



TBPG Winter Newsletter - January 2023

From Chairman Becky Johnson:

On February 1, 2023, after serving the allowable two appointed terms (12 years), my service to the Board will be coming to an end. Very simply, it's been an honor and privilege to serve on TBPG.

Has it been challenging at times? Yes - think Sunset. But the rewards have been well worth it. There are a few things I'm especially proud of:



- Changing the requirements for Firm registration – moving away from the comptroller's definition and shifting to a sole practitioner. After all, someone smart enough to incorporate as a single practitioner shouldn't be penalized by having to register as a PG and a Firm.
- Encouraging the use of advisory committees – ensuring that we were seeking out the best advice from licensees and ALL affected parties across the entire state.
- Putting together more definitive descriptions of what PGs do so we can more effectively communicate with other agencies and the legislature.
- Developing stronger partnerships with state agencies and the legislative branch.
- Expanding education initiatives through online training, and outreach events.
- Developing a culture of engagement and outreach in agency programs and activities.

While there are a few things still in process, I know my colleagues will continue to work toward an Emeritus License, and developing the standards for practicing in a different discipline.

I would encourage each of you to consider serving TBPG, whether in an advisory capacity for a specific issue, or being appointed as a Board Member. The colleagues you meet, the friendships that develop, and the support for licensure in Texas are all quite rewarding. It's an experience you won't regret!

Thank you all for allowing me to serve you for these last 12 years!

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT!

TBPG received a public comment at the April, 2022 Quarterly Compliance and Enforcement Committee meeting seeking clarification on the requirements for signing and sealing electronic documents. The inquiry specifically related to the allowance of a digitally generated signature when signing and sealing geoscience documents. These signatures are often associated with, but not limited to, computer/online software such as Adobe Acrobat ® Sign or DocuSign ®.

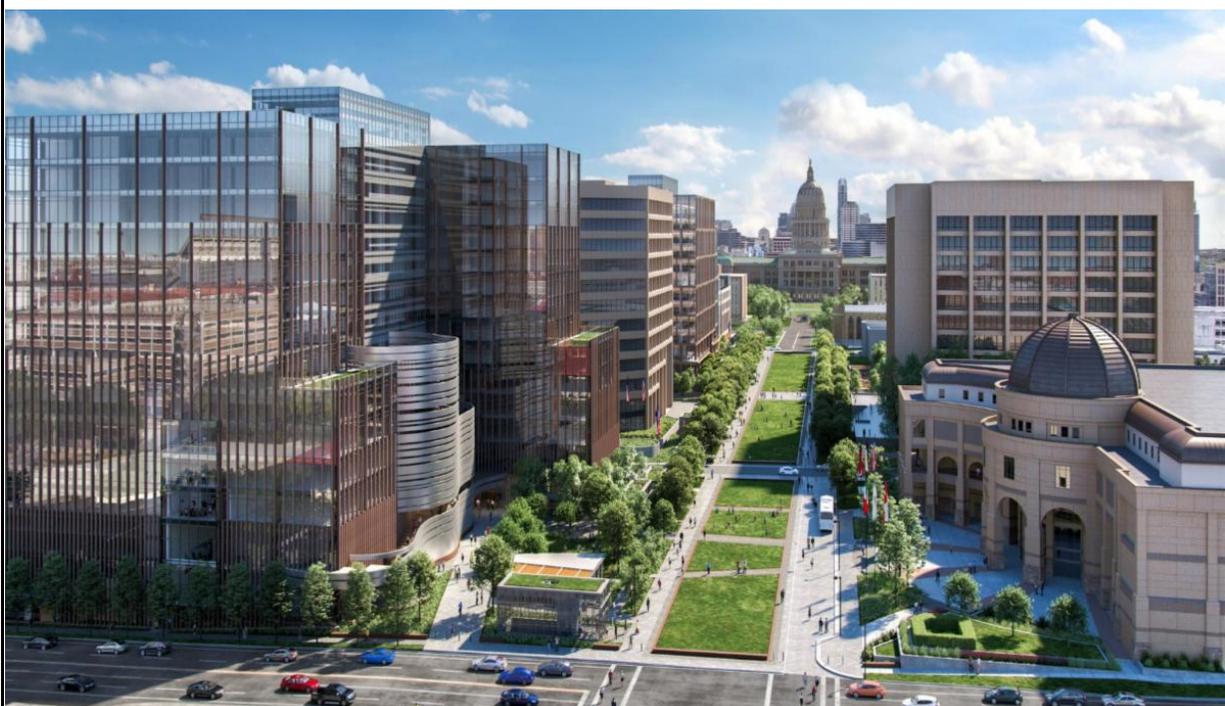
The Board recognizes that use of a digital signature (which offers multi-layer authentication features) has gained acceptance and is now commonly used in most day to day legal/business documents. To assist the Committee, a volunteer workgroup of current P.G.s was formed with the purpose of studying the current rule (which can be found at this link: [Texas Administrative Code](#), or by searching for Texas Administrative Code §851.156) and providing guidance to the Board from the professional community's perspective.

