



TBPG Fall Newsletter - September 2023

Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists 20th Birthday



By W. David Prescott, P.G., TBPG Board Chair

AUSTIN, TX - As the leaves begin to turn and Fall 2023 sets in, the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) celebrates another milestone – our 20th birthday on September 1st. It's been over two decades since the passage of SB 405 in 2001, the monumental Texas Geoscience Practice Act passed by the 77th legislature, which heralded the inception of the TBPG. With the passage of the bill in 2001 and the legislation becoming effective on 9/1/2003 we are celebrating 20 years. I celebrate with each and every one of you.

But the passage of time hasn't made us complacent. This year, the 88th regular session saw the enactment of SB 1659, which establishes a new sunset calendar for most state agencies. This pivotal legislation has set the sunset review for TBPG to 2032-2033. It's not just about timelines; it's a renewed commitment and empowerment. SB 1659 allows TBPG to further develop, implement, and, most importantly, progress the mission of our agency.

While we have a robust past and a clearly marked future, there is a pressing need in the present. The profession of Geoscience is continually evolving, with new challenges and horizons every day as the population of the State of Texas continues to grow. To tackle these challenges, we need to ensure a bright future for the next generation. Hence, I urge all our licensed Professional Geoscientists (PGs) to take up the responsibility of mentorship. We must guide, inspire, and encourage the next generation of Geoscientists. Their journey, knowledge, and vigor will define the contours of our profession for years to come.

Furthermore, the collaboration between the academia and our professional

realm cannot be emphasized enough. The onus is on our seasoned PGs to serve in advisory capacities, fortifying the ties with colleges and universities. It's paramount that we play an instrumental role in ensuring students are not only well-informed but also aptly prepared for the ASBOG examinations and the rigorous path to licensure.

In conclusion, while we commemorate our past and plan for our future, let's act in our present. To the seasoned PGs, let your experience be the guiding light for the future PG's, and to the young Geoscientists, aspire to be the change-makers of tomorrow.

Together, let's sculpt the future of Geoscience in Texas.



Big Bend National Park in Texas - Photo Credit to: Brycen Arnold, GIT

**The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists
is pleased to announce that two new members have been
appointed to the Board!**



Danielle "Danny" Kingham, PG

Appointed to the TBPG Board by the Governor, Danny brings over 18 years of experience in environmental consulting with expertise in carbon capture and sequestration, site investigation, and



Samuel "Sam" McGee

Appointed to the TBPG Board by the Governor, Sam is a public member with background in Business Administration. He is a volunteer firefighter, a trained SkyWarn Weather Spotter, and a Boerne

environmental litigation. She is an active member in many geoscience and engineering societies and is a former Board member of Friends of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Little League head coach. One of his current projects for the City of Boerne is the installation of a Lightning Detection system for warnings and strike forensics in cooperation with Texas A&M Meteorology Department.

We welcome Members Kingham and McGee and we thank Governor Abbott, and the Texas Senate, for the nomination and confirmation of these appointments to our Board.

Professional Geoscientist Named Chair of Texas Parks & Wildlife

On August 24th, Governor Greg Abbott announced the appointment of Jeff Hildebrand as Chair of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Mr. Hildebrand is a petroleum geologist who has been licensed in Texas as a P.G. since 2003.

According to the Governor's announcement: Mr. Hildebrand, of Houston, is the executive chairman and founder of Hilcorp Energy Company. He is a member of All American Wildcatters, National Petroleum Council, and the Houston Geological Society. He is a director of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Central Houston Civil Improvement, and the Central Houston, Inc. Additionally, he is a member of the Houston Police Foundation Board of Directors and a trustee of the Texas Foundation for Conservation. He was the former chairman of The University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Company and former gubernatorial appointee for the UT System Board of Regents, where he served as vice chair. Hildebrand received a Bachelor of Science in Geology and a Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering from UT Austin.



ASBOG FALL 2023 Computer-Based Examinations

The computer-based administration of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) examinations is scheduled for October 06 and October 9th, 2023.

