



TBPG Quarterly Update

From the October 16, 2015 Board meeting

October 16, 2015 Board meeting highlights:

- Board member appointments. No new appointments have been made yet. The Board appreciates Members Kelly Krenz-Doe, P.G. and Charles Knobloch, P.G., J.D. for continuing to serve past the expiration of their appointments.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as amended.
- Chairman's Report: Chairman Hallmark addressed the issue of staff salaries, and the upcoming ASBOG annual meeting.
- Executive Director Report: Mr. Charles Horton reported on state service milestones for agency staff; that TBPG has a new Appointments Manager at the Governor's office; TBPG's recent requests to other states regarding reciprocity; and the upcoming Sunset Review of TBPG.
- Ms. Leslie Savage, P.G., from the Railroad Commission of Texas, presented information to TBPG regarding regulation of the disposal of waste fluids from hydraulic fracturing in the subsurface. She spoke on the permitting process, monitoring processes, and how the requirement of P.G. licensure relates to these activities. The TBPG appreciates Ms. Savage's attendance and presentation at the meeting.
- Committee Chairs reported on recent Committee meeting activities.
- Staff provided reports on licensing, financial, and enforcement activities.
- A request by Mr Olusanmi Emmanuel for a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam was unanimously approved by the Board.
- The Board approved the Agreed Board Order for Complaint #2015018 by unanimous consent, with Members Mathewson and Johnson recused.
- Advisory Opinion Request #13 was considered by the Board and a draft opinion was approved for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- The Board considered submission of a comment to the United States

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding a draft rule to amend the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the oil and gas source category for a proposed audit program of the collection of fugitive emissions components at well sites and compressor stations. The Board approved a comment that Professional Geoscience licensure should be considered as an appropriate accreditation for the EPA's proposed rules regarding the qualifications of an auditor.

- The Board proposed a new rule, 851.26, regarding agency implementation of revisions to the 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 proposed an amendment to 851.20, regarding P.G. licensing requirements and application procedure relating to military service members, military spouses and military veterans for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- The Board proposed amendments to clarify the definition and use of terms in TBPG rules, including the terms "Professional Geoscience" and "Professional Geoscience Services" as defined in 851.10 (30)-(31), and making use of those terms consistently throughout the rules, specifically amending 850.62, 851.10, 851.20, 851.23, 851.29, 851.30, 851.101, 851.102, 851.104, 851.105, 851.106, 851.107, 851.108, 851.112, 851.152, 851.153, and 851.157 for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- The Board proposed amendments to 851.156 regarding P.G. seals and Geoscience Firm identification to consistently use "Professional Geoscience" and "Professional Geoscience Services" and also to clarify that geoscience documents are sealed, and that a P.G. shall sign, seal and date the original title sheet or a signature page of geoscience documents for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- The Board proposed an amendment to 851.32 regarding the reasons a licensee may be exempt from the requirements of the professional development educational requirements for posting to the Texas Register for public comment.
- The Board reviewed the TBPG Strategic Planning process. The Board discussed content for inclusion in the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. The TBPG's Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee will develop a draft plan for review and approval by the TBPG Board at a later date.
- The Appointed Board reviewed TBPG's Complaint Standard Operating Procedures; no action was taken.
- Report on the Penalties and Suggested Sanctions Table. It is still under review and further changes need to be made.
- Status of Request for Attorney General Opinion regarding whether the TBPG has the authority to accept a license resignation, and whether the TBPG may impose conditions on a license resignation. The request is in its final stages and should be submitted soon by TBPG.
- The Board approved by unanimous consent that TBPG list only current license statuses on the TBPG online license search.

- Texas Geophysics Exam update has been completed.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled on February 5, 2016.
- The next TBPG Committee meetings are scheduled to be held on February 4, 2016.

TBPG has submitted the proposed changes to TBPG's rules and the draft advisory opinion approved for posting by the Appointed Board to the Texas Register (noted above). These are now available on the main page of the [TBPG website](#), and will appear in the upcoming November 27, 2015 issue of the Texas Register.

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