

**PLUMBING AND PIPING WORK EXAMINING BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**

Chairman Appleby called the meeting to order at 9:01 am via Microsoft Teams.

**Board Members Present:**

Charles Appleby, Sr., Unlimited Contractor, Chairperson  
Carleton Pember, Unlimited Contractor  
Peter Alfieri, Unlimited Journeyperson  
Joseph Pellecchia, Unlimited Contractor  
Kimberly Fortin, Unlimited Journeyperson  
Aaron Nachbar, Well Drilling Contractor  
John More, Unlimited Journeyperson  
Melissa Sheffy, Public Member

**Board Members Not Present:**

Vinnie Valente, Unlimited Journeyperson

**Board Vacancies:** (3) Public members

**DCP Staff Present:**

John Mesner, Occupational Trades Manager  
Rachelle Hyburg, Board Coordinator  
Janita Hamel, Supervising Special Investigator  
Pamela Brown, Director of Investigations

**Public Present:**

Abby Fedus  
Kristina Chmelar  
John Kastrinos  
David Monz  
Michael Winship  
Samuel Olmstead  
Gregory Demateo

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING**

- Review of draft minutes October 23, 2025.
  - Board Member Pember moved to approve the minutes. Board Member Pellechia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT**

### **DCP INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

- Review of the complaint status report
  - 09.01.2025 to 10.31.2025
  - 11.01.2025 to 12.31.2025
    - Open: 7
    - Closed: 28
    - Fines via AVC's: \$11,250.00

### **DCP LEGAL DIVISION**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Reciprocity with the State of Iowa for Master Plumbing License
  - The department will provide a response to this inquiry

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Continued Discussion - Well Drilling Regulations of Approved Glycol for Geothermal
  - No update was provided at today's meeting
- Yale Geothermal Update
  - Dramatic Arts Building Geothermal Installation Exemption Request:
    - 10 feet from water supply piping, public sewer laterals or mains and fuel or utility piping. Stone below a foundation floor is not considered part of the groundwater drainage system relative to this separation distance
    - 25 feet from a below ground tank containing a non-hazardous substance
    - David Monz noted that they would:
      - Communicate any material deviations from the approval if they arose
      - Provide quarterly updates once the installation begins
  - Board Member Nachbar moved to approve the exemptions presented by Yale. Board Member More seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Science Hill Campus Closed-loop Geothermal System Installation 2026 Q1 Status Update
  - The Board reviewed the update provided by the Yale Science Hill system and noted that Yale can provide their next update for the July meeting.
- Update on limited license discussion regarding hydrofracking contractors
  - No update was provided at today's meeting

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Ratio Relief
  - Larry Vallieres, Chairman of the Electrical Board, presented the ratio relief program to the Board. The Board reviewed the documentation provided including the script, application requirements and penalties.
    - Board Member More moved to accept and adopt the ratio relief policy as presented. Board Member Pember seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Request for Guidance:
  - Gregory Demateo – P2 Licensure
    - The individual is before the board for guidance on the P2 licensure process.
    - Board Member More moved to have DCP provide a list of all pending documentation to the applicant so they can provide the information that is missing. Board Member Nachbar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion on RI Plumbing License
  - John Mesner reported:
    - Rhode Island plumbing license does not include gas piping in its scope.
    - And proposed a pathway for Rhode Island license holders seeking CT licensure:
      - Must complete three gas-related courses from the CT Technical High School curriculum.
      - On-the-job training is considered equivalent for piping materials and joining methods.
  - Board Member Alfieri moved to accept equivalency upon completion of the three specified courses. Board Member More seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Summary of the Yale Geothermal Site Visit on 1/20/2026
  - Chairman Appleby thanked Yale for hosting the board at Science Hill earlier in the week and noted the following:
    - Commended Yale's engineering rigor, safety measures, and extended design life (using Schedule 40 steel piping and welded joints for 100-year durability).
    - Board members noted the complexity of water extraction, filtration, and integration with city systems.
    - Positive feedback on collaboration and transparency.
    - Future vault work visit requested by board members.

## **COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Appleby adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachelle Hyburg  
Board Coordinator