



## TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS



February 2008

Volume 4, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

<i>Rule updates</i>	2
<i>Enforcement</i>	2
<i>Outreach</i>	2
<i>Licensure by the Numbers</i>	3
<i>Continuing Education</i>	3
<i>Firm Registration</i>	3
<i>ASBOG® Annual Conference</i>	3
<i>ASBOG® Results</i>	3
<i>Staff Info</i>	4
<i>New Licensees</i>	4

### Board Members

**Y. Lynn Clark, P.G.**  
Chairman, Dallas, Tx

**Rene D. Peña, CPA**  
Vice-Chairman, El Paso, Tx

**Glenn R. Lowenstein, P.G.**  
Sec/Treasurer, Houston, Tx

**Kelly Krenz Doe, P.G.**  
Houston, Tx

**Gordon Ware, P.G.**  
Corpus Christi, Tx

**Dr. Charles T. Hallmark, P.G.**  
Hearne, Tx

**Barbara O. Roeling, P.G.**  
Austin, Tx

**Ronald L. Kitchens**  
Harper, Tx

**Gregory C. Ulmer, Esq.**  
Houston, Tx

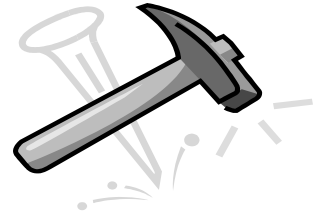
## RECIPROCITY

The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) has been working very diligently on establishing reciprocity with other state boards. Initially, a survey was sent to all states with a geoscience licensing board requesting information regarding their requirements for licensure, their state's statutory and regulatory ability to enter into agreements of reciprocity and/or comity and their interest in entering an agreement with Texas. Of the 26 states that were polled, eight have indicated a willingness to investigate the matter further. These states are: California, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington and Wyoming.

TBPG has since drafted an agreement with Mississippi. The agreement includes provisions for the acceptance of written exams administered by either Board; the possible exemption of the exam requirement for those licensees who were "grandfathered" upon verification of five years of responsible professional work experience beginning from the date of initial licensure and the sharing of information/documentation, not only during the initial application process, but also for as long as a licensee is under the jurisdiction of each Board. This includes information regarding any disciplinary action that the licensee might be the subject of.

This draft agreement is pending approval from both Boards with the hopes that it will be signed off by both Boards and completed by TBPG's March Board meeting. Once signed, the agreement will be posted to the website and procedures will be developed regarding the process by which applicants may begin to apply for licensure by reciprocity.

TBPG will continue to work with other interested states throughout the year. As agreements are completed, they will also be posted to the website.



### Chairman's Corner

This issue provides progress updates on an impressive assortment of topics. None of this would be happening if my fellow Board Members were not so generous with their precious time and hard-won wisdom and experience. But, in truth, little of lasting worth could be accomplished without the daily efforts of TBPG's Austin staff. Please thank the staff for their hard work when you speak to them.

Many positive things are happening within TBPG and the practice of professional geoscience itself. You will read about much of this in upcoming issues. One thing is particularly encouraging and needs to be noted – the productive way the PG and PE Boards are working together to clarify respective jurisdictions for professional work that overlaps and is not exclusively geoscience OR engineering. Through cooperation, the two Boards will progressively raise the standard of practice in both professions to better serve the citizens of Texas.

To that end, there are important objectives for the next legislative session. Particularly, TBPG needs statutory authority to create the Texas Geoscientist-In-Training program. As you care about the future of the profession and the welfare of Texas, please voice your support.

*Lynn Clark*

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ASBOG® - March 7, 2008, Austin, Texas
- Board meeting, Austin, Texas, March 28, 2008
- Committee meeting information will be posted to the TBPG website as it becomes available.



