four year period.

3.1 Points available:

The list of courses, seminars and industry activities for which points may be accumulated and the number of points for each is provided in Schedule 1 hereto.

3.2 Cross discipline certification:

Where an individual may have been issued a Certificate of Qualification under more than one of the disciplines as Well Driller, Well Digger or Pump Installer, that person must accumulate the necessary number of points for each individual discipline. While some courses may be unique to certain disciplines, where courses or training sessions may be multidisciplinary in nature, then points may be assigned and offered for each of the relevant disciplines for which that person is certified.

3.3 Individuals must track their own points:

It is the responsibility of each person registered under this program to track their own attendance at courses and/or other activities relating to continuing education that may provide them with points under this program. Those activities are to be reported by prescribed cut off dates and a CEP attendance form, which will be signed by the facilitator/presenter of any course or activity sponsored by this program. For courses or activities which may not yet be registered to provide points and as included in Schedule 1, it is the responsibility of each qualified person registered under this program to present the details of such activity on the prescribed form for review and consideration by the CEPC.