



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

Application Review and Continuing Education Committee

April 28, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.
Hobby Building, 333 Guadalupe Street
Tower III, Room 102
Austin, Texas 78701

MINUTES

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present were Committee Chair W. David Prescott, II, P.G., Board Chairman C. Thomas Hallmark, P.G., and Member Joseph P. DeWoody.
- B. The minutes from the February 4, 2016 committee meeting were approved as written.
- C. No public comments were presented.
- D. Discussion and possible recommendation to the full Board on the following:
 - Jesse G. White: Applicant for P.G. license requesting a waiver of the ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology exam. The Committee did not recommend to the full Appointed Board Mr. White's request.
 - Leigh Cunningham: Applicant for PG license requesting a waiver of the ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology exam. The Committee unanimously approved the request and made a recommendation to the full Appointed Board.
- E. Review whether continuing education courses taught as technical/scientific courses that are equivalent to an upper division academic course with a primary learning objective of providing professional level education can be counted as "equivalent coursework" for the educational requirements for licensure per Texas Geoscience Practice Act (TGPA) §1002.255(a)(2). The Committee unanimously approved to recommend to the full Appointed Board an FAQ as presented to allow for continuing education courses taught as technical/scientific courses that are equivalent to an upper division academic course with a primary learning objective of providing professional level education be counted as "equivalent coursework" for the educational requirement for licensure.
- F. Consider possible changes to 22 TAC §851.31, Temporary License, to be consistent with statutory requirements found in TGPA §1002.258, The Committee directed staff to submit draft proposed language and present at the next Committee meeting for recommendation to the full Board for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- G. Consideration of whether all other state's pre-ASBOG® geology competency examinations are equivalent competency examinations per TBPG Rule TAC §851.29(b)(2). The Committee approved the South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Oregon state competency licensing examination that were administered pre-ASBOG® are considered equivalent to the ASBOG® examination for licensure. The Committee directed staff to continue to verify if other state geology boards administered a competency examination pre-ASBOG®.

- H. Review TBPG rules and processes related to the “good moral and ethical character” license eligibility requirement in the TGPA §1002.255(a)(1). Consideration of whether any rules or processes should be changed in light of the Sunset Occupational Licensing/Regulation standard: “General Qualifications: Regulatory requirements and qualifications for licensure should be easily determined, clear, represent a current condition, and related to the practice of the profession.” The Committee discussed and considered whether the TBPG is meeting the obligation of the ACT and determined that the TBPG is getting an idea of the applicants professional work integrity through its Professional References Statements required as part of the application process.
- I. Review TBPG processes related to: 1) qualifying applicants/examination candidates for examination and 2) administration for all parts of the ASBOG® and Texas Geophysics Examination (TGE). Consideration of whether any rules or processes should be changed in light of the Sunset Occupational Licensing/Regulation standard: “The agency should adopt clear procedures governing all parts of the testing process, including test admission and administration.” The Committee directed staff to draft a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure that the TGE meets the minimum guidelines as outlined in the Sunset Standards.
- J. Review whether TBPG has a “compelling reason” for developing and using the TGE and, if so, develop a written justification for the TBPG’s use of the TGE. The Committee will consider also the explanation to the Sunset Occupational Licensing/Regulation standard: “The agency should adopt clear procedures governing all parts of the testing process, including test admission and administration” which generally states that an agency should use a national or regional testing service rather than developing its own test. The Committee directed staff to draft a written justification for TBPG’s use of the TGE.
- K. Determine whether TBPG’s qualifying licensing examinations meet the Sunset Occupational Licensing/Regulation Model’s standard: “Licensing authorities should have confidence that the tests and testing processes adequately ensure the readiness of applicants to become licensed practitioners.” The Committee will assemble and review information that is available regarding the psychometric reviews each examination that demonstrates that this standard is met:
- ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology and ASBOG® Practice of Geology
 - CSSE Fundamentals of Soil Science and CSSE Practice of Soil Science
 - Texas Geophysics Examination (TGE)
- L. With regard to the explanation to the Sunset Occupational Licensing/Regulation standard: “Educational requirements should be the minimum necessary to ensure competency of an entry level professional.” The Committee decided to draft a policy relating to the substitution of experience for the education requirement for licensure for consideration and possible adoption by the full TBPG Appointed Board.
- M. With regard to the explanation to the Sunset Occupational Licensing/Regulation standard: “Educational requirements should be the minimum necessary to ensure competency of an entry level professional.” The committee decided to develop a draft policy relating to the waiver of the education requirement for licensure for consideration and possible adoption by the full TBPG Appointed Board.



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- N. With regard to the explanation to the Sunset Occupational Licensing/ Regulation standard: “If the statute allows the agency discretion in the type or length of experience required or to waive experience, the agency should develop rules or written guidelines that clarify these requirements.” The committee decided to develop a draft policy statement that the TBPG will not waive the experience requirement for licensure for consideration and possible adoption by the full TBPG Appointed Board.
- O. Exam Waiver Request Policy: The Committee considered an amendment to the Boards current Policy on Examination Waivers (2008) and adoption of the proposed policy on the ASBOG® Practice of Geology examination waivers for possible recommendation to the full Appointed Board for approval.
- P. Review of TBPG’s recent reciprocity agreement requests. An overview of TBPG’s recent reciprocity requests were presented to the Committee. The Committee encouraged staff to continue efforts in obtaining agreements from other states.
- Q. Report on Licensing Data, exam statistics, and associated equilibrium number. The licensing data, exam statistics, and equilibrium number data were presented.
- R. Date and agenda items for next meeting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2016.
Agenda Items K, L, M, and N will be on the next agenda.
- S. The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.