## *Rule Updates*

**Several** rules were addressed at the November 30, 2007 Board meeting. An amendment to rule 850.63 was approved for posting to the Texas Register. It clarifies how consumers will be notified regarding complaints to the Board. Previously, it was required that Board contact information be provided to consumers on written contracts for services, on a sign prominently displayed at the license holder's place of business, and on bills for service. It was agreed that the information would still be necessary on written contracts for services, and on signs displayed at the license holder's place of business, but it was proposed that it not be required on bills for service. Pending public comment, the amendment is expected to be adopted at the March, '08 Board meeting. The Board adopted an amendment to 851.28 which clarifies when expiration notifications are sent to license holders. An amendment to 851.31 was adopted to clarify the wording, although there were no substantive changes to the rule. An amendment to 850.62 was adopted, which now states that complaints can be made against an entity "whose activities are" regulated by the Board. Also adopted was an amendment to 850.82, regarding insufficient funds. An amendment to 851.80 was adopted clarifying the fee for the geophysics licensing exam, and adding the insufficient funds fee. Also, five amendments were adopted adding the citation to the Texas Occupations Code: Rule 850.1, Rule 850.10, Rule 851.10, Rule 851.101, and Rule 851.107. All proposed and adopted amendments are posted on the main page of the TBPG website under a link entitled "Rule Amendments".

## *Enforcement*

**Approximately** 780 licensees have expired Texas PG licenses. Efforts are underway to contact licensees with an expired PG license to bring them back into compliance. If you know of someone who is expired and is practicing geoscience before the public, contact the TBPG Investigator, Alberto Jiménez, P.G. at 512-936-4406 or [ajimenez@tbpg.state.tx.us](mailto:ajimenez@tbpg.state.tx.us). A Texas P.G. license that has been expired beyond three years becomes permanently expired and cannot be renewed. An individual wanting to become licensed again as a Texas PG would have to resubmit an application for licensure, submit all pertinent paperwork, and provide proof of passage of an appropriate licensing examination. A licensee whose license has been expired beyond sixty days must submit an affirmation form along with the renewal application that testifies that they have not practiced geoscience during the time their license was

expired. Payment of back annual renewal fees must be submitted along the affirmation form and the renewal application form. A late fee of \$50 will be incurred along with the back renewal payments. It is incumbent upon licensees and the general public to report conduct and matters that are potentially detrimental to the welfare and safety of the public. The first step in reporting a possible enforcement matter is to submit a written complaint (a complaint form can be downloaded from our website). Complaints cannot be anonymous. Completed complaint forms should be forwarded to Secretary/Treasurer Glenn Lowenstein, c/o TBPG, P O BOX 13225, Austin, Texas, 78711. All other enforcement issues or questions should be directed to Alberto Jimenez, P.G.

## *Outreach*

**Outreach** has been paramount on the agenda for the Compliance & Enforcement Division of the TBPG. The purpose of outreach is to inform the public about the agency and to answer questions they might have concerning aspects of the agency. The TBPG Investigator, Alberto Jimenez, conducted outreach on 9-12-07 for the South Texas Geological Society in San Antonio, on 9-20-07 for the North Texas Geological Society in Wichita Falls, and on 12-11-07 for the TCEQ UST Management & Compliance Assistance Seminar in Round Rock, and on 12-19-07 in Corpus Christi for the Corpus Christi Geological Society. Future outreach will be conducted by Mr. Jimenez on 2-8-08 for the Geoscience Department at UT-Arlington, on 3-5-08 at SFASU in Nacogdoches and on 4-17-08 at Hardin-Simmons in Abilene.

The TBPG Compliance & Enforcement Committee has been leading outreach efforts and members of this committee have conducted outreach. Board Member Roeling conducted a talk at the 2007 meeting of the Texas Association of Storage Tank Professionals on 12-10-07. In addition, her outreach efforts will focus on oil and gas companies throughout Texas. Board Member Krenz will focus outreach efforts on groundwater districts in Texas with Board Member Lowenstein focusing outreach efforts at colleges and universities. With this in mind, future outreach efforts will focus at colleges and universities to inform students of the requirements to carry out public practice of geoscience. Geoscience departments have been contacted to inquire if they would like a TBPG representative to speak to their students concerning TBPG requirements. If you would like a TBPG representative to speak at your next event, please contact the Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Kara Inman at 512-936-4402.