The workgroup provided a report to the Board during the November, 2022 Quarterly Board meeting that (1) recognized the growing trend of P.G.'s transmitting signed and sealed work in an electronic format, (2) recognized that digital signatures are consistent with the purpose and spirit of current TBPG related rules, and (3) recognized that digital signature technology is equal to, or exceeds, the current allowable methods to sign and seal geoscience work.

The conclusion from the P.G. Workgroup was in support of rule modification to expand the current allowable methods detailed in Texas Administrative Code §851.156 by inserting language specific to digital signatures as an ADDITIONAL option for licensees.

As a part of the Board's next steps, TBPG welcomes any input from our licensees prior to initiating the formal rule modification process. Input should be provided by email to compliance@tbpg.texas.gov by February 3, 2023.

Brycen Arnold, GIT
TBPG Compliance Investigator



TBPG is pleased to welcome our new Financial Officer, Genikca Williams!

Ms. Williams came to us from working in the private sector as a Senior Accountant but also has close to 10 years of experience as an accountant/payroll officer for the Tx Department of Licensing and Regulation, Texas School for the Deaf, and the Tx Department of Health and Human Services.

Opportunities to Volunteer

TBPG wants to continue to build our database of volunteers to serve as Subject Matter Experts on Workgroups and Advisory Committees when opportunities come up.

We recognize that our license holders can provide valuable input and guidance on various licensing and registration issues throughout the year.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and share your knowledge, experience and expertise with a minimal time requirement.

If you are interested in being considered, please send a message to: volunteer@tbpg.texas.gov, and please include a current CV or resume and your area(s) of expertise so we can match you with future opportunities.

Thank you!

TBPG and Board Chair Becky Johnson are pleased to be able to provide an Ethics video on our website

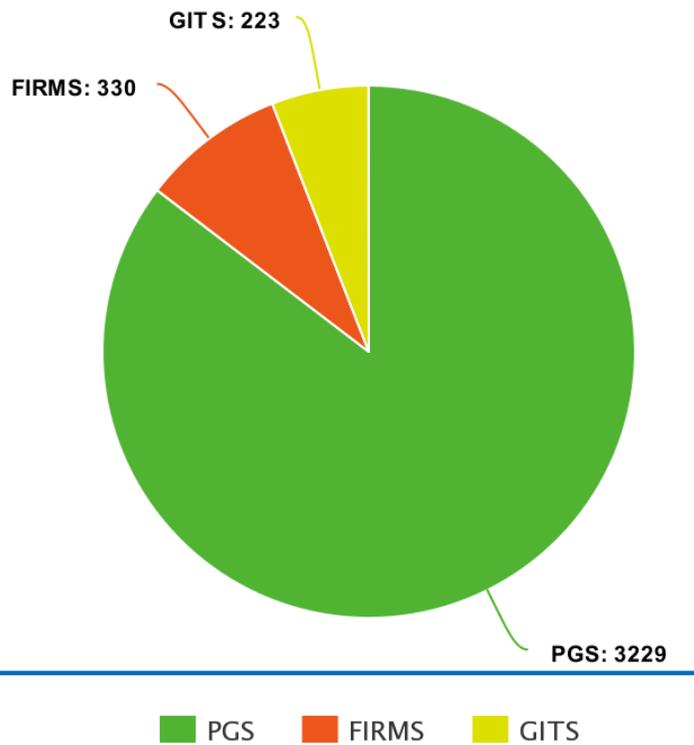
A minimum of one hour of Professional Ethics is required for renewal of a P.G. license or GIT certification. Watching this video will offer one hour of ethics credit on your CE Activity log. Please note that there is no quiz or certificate of completion; therefore, you must track this activity on your personal CE Activity log.

TBPG would like to thank Chair Johnson, P.G., for creating and providing access to these ethics videos.

[TBPG 2022 Ethics video by Chair Johnson, PG](#)

Please note that the videos and the information provided therein are the personal property of TBPG Chair Becky Johnson, P.G.

*CURRENT LICENSING, REGISTRATION,
AND CERTIFICATION NUMBERS AS OF 11/30/2022*



ASBOG Examinations



ASBOG - Computer Based Testing is Here!

