

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 Journeyman
Joseph Pellecchia, Unlimited Contractor
Kimberly Fortin, Unlimited Journeyman
Aaron Nachbar, Well Drilling Contractor
John More, Unlimited Journeyman
Melissa Sheffy, Public Member

Board Members Not Present:

Vinnie Valente, Unlimited Journeyman

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