



## 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.

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### **TBPG Online Renewal System - Upcoming service outage**

Please note that the power to TBPG's building will be shut off and TBPG servers will be down from 8:00 a.m. on **Friday 9/4/2015 - Tuesday, 9/8/2015** at noon. During that time the Online Renewal System will be unavailable and no online renewals will be possible.

If you need to renew your license during that time, you may mail in the renewal form with a check or money order. Please see the [Forms](#) page on the TBPG website to download and print the appropriate license renewal application.

*We apologize for the inconvenience!*

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Also, below are some highlights from the July 17, 2015 TBPG Board meeting, held in Austin, Texas.

- The Board approved a request for waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination for Mr. Daniel Cravens.
- The Board approved six Agreed Board Orders by unanimous consent.
- Member Greg Ulmer outlined the projected agency budget for fiscal year 2016.
- The Board unanimously approved a salary increase for the Executive Director in the amount of \$86,109, effective September 1, 2015.
- The Board unanimously proposed new rule 22 TAC 851.26, which is related to implementation of Texas Occupations Code Chapter 55, regarding licensing of military service members, military veterans, and military spouses, for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- The Board continues to work on clarification of the definition and

use of terms in TBPG rules, including the terms "Professional Geoscience" and "Professional Geoscience Services." The Application Review/Continuing Education Committee will revisit the definitions of those terms, and review the rules for consistent use of those terms. The General Issues Committee will be reviewing 851.156 to see if clarification of those terms is needed in that rule.

- The update to the Texas Geophysics Exam is in its finishing stages and is expected to be completed soon.
- TBPG has approved requesting an opinion from the Texas Attorney General's office regarding whether the TBPG has the authority to accept a license resignation, and whether the TBPG may impose conditions on a license resignation.
- The Penalties and Suggested Sanctions Table is still being developed for use by the TBPG Complaint Review Team. Once completed, it will then be brought to the Board for review and approval.
- TBPG is continuing to provide training to specified state agency employees regarding the implementation of SB 138. It includes information on how complaints are filed.
- TBPG is continuing to provide training to specified state agency employees regarding the implementation of Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 1002 (Texas Geoscience Practice Act/TGPA) §§1002.201-207 (SB 138, **83rd** Texas Regular Legislative Session). The training provides information regarding the requirement of licensure as a Professional Geoscientist to engage in the non-exempt public practice of geoscience in Texas, the requirement that a state agency that becomes aware of a potential violation of the TGPA or rules of the TBPG refer information to the TBPG, the procedures for filing a complaint with the TBPG, the procedures for forwarding information regarding a potential violation to the TBPG, and the procedures by which a complaint is resolved with the TBPG.

The next TBPG full Board meeting is scheduled on October 16, 2015. Committee meetings are scheduled on October 15, 2015. Agendas will be posted on the TBPG website and on the Texas Register in early October.

Best regards,

Charles Horton

**Contact Information**

Charles Horton  
Executive Director  
Texas Board of Professional  
Geoscientists  
Phone: (512) 936-4400

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