## *Texas Licensure by the Numbers*

To date, the TBPG has licensed **6874** individuals. This number is inclusive of ALL licenses that have ever been issued by this agency, regardless of current status. Of these, **118** have voluntarily relinquished their license, **251** have become permanently expired and **23** are now deceased. This brings the number of license holders who are current, or expired but eligible for renewal to **6481**. Of these, **5208** are licensed under the geology discipline, **1122** are licensed under the geophysics discipline and **151** are licensed under the soil science discipline.

In conjunction with the Enforcement Department's efforts to renew those individuals who are currently holding licenses which are grossly expired, TBPG is also reaching out to those licensees who are just outside of the 60-day grace period for renewal and up to 1 year expired. It is important for licensees to remember that regardless of TBPG's best efforts to inform them of their impending license expiration dates, TAC 22 §851.28(a) clearly states, "*Regardless of whether the renewal notice is received, it is the sole responsibility of the license holder to pay the required renewal fee together with any applicable penalty at the time of payment.*" Ultimately, it is each professional's responsibility to monitor and maintain the active status of his or her professional license.

## *Continuing Education*

TBPG is currently developing the mechanism by which vendors and course providers may request certification of their Continuing Education activities. This effort is in keeping with TAC 22 §851.32 (i)(2) which states "...*Two years after the effective date of this rule, pre-approval will be required.*" This mechanism should be complete and in place by September 1, 2008, at which time vendors and course providers will be able to apply for certification. Applications and procedures will be posted to the website as they are developed.

## *Firm Registration*

According to TAC 22 §851.30, it is *mandatory* that any firm, corporation, sole-proprietorship, partnership and/or joint stock association that engages or offers to engage in the public practice of geoscience be registered with the TBPG. Licensees can assist with this effort by informing their firms of this requirement and encouraging them to register.

For the rule in its entirety or for a Firm Registration application, please visit the website at [www.tbpg.state.tx.us](http://www.tbpg.state.tx.us).

## *Annual ASBOG® Conference*

The ASBOG® Annual Meeting was held in Denver, Colorado from October 23-27, 2007. Over the course of this four-day meeting, various workshops were held, including two days devoted to the Council of Examiners (COES) workshops. During this two-day period, existing exam items were reviewed and revised as necessary, and new items were written and considered.

Items discussed at the Administrator's Workshop were test site security, new exam answer sheets, and the future of specialty testing on the Practice of Geology (PG) exam.

In order to protect the exam's integrity, the importance of test site security was reiterated, with different member boards offering suggestions on ways to maintain security at their respective testing venues.

The new exam answer sheets have been designed to capture a unique college code. This code would correspond directly with the college or university from which the candidate graduated. The information will be collected for the purpose of assessing how well candidates from specific schools perform on the exam and will be made available to individual colleges and universities upon request from that school, possibly for a nominal fee.

Also discussed was the possibility of offering specialty exams in three specific modules; engineering geology, hydrogeology and petroleum geology. The exam would be given in conjunction with the PG portion of the ASBOG® exam, with approximately 65% of the questions coming from the standard PG exam, and the other 35% being comprised of specialty questions. Discussions regarding this topic are in their early stages, and no timeline was offered as to when these specialty exams would be available.

Participants of the meeting were invited to attend a field trip which included an overview of the geology of the Colorado Front Range with emphasis on the Cretaceous outcrops along the Dinosaur Ridge Hogback and the Pennsylvanian Fountain Formation at Red Rock Park. Dinosaur Ridge was the site of the first discovery of several Jurassic dinosaur species including Apatosaurus, Diplodocus, Stegosaurus and Allosaurus. Red Rock Park is a natural amphitheater composed of 300-million-year-old rocks of the Pennsylvanian Fountain Formation. It has served as the venue for many famous entertainers over the years such as The Beatles, John Denver, Fleetwood Mac, The Grateful Dead and U2.



*Dinosaur tracks at Dinosaur Ridge.*

### **ASBOG®**

### **EXAM RESULTS**

**September 28, 2007:**

Of the 56 candidates that took the Fundamentals of Geology portion, **34 (or 60%)** achieved a passing score. Of the 41 candidates that took the Practice of Geology portion, **27 (or 65%)** achieved a passing score.