Beginning March 17, 2023 the ASBOG Examinations will change from paper and pencil examinations to computer based testing (CBT). The examinations will also move from being administered in only one Austin location to locations throughout Texas!

TBPG is excited to be a part of this more accessible and convenient examination process for our future licensees. The computer based exams will be administered by ASBOG's testing partner, Prometric, which currently has a network of 40+ locations in over 20 cities across Texas. For the most up to date testing information, please visit ASBOG's website at the following link: [ASBOG CBT INFO](#)

Although TBPG is no longer administering the exam(s), we will continue to qualify applicants for examination and we will continue to receive and distribute exam scores to all candidates once they are available.

The deadline to submit application materials to TBPG for the March, 2023 examination(s) is:
January 13, 2023

Once applicants receive an approval notice from TBPG to sit for the examination, Prometric will send an email on February 1st, 2023 with each candidate's log-in information and instructions on how to register and complete payment for the exam(s) they have been approved for.



Highlights from the November 18, 2022 Board Meeting

Requests For Waiver of Examination

The Application Review Committee considered 6 applications for waivers, and recommended 4 of them to the Board.

The full Board approved all 4 of the waiver requests as recommended by Committee.

Proposed Agreed Board Orders

Proposed Agreed Board Orders are disciplinary orders that are proposed by TBPG's Complaint Review Team and, subsequently, agreed to by the Respondent of a Complaint.

Two Proposed Agreed Board Orders were on the agenda

Proposed Agreed Board Order for Complaint 2022-00014 was adopted unanimously by the Board.

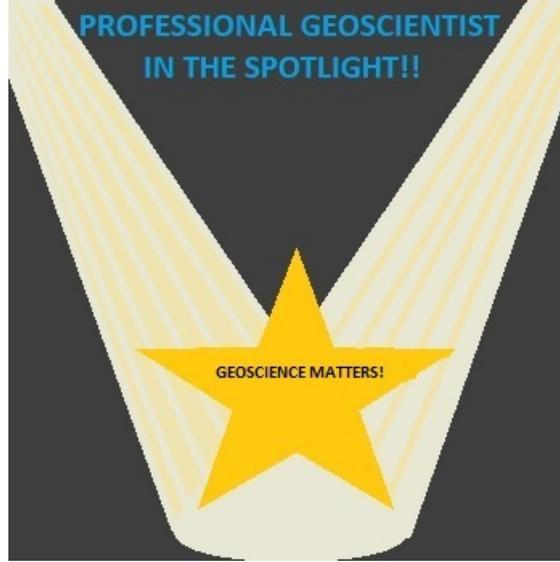
Proposed Agreed Board Order for Complaint 2020-00007. No action was taken.

Proposed Amendments

There were no proposed amendments on the agenda.

Adopted Amendments

There were no amendments for adoption on the agenda.



Are you, or do you know a licensed Professional Geoscientist with an interesting story? Is there a PG you think needs recognition for the valuable work they've done? We are now taking submissions for "PG in the spotlight!" TBPG plans to feature a PG in each Quarterly Newsletter to tell their story and encourage interest in the Geoscience field.

If you want to submit a story, please email it to: licensing@tbpge.texas.gov

Upcoming TBPG Meetings Austin, Texas

February 09, 2023

Application Review and Continuing Education Committee
 General Issues Committee
 Compliance and Enforcement Committee

February 10, 2023

Financial Review and Strategic Planning Committee
 TBPG Board Meeting

These meetings will be available for public comment or participation via Zoom
Meeting agendas including Zoom links will be available on the TBPG website at least one week prior to the meetings.

Agency Contact Information:

SUBJECT	INFORMATION	PHONE/EMAIL
GENERAL	General questions and inquiries, token numbers	512-936-4408 LICENSING@TBPGE.TEXAS.GOV
COMPLAINTS	File a Complaint, Complaint inquiries	512-936-4410 COMPLIANCE@TBPGE.TEXAS.GOV

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CONTINUING EDUCATION	CE Program, CE Audits, CE Requirements	512-936-4410 COMPLIANCE@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
OUTREACH	Outreach Opportunities	512-936-4401 VOLUNTEER@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
FINANCE	Accounts Payable, Receivables, Purchasing, ITVs	512-936-4404 GWILLIAMS@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV

LICENSING	New license inquiries, Applications, Examinations, Waivers and Qualifications	512-936-4408 LICENSING@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
OPEN RECORDS	Open Records or Public Information requests	512-936-4401 RTRUAN@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
ONLINE ASSISTANCE	Assistance with the online licensing portal	LICENSINGHELP@HPC.STATE.TX.US

Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists
P. O. Box 13225
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 936-4408

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The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists | 1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 7S.800, Austin, TX 78701

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