



TBPG Newsletter

Summer 2017

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Continuing Education is Simple

Licensed P.G.s are required to complete 14 hours of continuing education and 1 hour of ethics continuing education (total of 15 hours) per year. While you do not have to submit the records of continuing education to renew your license, the agency is required to audit 5% of renewals each month to review proof of continuing education. The agency randomly selects the licensees for auditing of continuing education.



So, what does this mean for you, the licensed PG? It means that you need to keep your records of continuing education current, as you may be selected for audit upon renewing your license. Even our licensed board members are subject to a continuing education audit. It's a lot easier to keep your records current than to scramble to update them after you receive the audit notice!

Interestingly, many of our licensees don't realize just how many things can count toward continuing education. We don't require formal (and expensive courses). You can include things like professional society meetings that have a technical presentation, online courses and tutorials, teaching a course or short course, and we allow up to 5 hours of self-study per year. For your ethics, TBPG has an online ethics presentation on our website, and we count review/study of ANY rules or regulations to which you are subject as part of your profession. For example, if you need to review the regulations for underground storage tanks for your job, put that on your continuing education program activity log and count it as your 1 hour of ethics for the year!

One other note, be sure that you have completed ALL the required continuing education (a total of 15 hours including 1 hour of ethics) BEFORE you renew your license online. When you renew, you check a box stating that your continuing education is complete, so be sure that it is!

Lastly, be sure to respond quickly to the notification that you were selected for audit. This, along with an up-to-date activity log will make the audit really easy, and a lot less like an IRS audit!



Current Licensing Numbers

June 2017 Licensing Numbers

4069 Professional Geoscientists
343 Registered Geoscience Firms
138 Geoscientists-in-Training

Board Meeting Highlights - April 28, 2017

Waiver Request. The Appointed Board reviewed an application for P.G. license received from Daniel Smith: The Board reviewed the Committee's recommendation regarding this applicant's request for waiver of the ASBOG® Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The Board unanimously approved the waiver requests in a vote of 6-0.

Proposed Agreed Board Orders. The Proposed Agreed Board Order for Complaint Case 2016009 was adopted by unanimous consent, with Member Mathewson recused.

Proposed Default Final Orders. Complaint Cases 2015033, 2015035, 2015008, 2016011 were passed by unanimous consent, with Member Mathewson recused. Complaint Case 2015046 was passed by unanimous consent, with Members Mathewson and Hallmark recused.

Please note that disciplinary actions, including Board Orders and Final Orders, taken by the Appointed Board may be found on the website under the [Enforcement/Disciplinary Actions](#) link.

Proposed Rule-Making Actions.

The Board approved by unanimous consent the following proposed rule-making actions for posting to the Texas Register for public comment:

- Proposal of amendment to 22 TAC §851.20 Professional Geoscientist Licensing Requirements and Application Procedures
- Proposal of amendment to 22 TAC §850.23 Qualifying Experience Record
- Proposal of amendment to 22 TAC §851.25 Education
- Proposal of amendment to 22 TAC §851.80, Fees
- Proposal of amendment to 22 TAC §851.157, Complaints & Disciplinary Actions
- Repeal of current 22 TAC §851.158, Actions against Non-License Holders, and proposal of new rule 22 TAC §851.158, Procedures
- Proposal of new rule 22 TAC §851.159, Sanctions
- Proposal of amendment to 22 TAC §851.203, Defaults
- Proposal of new rule 22 TAC §851.220, Judicial Review

The Board approved the proposal of these items by unanimous consent for posting to the Texas Register for public comment. A link to the [Proposed Changes to TBPG's rules](#) was posted to the Texas Register, and can be found on the TBPG website. Public comments regarding the proposed amendments may be submitted to TBPG at the following address: chorton@tbpg.texas.gov.

Texas Geoscience Practice Act. The Board unanimously recommended adding section 1002.254 (Examinations) of the Act to the list of recommended future changes to the TBPG statute, for inclusion in future reports to the legislature.

Upcoming Meetings

Application Review/Continuing Education Committee - 08/17/2017
Compliance/Enforcement Committee - 08/17/2017
General Issues Committee - 08/17/2017
Financial Review and Strategic Planning Committee - 08/18/2017
TBPG Board Meeting - 08/18/2017

Agendas will be available on the TBPG website once they have been finalized.

Appointed Members of the Board

C. Thomas Hallmark, PhD, PG, *Chairman*- Hearne

W. David Prescott, II, PG, *Vice-Chairman*- Amarillo

Becky Johnson, PG, *Secretary/Treasurer*- Fort Worth

Lindsey Lee Bradford, *Public Member*- Edna

Bereket M. Derie, PhD, PG, *Professional Member*- Round Rock

Steven Fleming, PG, *Professional Member*- San Antonio

Christopher Mathewson, PhD, PG, PE, *Professional Member*- College Station

Gregory Ulmer, JD, *Public Member*- Houston

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