The Application deadline to have all documents to TBPG was Friday, September 8th. Any new applications received with the October date on them will be processed for the March 15, 2024 examination.

Approved Candidates will be able to schedule their examination(s) on either day, at either the AM or PM times and will have a better range of locations to choose from due to the additional day. Currently, candidates can choose from 47 testing locations across Texas. For a complete list of the current cities with

testing sites, please visit Prometric by

[CLICKING HERE](#)

Candidates will also be able to schedule their examination as soon as they are approved and not have to wait until six weeks before the exam date to choose their location and register.

Although TBPG is no longer administering the exam(s), we will continue to qualify applicants to sit for examinations and distribute exam scores to candidates.

[New 2023 ASBOG Examinee Candidate Handbook](#)

The ASBOG Examinee Candidate Handbook is the official guide to policies and procedures for the ASBOG National Geology Examinations. This guide will provide important information to exam candidates regarding scope; content and development of the licensure exams; a step-by-step guide to register and pay for the computer-based exams and select a testing location; and example practice questions to help prepare for the ASBOG National Geology Examinations. It was updated in May of 2023.

[Apply to sit for an Exam here!](#)

ASBOG is also pleased to announce the release of their Fundamentals of Geology Prep course. This will be an immersive, on-demand, and fully online course, meticulously designed to empower candidates for the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam. For more information, please see ASBOG's website [HERE!](#)

PG in the Spotlight!

This is Patricia Frost, she has been a licensed PG in Texas since 2003 when the first licenses were issued.

Interview was conducted by Compliance Investigator Brycen Arnold, GIT

Why is having your license important for you?

Similar to a PE license, the PG license gives professional recognition to me as a geoscience professional demonstrating that I have achieved the education and work experience in the geoscience field. I believe that it gives a client the assurance that I am technically proficient and will follow a code of ethics while practicing in the field.

Why did you pursue a career in the geosciences? What initially interested you?

I love the outdoors and wanted to understand more about how mountains are formed and about the rocks that make



What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I enjoy the outdoors whether it is gardening or hiking and exploring parks, preserves, and other recreational areas. I enjoy giving back through volunteering at area preserves by removing invasive species and helping with habitat

up our planet Earth.

restoration.

What is your favorite part of working as a geoscientist?

The unknown, as you do not actually know what lies beneath the surface until there are excavations and drilling. This allows for interpretation and creativity based on one's education, knowledge, and experience. In the geoscience world, 1+1 does not always equal 2.



What are your hopes for the geoscience industry in Texas?

That Geoscience Licensure continues as a requirement, and that younger generations of geoscientists understand the value of licensure in Texas and other states that have licensing requirements for the practice.

What advice would you give to someone just beginning their career in the geosciences?

To obtain their license early and to join professional geoscience organizations for networking and collaborating with other geoscientists. I believe networking with others and sharing experiences and knowledge is how we keep the profession moving forward and encouraging young professionals to stay long term in the field.

Changes are coming to the CSSE Examinations!

CSSE has decided to discontinue continuous testing. This means that as of August 31, 2023 candidates will no longer be able to schedule their Soil Science examinations as needed. They will be changing to four scheduled windows per year for all candidates.

Soils Exams Fall 2023 – Summer 2024 Dates

NOVEMBER 2023

Exam Registration: September 27, 2023 – October 23, 2023

Exam Scheduling: October 25, 2023 – November 9, 2023

Exam Window: November 1, 2023 – November 13, 2023

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024

Exam Registration: December 13, 2023 – January 15, 2024

Exam Scheduling: January 17, 2024 – February 1, 2024

Exam Window: January 24, 2024 – February 5, 2024

MARCH – APRIL 2024

Exam Registration: February 21, 2024 – March 18, 2024

Exam Scheduling: March 20, 2024 – April 4, 2024

Exam Window: March 27, 2024 – April 8, 2024

JULY – AUGUST 2024

Exam Registration: June 19, 2024 – July 15, 2024
Exam Scheduling: July 17, 2024 – August 1, 2024
Exam Window: July 24, 2024 – August 5, 2024

Please contact Michele Lovejoy from the CSSE directly at 608-268-4947
or [Send Message](#) with any additional questions.

