



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

Application Review and Continuing Education (AR/CE) Committee Meeting

**333 Guadalupe St, Room - 1264
Austin, Texas 78701**

February 17, 2012

Minutes

- A. The meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m.
- B. Roll was call and a quorum was certified. Members present were Committee Chair, C. Thomas Hallmark, P.G., Ph.D., Becky Johnson, P.G., and Barbara Roeling, P.G.. Member Greg Ulmer, J.D. arrived at 8:15. Member Krenz-Doe was absent.
- C. Regarding public comments: Mr. Matthew Cowen, P.G. was present as a representative of the Texas Association of Professional Geoscientists and as an observer for Houston Geological Society.
- D. The minutes from November 18, 2011 Application Review Committee meeting were unanimously approved with minor edits.
- E. Regarding “portability of licensure” or “cooperative licensure”, the committee unanimously moved to recommend an amendment to §851.29 to the full board for consideration. The modification of TBPG rule §851.29 or the addition of new rules would allow for Professional Geoscientist applicants licensed in other states where no formal reciprocity agreement exists with TBPG to qualify for licensure if they meet certain minimum standards; applicable statute includes Texas Occupations Code §1002.257. Dr. Hallmark will discuss with the AG’s office the specific wording to use.
- F. Regarding TBPG’s Exam Waiver Request Policy authorized by Occupations Code 1002.259. The Committee requested staff to draft proposed language to the current “Waiver of Licensing Examination Acknowledgement” form to be modified to include the Boards current policy for clarity. The Committee also suggested that it may be good to include a section on TBPG’s website statement on the “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ’s) regarding the Boards policy on waiver requests. This agenda item to be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- G. Regarding the Continuing Education Program (CEP) Audit Policy. Dr. Hallmark will contact members of smaller organizations for feedback regarding reasonable documentation to submit to the Board for proof of continuing education hours. This agenda item to be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- H. Regarding the determination of the education requirements to qualify to take the ASBOG/CCSE/Geophysics exams, the Committee confirmed that a four year degree and 30 hours of course work in any geosciences qualifies an applicant to take the exams. In addition, the Committee also determined that the education requirements may be approved at the staff level and does not require approval from the Committee.

- I. Regarding the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) – Professional Practice Examination (Law & Ethics): The Committee determined that the APEGGA does not cover any geoscience knowledge and is not equivalent to the ASBOG® exam, and therefore TBPG will not accept it in lieu of the ASBOG® exam.
- J. The licensing data chart was presented providing the licensing numbers. Mr. Horton also gave a brief summary on Enforcement staff's process for expired firms. Specifically, the firms are contacted 90 days after expiration to determine why the firm allowed registration to expire and a desk review is conducted.
- K. Discussion and possible action on other TBPG Committee items of interest: Member Roeling informed the Committee that the Compliance and Enforcement (CE) Committee is updating the FAQ's section on the Boards website and would include Item F on their agenda to include the process of waiver requests. Member Roeling also indicated that the Compliance and Enforcement program opens complaints for non compliance of the continuing education audits and expired firms.
- L. Future Agenda items:
 - California Geophysics Exam: Dr. Hallmark provided an overview of the request. No further action taken.
 - Reciprocity Agreements: No discussion
- M. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.