

**Stakeholder Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
November 1, 2006  
Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
Athens, GA**

**I. Roll Call**

Ms. Zdunczyk took role call. Present were Stakeholder Advisory Board members Mark Byrd, Alice Champagne, Doug Easter, James Hamilton, JoAnn Macrina and Connie Wiggins. Also present from the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission were Brent Dykes, Jason Ulseth and Lauren Zdunczyk. Other interested parties in attendance included Besty Nicholson, DJ Strickland.

Robert Ringer and Burns Wetherington joined the call after the discussion had begun.

**II. Brent Dykes and Jim Hamilton addresses the group**

Mr. Dykes informed the SAB that according to the Georgia Sunshine Laws a vote on the Education and Certification Fact sheet could not be done through email and that if there was a quorum and vote was taken at the vote would stand.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the objective of this teleconference was to take a vote on the Fact Sheet.

**III. Introduction of Revisions**

Ms. Zdunczyk asked the SAB to look at the revised fact sheet that was emailed and explained the changes:

**1. Concern: Felt 1 person from each entity be on site at all times was excessive.**

**Revision** - The wording in the Fact Sheet was not changed, because it was agreed that the Fact Sheet should be consistent with what was being taught in the certification courses. Also the interpretation of "all persons involved" was determined during a meeting with SAB, EPD and GSWCC.

**2. Concern: The 2 persons recommendation would be misinterpreted.**

**Revision** -The words "but not requires" was added to the verbage.

**3. Concerns: The occupations listed under Level IA**

**Revision:**

- A. Omitted current descriptions for plumbers and electricians and added "Plumbers and electricians may require certification if conducting a land disturbing activity within a permitted project site." The reason behind this revision, make a distinction between plumber/electricians conducting a land disturbing activity and those who are not.

- B. While it was discussed to remove occupations that performed minor land disturbing activities, no occupations were removed from the IA list as all occupations could fall under the “all persons” interpretation on page 1. As the document states, it is important to consider “what are my job responsibilities” and actual level of involvement in land disturbing activities. The document also points out the exemption for minor land disturbing activities. Stating any activity exempt from the E&S Act is exempt from the certification requirements.

**4. Changed “of” to “or” to be consistent with the E&S Act**

**5. Added EPD’s phone number**

**6. Other issues to be addressed that were unable to be addressed on the fact sheet:**

- A. Holding an Awareness course for equipment operations and others who may have difficulty taking/passing the IA course.
- B. Developing/implementing a new course (IC), that would break up the IA in regards to level of involvement.

**IV. Open Discussion of Fact Sheet**

Ms. Zdunczyk opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Easter felt that the statement “EPD **recommends, but not requires, that at least two people** from each work crew/company/entity working at a project or site have completed the E&TC requirement.” should be completely removed. Ms. Macrina suggested that the verbage be changed.

Mr. Hamilton stated that after reviewing his notes that statement was consistent with what had been agreed upon in an initial certification meeting with Dr. Couch and Brent Dykes.

Ms. Champagne stated that in her opinion “all persons” means just that and it is generous to interpret that to mean 1 person from each entity.

Ms. Wiggins stated that she was concerned what started as a goal became a requirement and felt that the statement “recommends, but not requires” should be changed to “suggests”.

Ms. Wiggins stated she had another meeting she had to attend and excused herself from the call before a vote was taken.

Ms. Macrina stated that EPD does recommend that at least two people are certified and that should not be changed if that is how EPD wants it.

Mr. Hamilton stated there is a fine line between education and enforcement.

Mr. Byrd stated that sentence “If an E&TC individual leaves the site and he/she is the only individual on-site that is certified with that work crew/company/entity, then all

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land disturbing activity undertaken by that work crew/company/entity **must** stop until the certified individual returns.” was unrealistic.

The group discussed the lists of professions that need to be certified. Mr. Hamilton questioned why plumbers and electricians were on the list. Mr. Ringer responding that in some cases they are responsible for major land disturbance.

Ms. Macrina felt that Primary, Secondary and Tertiary permittees be added to list for all levels.

Ms. Champagne felt that might be confusing.

After the discussion the SAB members agreed to the following changes:

1. Change “recommends” to “recommends, but does not require”
2. Change “must” stop to “should” stop
3. Add - Primary/Secondary/Tertiary Permittees (depending on level of involvement) to the list of who needs to be certified for Level IA, IB and II.
4. Remove Electricians (particularly where underground power lines are installed) and Plumbers (supply and waste line excavation) under Level IA and replace with Plumbers and electricians will require certification if conducting a land disturbing activity within a permitted project site.

Mr. Ringer made a motion to approve the Fact Sheet contingent on agreed revisions with a second from Ms. Champagne. Each member was asked to state their vote. The Fact Sheet was approved 5 to 2.