



# **TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS**

*P.O. Box 13225 • Austin, Texas 78711 • (512) 936-4400 • fax (512) 936-4409  
Website: [www.tbpg.state.tx.us](http://www.tbpg.state.tx.us)*

## **Guidance Document No. 1 Use and Application of the P. G. Seal**

The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) is authorized by Texas Geoscience Practice Act (TGPA) to regulate the public practice of geoscience in Texas. Texas Administrative Code (TAC) section 851.156(k) specifies the requirement for a Professional Geoscientist (PG) to seal professional geoscientific work offered to the public for the purpose of showing that the work was performed under the Responsible Charge of a licensed Professional Geoscientist (PG). Upon sealing the geoscience work product, the PG takes full responsibility for the geoscience service(s) provided. This guidance seeks to clarify TAC section 851.156 of the PG rules that addresses which documents may, or may not, require a PG seal.

In general, geoscientific documents that provide interpretation or analysis will require the seal of a PG. Examples of interpretation of geoscience data include, but are not limited to:

- Cross sections displaying geoscience data, including geological and/or geophysical parameters;
- Contoured drawings, such as potentiometric surface maps, isopach maps, and subsurface data;
- Aquifer test analyses, including yield, transmissivity, specific storage, etc.;
- Groundwater modeling;
- Surface and availability studies;
- Geoscientific components of groundwater management plans;
- Soil boring logs and well logs;
- Soil, lithology, and/or geophysical maps;
- Interpretation of geophysical surveys; and
- Interpretations, conclusions, and recommendations for further action(s) based on these data.

Much consulting work performed by technical staff is geoscientific in nature, but may not require a PG seal. For example, collecting the initial field data and the compiling of this information may not necessarily constitute geoscience, or require a PG to perform or seal the work product if these activities are completed following a protocol that was developed under Responsible Charge of a licensed PG.

Other examples of data collected that would be geoscientific in nature but may not necessarily require a PG to collect or compile include, but are not limited to:

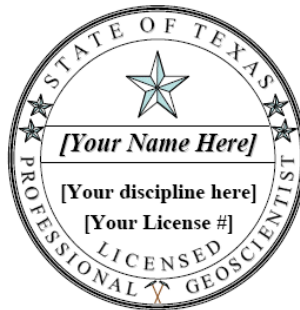
- Surface and groundwater level measurements;
- Surface and groundwater sample collection;

- Soil moisture measurement;
- Soil sample collection
- Compilation of geoscientific data into tables or graphs; and
- Distribution of published geoscientific data to the public.

Although the collection of field or technical data may not require a licensed PG, persons performing these functions should be properly and regularly trained by qualified personnel, to ensure accuracy of the information provided for review by the licensed PG in Responsible Charge of the geoscientific work.

For work that is both engineering and geoscience, please refer to the Memorandum of Understanding between the TBPG and the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE), dated September 14, 2010. The MOU can be found on the TBPG website at: <http://tbpg.state.tx.us/tbpg/moas-and-mous/>.

The TBPG PG seal design is specified in 22 TAC section 851.156 (b) “Professional Geoscientist Seals and Geoscience Firm Identification” which is found on the TBPG website at: <http://tbpg.state.tx.us/tbpg/rules/>. TAC section 851.156 (b) provides the following generalized seal image to be used:



Because of the wide variety of data collection and interpretation efforts in the geoscientific profession, it is expected that licensed professional judgment will be required to determine when and how PG seals are applied. For use of the PG seal when disseminating established geoscience data, please see the FAQs link on the TBPG website at <http://tbpg.state.tx.us/enforcement/enforcement-faqs/> or by contacting TBPG staff at (512) 936-4400. If statements in this guidance document are in conflict with the TGPA or the TAC, the TGPA or TAC prevails.