National passing rate:

**FG-56%      PG-71%**



# TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
**PrintMailPro.com**  
78758

P O Box 13225

Austin, TX 78711

Phone: 512/936-4400

Fax: 512/936-4409

Vincent R. Houston, Acting Executive Director 512/936-4403

## Licensing

Annita Herrera  
Director of Licensing  
512/463-6757

## Enforcement

Alberto J. Jimenez, P.G.  
Investigator  
512/936-4406

## Finance

Leticia Kappel  
Accountant  
512/936-4404

## Administrative Support

Molly Roman  
Admin. Coordinator  
512/936-4405

Kara Inman  
Admin. Assistant  
512/936-4402

- The mission of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is to protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that only qualified persons carry out the public practice of geoscience.

The office of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

Visit our website at [www.tbpg.state.tx.us](http://www.tbpg.state.tx.us).

## New Licensees

James P. Killian, PG #10281, Troy, TX  
 Brian K. Hutchison, PG #10282, Pensacola, FL  
 Chad M. Dupree, PG #10283, Bossier City, LA  
 Albert P. Ridley, PG #10284, Las Vegas, NV  
 David J. Zettlemoyer, PG #10289, Houston, TX  
 Zachary L. Cepelba, PG #10290, Dallas, TX  
 Glenn Huff, PG #10291, Las Cruces, NM  
 Karen L. Boven, PG #10292, Houston, TX  
 Leigh W. Dudash, PG #10303, Redlands, CA  
 Abdelmagid Mahgoub, PG #10304, Baton Rouge, LA  
 David Lehmann, PG #10305, Houston, TX  
 Dean Gerber, PG #10306, Edgewood, PA  
 Hillol Guha, PG #10308, Shelton, CT  
 Jay Knight, PG #10309, Cedar Park, TX  
 Arron S. Wilder, PG #10310, Austin, TX  
 Bryan A. Heath, PG #10314, Bartlesville, OK  
 Jennifer M. Smith-Engle, PG #10315, Corpus Christi, TX  
 Jennifer Dart, PG #10316, Haslet, TX  
 Donald E. Wandling, PG #10317, Spring, TX  
 Matthew Ables, PG #10318, Austin, TX  
 Brian Carter, PG #10319, Baton Rouge, LA  
 Johnathan R. Bumgarner, PG #10320, Austin, TX  
 Bereket M. Derie, PG #10321, Austin, TX

Adam Taylor, PG#10323, Cypress, TX  
 Kelly Nash, PG #10324, Dallas, TX  
 Brian H. Whatley, PG #10325, Shreveport, LA  
 Shanna B. Bauer, PG #10326, Round Rock, TX  
 Vernon Moore, PG #10327, Houston, TX  
 Richard L. Watson, PG #10328, Port Aransas, TX  
 Jason W. Currie, PG #10329, Oklahoma City, OK  
 Kevin Lonseth, PG #10330, Austin, TX  
 Michael R. Keester, PG #10331, Round Rock, TX  
 Matthew D. Simpson, PG #10332, Cypress, TX  
 Sean M. Wolfe, PG #10333, Cibola, TX  
 Deborah J. Farber, PG #10334, Boise, ID  
 Darren D. Lovvorn, PG #10337, Carrollton, TX  
 Bret A. Neff, PG #10338, Katy, TX  
 Shane J. Prochnow, PG #10339, Waco, TX  
 Jonathan Yosko, PG #10340, Corpus Christi, TX  
 Carolyn E. Randolph Loar, PG #10341, Golden, CO  
 Lance N. Christian, PG #10342, Austin, TX  
 Peter G. George, PG #10344, Austin, TX  
 Erik Goldman, PG #10345, Houston, TX  
 Steven R. Sagstad, PG #10346, Scottsdale, AZ  
 Alison Henning, PG #10347, Houston, TX  
 Keri L. Chappell, PG #10349, Petaluma, CA