Highlights from the August 11, 2023 Board Meeting

Requests For Waiver of Examination

The Application Review Committee considered 9 applications for waivers, and recommended 7 of them to the Board.

The full Board approved all 7 of the waiver requests as recommended by Committee.

Board Orders

No Board orders were on the Agenda.

Proposed Amendments

Proposed Amendment to 22 TAC 851.22: Waivers and Substitutions: Policy, Procedures, and Criteria

Proposed amendment to edit language stating that in order to be considered for a waiver of an examination requirement for licensure, a candidate has not failed the examination that is the subject of the waiver request. The Board proposes adding the language "in the last five years" to put a 'cap' on the time frame for which a candidate would not be eligible for a waiver.

- The Board unanimously approved this proposed amendment for posting to the Texas Register for public comments.

Proposed new subchapter and rule in 22 TAC 850: Subchapter E: Miscellaneous Board Procedures and Requirements; and 22 TAC 850.221: Procurement and Bid Protest Procedures.

TBPG is required by Government Code to develop and adopt protest rules and procedures regarding vendor bid protest. This new rule would provide those.

- The Board unanimously approved this proposed new subchapter and rule for posting to the Texas Register for public comments.

Adopted Amendments

Adopted Amendment to 22 TAC 851.21 Licensing Requirements: Examinations.

The amendment is to update TBPG's application process and procedures to sit for the examinations. In addition, it clarifies the documentation required to sit for an examination.

This rule was Proposed at our May Board meeting and posted in the Texas Register on June 23, 2023 for public comment. No public comments were received.

The Board unanimously adopted this amendment.

Adopted Amendment to 22 TAC 851.22 Waivers and Substitutions: Policy, Procedures and Criteria.

Adopted to edit, at Sunset direction, language that applies to evaluating an applicant's "Good and ethical character" as a required qualifier for licensure.

