



TBPG Newsletter - Autumn 2021

Congratulations to our Newest PGs!

Newly licensed Professional Geoscientists

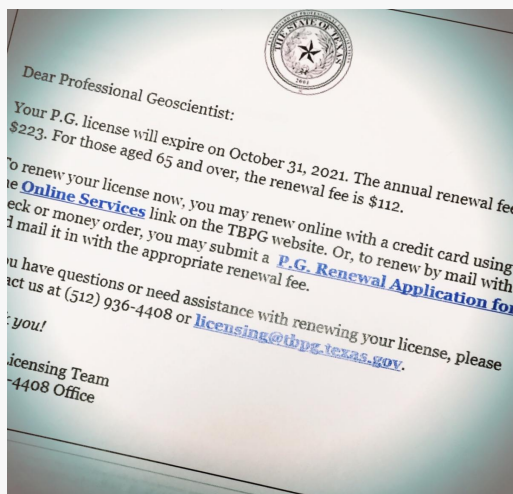
There are **159** new Professional Geoscientists that were licensed in Texas for fiscal year 2021, which began September 1, 2020 and ended August 31, 2021.

Here are the 159 new PGs:

[**New PGs in FY 2021**](#)



Can We Reach You?

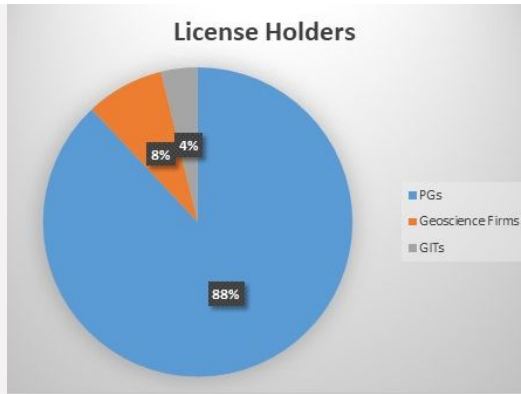


TBPG currently sends renewal notices and other important information by email, we use regular mail for such things as license cards and, if we need to reach you immediately, we will call you. For these reasons, it is important to be sure the information you have provided us is up to date.

Please log into the [**TBPG online system**](#) and look for the "update your contact information" option to make any needed updates.

TBPG Licensing Numbers

Current Licensing Numbers



September 1, 2021

Professional Geoscientists - 3394

Registered Firms - 342

Geoscientists-in-Training - 166

The Chair's Report

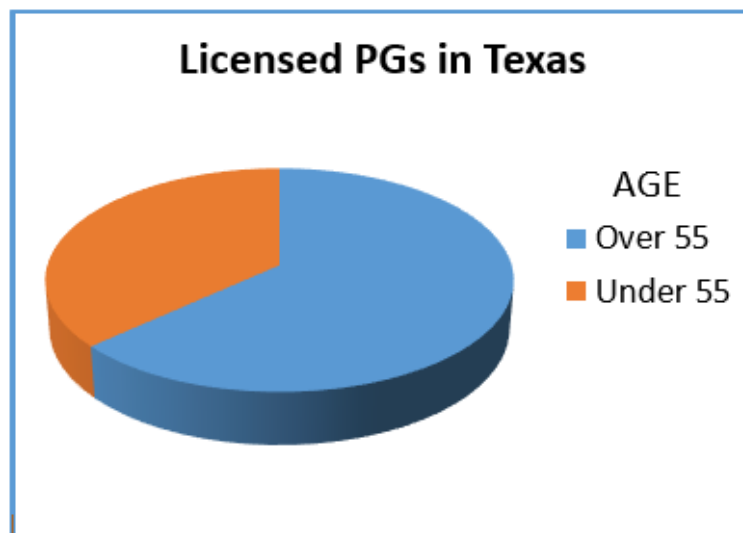
Becky L. Johnson, P.G., TBPG Board Chair

I had the opportunity to attend the Texas Groundwater Conference again this year, but in person this time! It was once again a great experience and we are thankful for the opportunity to participate and provide important information to attendees as an exhibitor. We were able to make many new connections and rekindle a few of our existing ones! Since the legislature cleared some barriers in the 86th legislative session (2019), the amount of work for aquifer recharge (AR) and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) has really exploded.



Legislators have tasked the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) with numerous projects and they are delivering. The amount of data available is staggering: from reports on each Groundwater Management Area (GMA), to Groundwater Availability Models (GAMS) and desired future conditions (DFCs) as jointly determined by the GMAs and the Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs), to the Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS).

All this means that Texas needs more young professionals to enter the groundwater business. This cannot be emphasized enough. The PGs in this state, and across the country, are "seasoned" and many are approaching retirement. Of the 3,344 licensed PGs in Texas, only 1,188 are under age 55!



