Tips When Hiring A Professional Geoscientist

The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists suggests that Texas consumers keep these tips in mind prior to hiring a Professional Geologist, Geophysicist, or Soil Scientist.

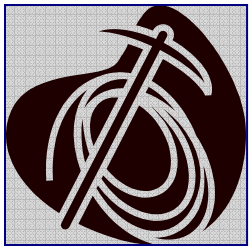
- Check with TBPG for a list of Professional Geoscientists in your area.
- Contact TBPG for information on the current status of a Professional Geoscientist's license.
- Seek references from a Professional Geoscientist's past clients.
- Have a written contract that specifies the terms, limitations and scope of work, time limits, and any additional charges that may apply.
- Understand the terms of employment.

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.

What If I Have A Complaint?

If you have a complaint about a Professional Geoscientist, please download the complaint form found at www.tbpg.state.tx.us, and mail completed form to the address listed below. All written complaints will be investigated to determine whether a violation has occurred and what disciplinary action will be taken.

Any complaint against a Professional Geoscientist or any violations of the Texas Geoscience Practice Act should be reported to the Board.



The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is the only state agency that is authorized to regulate the public practice of geoscience in the State of Texas.

The Texas Geoscience Practice Act, SB 405, 2001.

TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

P. O. Box 13225
Austin, Texas 78711

512-936-4400 Office
512-936-4409 Fax
www.tbpg.state.tx.us

TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

TBPG Consumer Guide

Protecting public health, safety, and welfare in the State of Texas.

www.tbpg.state.tx.us

TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) was created in 2001 by Senate Bill 405 in the 77th legislature. The Bill also created the Texas Geoscience Practice Act, which is the basis for all TBPG rules, policies and procedures.

The TBPG is governed by a nine-member Board, all appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board consists of six Professional Geoscientists and three public members, which serve staggered six-year terms.

The TBPG is responsible for protecting the public through licensure of those individuals performing certain geoscientific services in the State of Texas in any one of three fields: geology, geophysics, or soil science. The licensing process ensures the public that those individuals who are licensed have met defined levels of education and experience. Geoscientists are expected to practice according to a code of professional conduct, as outlined in the rules for licensure. In addition to licensing geoscientists, the Board regulates the practice of geoscience through an enforcement program, and it provides information and outreach programs to the public.

What is a Professional Geoscientist?

A Professional Geoscientist is someone who is licensed in the State of Texas to practice geoscience "before the public" in one of three disciplines: geology, geophysics, or soil science.

To qualify as a Professional Geoscientist in Texas, an individual must have completed the following:

- Four years of study, including 30 semester hours in geology, geophysics, or soil science;
- Passed a Board-approved examination in one of the three disciplines;
- Five years of qualifying work experience;
- Obtained five letters of reference including three from Professional Geoscientists or another professional acceptable to the Board.

What is Geoscience in Texas?

Geoscience is the science of the earth and its origin and history; the investigation of the earth's environment and its constituent soils, rocks, minerals, fossil fuels, solids, and fluids; and the study of the natural and introduced agents, forces, and processes that cause changes in and on the earth.

Geology is the study of the origin, composition, structure, and history of the earth and its soils, rocks, minerals, fossil fuels, solids, fluids and gases, and the study of the natural and introduced agents, forces, and processes that cause changes in and on the earth. Geologic principles are necessary for interpreting information about groundwater, foundation conditions, dam and highway construction, sub-surface migration of contaminants, disposal of hazardous waste, geologic hazards, active faults, earthquakes, water supply, erosion control, sedimentation, and water, soil and rock pollution. Geology often is used in conjunction with engineering to aid in design and safe construction of structures and subsurface utilities.

Geophysics is the study the physical earth by means of measuring its natural and induced fields of force, including electricity, gravity and magnetism. It also assists in determining rock and soil properties, searching for groundwater, oil, gas, and minerals, mapping earthquake faults and delineating migrating contaminant flow.

Soil Science is the study of soils, their classification, origin and history, the investigation of physical, chemical, morphological, and biological characteristics of soils, and their ability to produce vegetation and the fate and movement of physical, chemical and biological contaminants.

What Does A Geoscientist Do?

Examples of geoscientific activities may include surface and underground mapping and sampling, three-dimensional geoscientific interpretation and modeling, remote sensing interpretation, terrain stability analyses, seismicity and volcanism, geological surveys, geophysical surveys, geomorphological surveys, petrology and mineralogy, mineral exploration, mineral property valuation, oil and gas exploration*, coal exploration, resource and reserve estimation, groundwater studies, environmental assessment, site remediation, closure and reclamation, teaching geoscience*, academic research in the geosciences*, and expert testimony in courts of law.

*Certain activities in the state of Texas are currently exempt from TBPG licensure. See Texas Geoscience Practice Act, Section 1002.252 under the heading "Exemptions".

TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

P. O. Box 13225
Austin, Texas 78711

512-936-4400 Office
512-936-4409 Fax
www.tbpg.state.tx.us