



**STATE BOARD OF STATIONARY ENGINEERS
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: March 19, 2024

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 1100 N. Eutaw Street, 5th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Brian Wodka, Chairman, Industry Member
Lance Brown, Vice-Chairman, Industry Member
Steven Noonan, Ex-Officio Member, Chief Boiler Inspector
Gary Brown, Consumer
John Arizaga, Industry Member

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: John Bull, Executive Director
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General
Johnston Brown, Administrative Specialist III

STAFF

ABSENT: None

GUESTS

PRESENT: Carl Pasquali, Social Security Administration
Greg Price, Total Engineering Resources, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Brian Wodka, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Stationary Engineers to order at 10:13 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the business meeting held on September 19, 2023. Upon a motion by Mr. Arizaga, and Mr. Lance Brown’s second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the September 19, 2023, minutes without amendment.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

No report was offered as the Committee did not meet.

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Application Review Committee is currently working on one (1) pending application.

REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summary for January 2024:

	Candidates Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Stationary Engineer Grade 1	16	9	10	38%
Stationary Engineer Grade 2	3	2	1	67%
Stationary Engineer Grade 3	5	1	4	20%
Stationary Engineer Grade 4	7	4	3	57%
Stationary Engineer Grade 5	6	2	4	33%
TOTAL	37	15	22	41%

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summary for February 2024:

Stationary Engineer Grade 1	22	8	14	36%
Stationary Engineer Grade 2	4	0	4	0%
Stationary Engineer Grade 3	9	1	8	11%
Stationary Engineer Grade 4	7	4	3	57%
Stationary Engineer Grade 5	3	1	2	33%
TOTAL	45	14	31	31%

Cumulative results for 2024, 82 candidates have been tested, with 29 candidates having passed and 53 candidates failing, for a pass rate of 35%. Since the inception of the test 7,748 candidates have been tested, with 2,723 having passed and 5,025 having failed, for a pass rate of 35%.

Mr. Wodka requested the total number of active licenses for future Board meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board Staff, Johnston Brown, presented an email directed to Board Chairman Wodka, from Jennifer Runkles of the Maryland Apprenticeship Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning. Ms. Runkles met with the Johns Hopkins team to discuss a stationary engineer apprenticeship program and the team posed questions to the Board regarding whether OSHA training would qualify for credit hours; training pertaining to boiler operations; and concerns about the wait time for license examinations to be scheduled by PSI, Inc.

The Board provided responses for Board staff to use in a reply, indicating that OSHA training does not provide sufficiently specific information about aspects related to boiler safety to be eligible to qualifying credit toward license qualification; that the Board does not qualify and cannot endorse a specific exam preparation course; and that the Board does not control PSI, Inc.'s practices, but Executive Director Bull offered to communicate with PSI, Inc. about this matter. Further, Mr. Bull stated that he will provide the Board's responses to the questions asked.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bull reported that PSI, Inc. the Board's test vendor, has been sold and will be acquired by the company ETS, which has their own customer service department that will replace previous customer service provided by PSI. The official acquisition date has not yet been announced.

NEW BUSINESS

COMAR 09.17.03.03 Fee Schedule – Proposed action to amend the fee schedule was published in the Maryland Register on 12/15/2023, for which the 30-day comment period expired on 1/16/24. Mr. Bull reported that no public comments were submitted regarding the regulation and the Board is authorized to take final action on the matter.

Lance Brown moved to approve final action on COMAR 09.17.03.03, pertaining to fees charged by the Board, which was seconded by Gary Brown, and, after a vote, was unanimously approved.

Executive Director Bull explained that Counsel will submit the regulation for publication of the final action in the Maryland Register, which has already obtained the Secretary's approval. Counsel reported that she will submit the final action immediately following the Board meeting for publication in the April 19, 2024, Maryland Register. Counsel advised that the closing date for final action submissions for that issue is today and if published in that issue, would become final 10 days thereafter.

Joint Meeting with the Board of Boiler Rules

The Board members discussed potential meeting dates for its May 2024 meeting and a joint meeting with the Board of Boiler Rules for May 14, 2024. Executive Director Bull will confirm with the Boiler Board whether this date is feasible.

Description of Chillers and Plant Capacity

Chairman Wodka discussed the creation of a committee to discuss ideas for updated regulatory provisions due to questions in the industry and to clarify the authority of license classifications and experience for industry professionals.

Chairman Wodka suggested that the Board consider credit offered for the experience of professional engineers and the criteria for documented operational experience; whether the criteria for the scope of licenses should be clarified and, if so, by what criteria; and the definition of the definition of mechanical equipment and, specifically, the evaluation of chillers and refrigeration equipment.

Mr. Arizaga moved to establish a committee consisting of members, Chairman Wodka, and Mr. Arizaga, to evaluate the requirements for chillers and refrigeration equipment, which was seconded by Mr. Lance Brown, and unanimously passed by a Board vote.

Mr. Lance Brown moved to establish a committee to evaluate the requirements for experience credit offered for a professional engineer to include Chairman Wodka and Mr. Lance Brown. Mr. Arizaga seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a Board vote.

Chairman Wodka recognized the members of the public in attendance who raised concerns about unattended boilers and what constitutes “constant attendance” of a licensed stationary engineer who might be assigned other duties away from certain machinery. The Board took the remarks under advisement.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Bull advised Board members of vacant seats on the Board for a consumer and a boiler owner and the composition of the Board in accordance with Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. § 6.5-202. Two names have been submitted to the legislature for new appointments to the Board, for an industry and a consumer member replacement for Mr. Gary Brown, who announced that this was his final meeting with the Board. The Board members thanked him for his service and wished him well.

He reminded Board members that their ethics disclosures are due to be filed by April 1, 2024.

Mr. Bull announced to the Board his upcoming retirement scheduled for November 1, 2024.

COUNSEL’S REPORT

None offered.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

None offered.

CHIEF BOILER INSPECTOR REPORT

Mr. Noonan reported that his division has implemented a new database that is intended to improve services. However, at this time, there are two databases that do not communicate with one another

that have complicated the inspection process, requiring tasks to be completed manually. Mr. Noonan reported that he expects the resulting time lag to be resolved in 3-to-4 weeks, at which time it is expected that the databases will communicate with each other to gather necessary data for review.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board did not convene in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gary Brown moved to adjourn at 12:26 p.m., seconded by Mr. Lance Brown and unanimously approved by the Board.

Signature on File

7/9/2024

John Bull
Executive Director

Date

Signed on behalf of the Board as voted on and approved on: 7/9/2024