Now, more than ever, is the time to work with, mentor, and develop the next generation of PGs that can ensure sufficient water supplies for our ever-expanding population. Texas has just under 30 million residents (2020 census), and we are projected to grow to 35 million by 2030, 40 million by 2040 and 47 million by 2050. Where will we get enough water to supply all these people? Surface water won't suffice, so groundwater is a big part of the answer and PGs are crucial to safely accessing and responsibly managing this resource!

Part of my mission for the next year is to reach out to geology, earth, and environmental science programs at college campuses to encourage this next generation and get these young professionals on the path to licensure. TBPG doesn't get much budget for travel, but I welcome the opportunity to travel in person or meet via zoom with any program that wants a discussion on geoscience careers and licensure. **I'm asking each of you to reach out to your Texas alma maters** – get them to organize a talk for their students – and TBPG will deliver! As leaders in your profession, we invite each of you to partner with us in these efforts to promote licensure and, if you are willing, to actively participate in these discussions to encourage the next generation of professionals. We encourage you to send any information or thoughts to: volunteer@tbpg.texas.gov

Becky L. Johnson, P.G., Chair
Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

Answering Your Questions...

Using a P.G. Seal

Figure: 22 TAC §851.156(g)(2)(B)

Should I seal draft documents?

No, draft documents should not be sealed according to TAC §851.156(k). However, the rule does state that preliminary documents need to be signed in the following way:

"Preliminary documents released from their control shall identify the purpose of the document, the Professional

Geoscientist of record and the Professional Geoscientist license number, and the release date by placing the following text or similar wording instead of a seal:

"This document is released for the purpose of (Examples: interim review, mark-up, drafting) under the authority of (Example: Leslie H. Doe, P.G. 0112) on (date). It is not to be used for (Examples: construction, bidding, permit) purposes."



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John L. Doe".

What other guidance is there for the use of PG seals?

This [P.G. Seal Guidance document](#) is an excellent resource for information. Also, feel free to review our [Enforcement FAQs](#) for frequently asked questions about the use of P.G. Seals.

As a reminder, all new PGs are required to provide a copy of their PG seal to the Board. If you are a new P.G, please submit a [P.G. Seal Submission form](#) within 60 days. If your P.G. seal is lost or stolen, please notify TBPG.

Board Meeting Highlights

August 13, 2021 Board Meeting

Requests for Waiver of a licensing requirement.

- 2 applicants for P.G. licensure requested a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam. The three candidates each met the Board policy requirements for this waiver. The Board approved each of the three requests for waiver in a unanimous vote of 8-0.
- 5 applicants for PG licensure requested a waiver of the ASBOG Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations. The candidates each met Board policy requirements for both waivers. The Board approved both requests for waiver in a unanimous vote of 8-0.
- 1 applicant requested that work experience obtained prior to meeting the education requirement be counted towards the 5 years of qualifying work experience. The Board denied the request; qualifying experience for licensure begins once the education requirement has been met.

Proposed Rule amendments.

The Board unanimously approved cleaning up language throughout TBPG's rules. However, substantive changes were also proposed. In an amendment to 851.22, regarding the Board's waiver policy, the Board approved proposing an option for applicants to request a waiver of the Professional Practice of Soil Science licensing examination. In an amendment to 851.30, the Board also approved proposing an amendment to change the requirements of Firm Registration. This would change the term sole-proprietor to sole practitioner, and there were also corresponding updates to the definitions in 851.10 to reflect the change to sole practitioner. Another amendment was proposed to 851.31 to add an option for a temporary firm registration. For many years there has been an option for a P.G. to apply for a temporary license, but this change also allows firms to be able to apply for a temporary firm registration. The Board proposed an amendment to 22 TAC 851.80, regarding the addition of a fee for temporary firm registration. The Board unanimously approved the amendment for posting to the Texas Register for public comment once the currently proposed amendment to the rule has become effective. These amendments will be submitted to the Texas Register for public comment, and also posted on the TBPG website.

Adopted amendments.

The Board unanimously adopted an amendment to 22 TAC 851.41 regarding the GIT certification. This amendment will allow for a Fundamentals of Geophysics exam to be offered for geophysics candidates for the GIT Certification. The Board also unanimously adopted an amendment to 22 TAC 851.80, setting a fee of \$75 for the Texas Fundamentals of Geophysics examination. These [Adopted Amendments](#) have been submitted to the Texas Register and will become effective October 28, 2021.

The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists | 333 Guadalupe St, Tower 1, Suite 530, Austin, TX 78701

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