



Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

Good morning:

You are being sent this e-mail because you are licensed by TBPG or have expressed an interest in TBPG activities.

Following are some highlights and activities from recent Board meetings.

Rule Adoptions from the four-year rules review. At its November 7, 2014 Board meeting, the Appointed Board adopted the proposed changes to the TBPG's rules, based on Committees' reviews of TBPG's rules and in compliance with the Texas Government Code Chapter 2001.039, which requires state agencies to review and consider for re-adoption each of its rules at least every four years. Many rule sections were adopted with no changes from what was published, and others were adopted with minor changes, based on public input. Two rules (851.20 and 851.152) were adopted without changes to the rule as published, and then subsequently amendments were proposed to incorporate changes which were substantively different from what had been initially proposed. The adoption notices for [Chapter 850](#) and [Chapter 851](#) are available on the TBPG website, and appear in Adopted Rules section in the December 5, 2014 issue of the *Texas Register*.

Proposed Rules. Also on November 7, 2014, the Appointed Board proposed amendments to 22 TAC 851.10, 851.30 and 851.80, to remove the Geoscience Firm registration requirements currently applicable to a Professional Geoscientist who offers or performs non-exempt geoscience work for the public in Texas as a sole proprietor. These [Proposed Amendments](#) are available on the TBPG website and published in the December 26, 2014 issue of the *Texas Register* for public comment. Please submit all comments to TBPG by **January 26, 2015**.

At the September 19, 2014 Board meeting, the Appointed Board proposed two new rules for posting in the Texas Register for public comment. These new rules are included in the [Proposed Amendments](#) posting listed in the above paragraph. Proposed rule **851.154** outlines TBPG's implementation of the requirements in Texas Education Code, Chapter 57, Section 57.491, regarding the non-renewal of a P.G. license due to a default status with the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. Proposed rule **851.155** outlines TBPG's implementation of the Family Code Chapter 232, regarding the denial of a license, non-renewal, suspension, and reinstatement of a license related to non-payment of child support. Both proposed rules will be published in the December 26, 2014 issue of the *Texas Register* for public comment. Please submit all comments to TBPG by **January 26, 2015**.

Draft Advisory Opinion. Also on September 19, 2014, the Appointed Board proposed a [Draft Advisory Opinion](#) for posting in the Miscellaneous Documents section in the December 12, 2014 issue of the *Texas Register*. The subject of the opinion is: "What is the

distinction between academic research and the public practice of geoscience?" Public comments on the draft opinion are welcome. Please make sure to submit comments by **January 12, 2015**.

To submit written comments on any of the above mentioned proposed amendments, proposed new rules, or the draft Advisory Opinion, please submit comments to TBPG, to the attention of: Charles Horton, P.O. Box 13225, Austin, Texas 78711, or by e-mail to chorton@tbpg.state.tx.us. Please reference either "Proposed Rules" or "Draft Advisory Opinion" in the subject line.

The date of the next TBPG full Board meeting will be **January 30, 2015**.

Sincerest regards,

Charles Horton

Contact Information

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