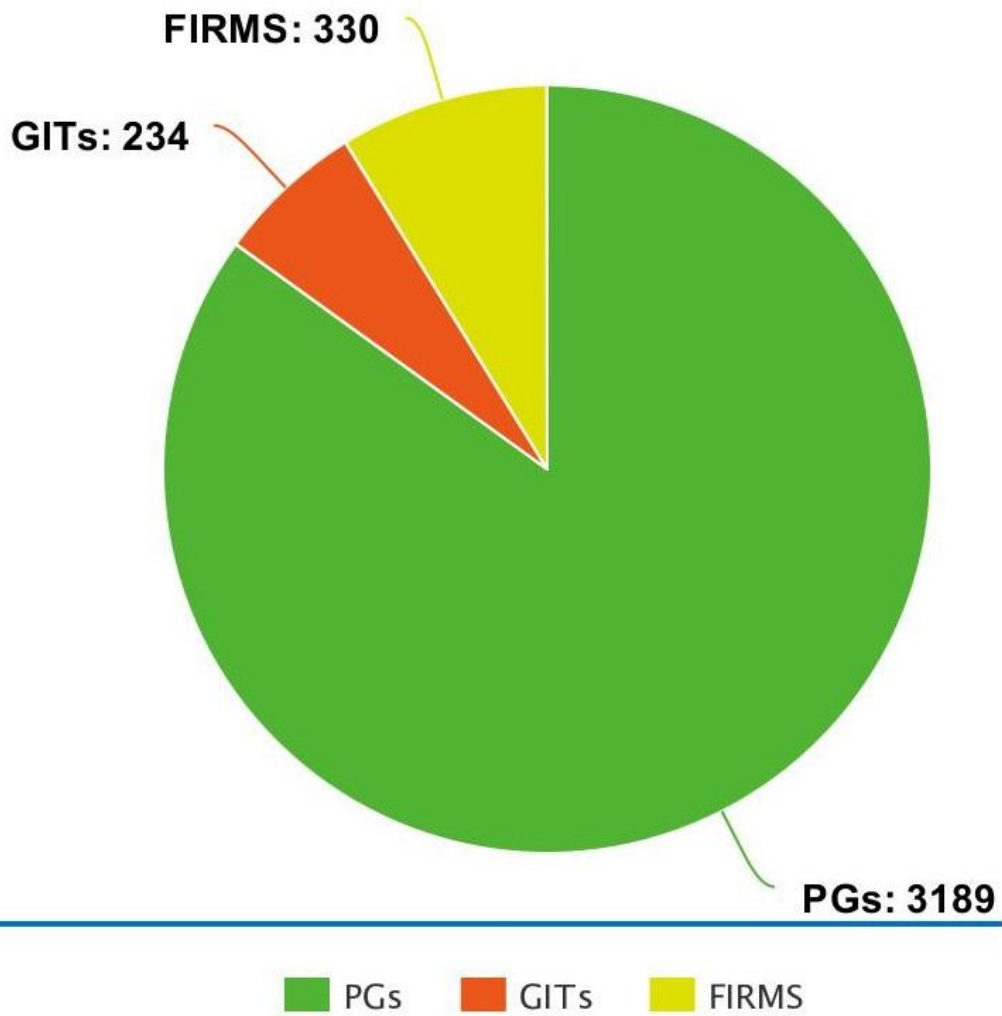
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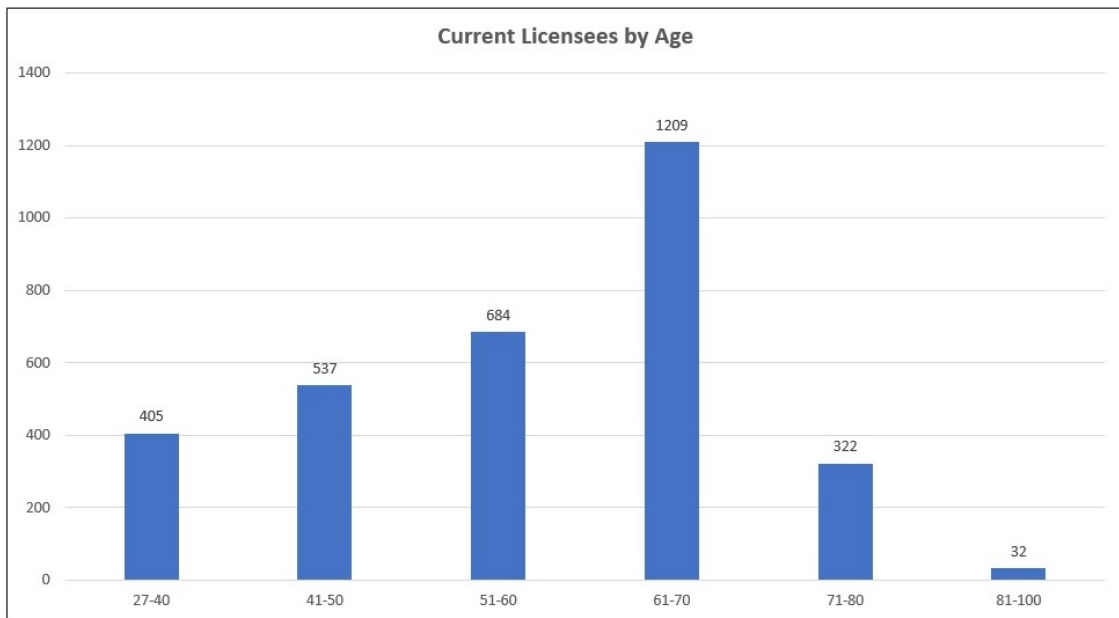


Big Bend National Park in Texas - Photo Credit to: Brycen Arnold, GIT

CURRENT LICENSES AS OF 08/31/2023



Breakdown of Current Licensees By Age Group



Data as of 8/31/2023

<u>Age</u>	<u># of Licensees</u>
27-40	405
41-50	537
51-60	684
61-70	1209
71-80	322
81-100	32
Total	3189

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!

Upcoming TBPG Meetings Austin, Texas

November 16, 2023

Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee
Application Review and Continuing Education Committee
General Issues Committee
Compliance and Enforcement Committee

November 17, 2023

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:

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