



## TBPG Spring Newsletter - March 2025

### Message from our Board Chairman

#### **Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists: Supporting the TCEQ in the protection of Natural Resources**

As we are well into the 89th Legislative Session, the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) continues to work closely with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to address critical geological and groundwater challenges facing our state. Our excellent working relationship with the TCEQ allows us to support their mission effectively and contribute to the sustainable management of Texas's valuable geological and water resources.



The TCEQ's recent report to the 89th Legislature, prepared in January 2025, highlights several key initiatives that are of particular interest to professional geoscientists. These include:

#### **Groundwater Protection and Management**

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) remains a crucial platform for interagency coordination on groundwater protection strategies. Professional geoscientists play a vital role in:

- Designing and implementing groundwater quality monitoring programs
- Conducting geological assessments for source water protection
- Evaluating the suitability of geological formations for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects

#### **Regulatory Oversight**

TCEQ's regulatory responsibilities encompass several areas where geoscientists' expertise is essential:

- Groundwater permitting for activities such as waste disposal and underground injection
- Oil and gas regulation, particularly in assessing geological formations for underground injection control (UIC) wells
- Mining and reclamation planning to minimize environmental impacts
- Low-level radioactive waste disposal site investigations

### **Emerging Challenges**

As we look to the future, new challenges are emerging that will require the combined efforts of TCEQ and professional geoscientists:

- Addressing the environmental impacts of decommissioning renewable energy systems
- Improving data management and accessibility for geological and hydrogeological information
- Supporting research into innovative technologies for groundwater remediation and conservation

The TBPG strongly supports TCEQ's mission to protect our state's natural resources and ensure clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste. Our members are committed to providing the highest level of professional expertise to assist TCEQ in addressing these critical issues.

As the 89th Legislative Session progresses, we anticipate continued collaboration on water-related bills and initiatives. The TBPG stands ready to offer our expertise and support to TCEQ and the legislature in the management of our geological and water resources.

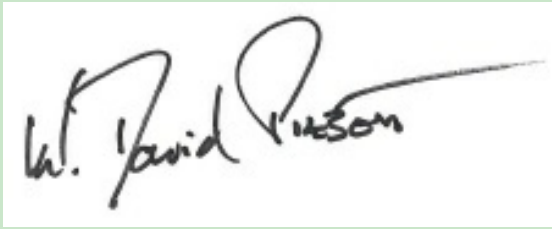
By working together, we can ensure that Texas remains at the forefront of responsible resource management and environmental protection. The TBPG is proud to partner with TCEQ in this vital mission, and we look forward to continuing our strong collaborative relationship in the years to come.

Many of you might be asking why we stand with the TCEQ? To answer simply it aligns with our mission:

The mission of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) is to protect public health, safety, welfare, and the state's natural resources by ensuring only qualified persons carry out the public practice of geoscience and enforcing the Code of Professional Conduct established for its licensees. This mission involves:

1. Maintaining a licensing, compliance, and enforcement program to ensure that only those who meet established standards are licensed to practice geoscience in Texas.
2. Promoting licensure and compliance through education and outreach.
3. Acting in accordance with high ethical, accountability, and efficiency standards in agency operations and licensing/enforcement actions.
4. Basing decisions on the law, established geoscientific principles, appropriate standards of practice, and fiscal responsibility.
5. Ensuring that rules are necessary, effective, current, and do not create barriers to licensure.

As you can see by our mission it is critical as Professional Geoscientists that we not only support the TCEQ but also the Railroad Commission of Texas, The Board of Professional Engineers and any other State Agency that has jurisdiction over the State of Texas Natural Resources.



W. David Prescott, P.G.

Board Chair, Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

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## **ASBOG Fall 2025 Computer-Based Examinations**

The March 2025 ASBOG examinations have passed.  
Any files pending documents can be processed for the October 2025 examination dates once completed.

The Fall exam dates currently scheduled are October 2nd and 3rd, 2025  
Currently, candidates can choose from 40+ testing locations across Texas. For a complete list of the current cities with testing sites, please visit Prometric by

**[CLICKING HERE](#)**

**[For more information about applying for an Exam, click here!](#)**

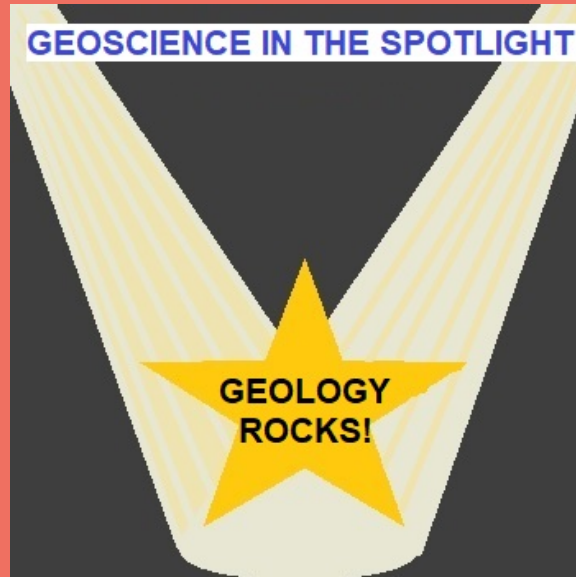
**[To APPLY online to sit for an Exam, click here!](#)**

**[ASBOG Examinee Candidate Handbook, click here!](#)**

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 January of 2024.

ASBOG's Fundamentals of Geology Prep course is available. This is 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!](#)

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**We are pleased to introduce our P.G. In The Spotlight: Sarah Zagurski, P.G.**





**Ms. Zagurski works as an EHS Consultant at BSI American Professional Services and graduated from Stephen F. Austin University.**

**1) When were you first licensed? Why is having a PG license important to you?**

I got my PG license at the end of 2023 after being a GIT since 2021. I have planned on pursuing my PG since my undergrad at Stephen F. Austin. Pursuing my PG license has opened new learning opportunities for me as someone who is early in their career and within the consulting industry. It has opened the doors for work on new and exciting projects where I can expand my knowledge and experience in my career in Geoscience.

**2) Why did you pursue a career in Geoscience? What part of Geoscience interested you the most?**

I have always been someone who does not sit still well and knew I wanted a career in a field that was exciting and always something new to learn. I was hooked after taking my first geology class as an elective and quickly changed my degree plan to pursue geology. I loved how what I learned in class changed how I saw the world outside. Geology quickly became a hobby and not just career and I found myself collecting rocks, minerals and fossils everywhere I went. Better yet, I actually knew what they were. I love that almost all geoscientists have a passion for geology and truly think it is fun.

**3) What is your favorite part of working as a geoscientist?**

As a consultant in the environmental field, I love the variety that my job brings me. Each day is different and each project brings a unique problem to be solved. I enjoy that I get a good mix of working in the field and the office and that I never stop learning something new.

**4) What are your hopes for the Geoscience industry in Texas?**

I hope the geoscience industry in Texas maintains the PG licensing program. It helps insure that geoscientists are educated, accountable and continuing to expand their knowledge in the field.

**5) Do you have any advice for someone interested in a career in Geoscience?**

My advice for someone interested in a geoscience career would be to learn what career opportunities are out there early in your degree and try and explore as many industries as possible. There are so many career options in geoscience and the time to get to explore all the different fields is crucial.

**6) What do you do in your spare time?**

When I have the time, I love to travel the National Parks for hiking and camping (Zion is my favorite so far!), but on a regular day I spend time with my two Irish Setters and hangout with friends and family.

**7) What do you think is the single most important thing for the future of Geology or Geosciences in Texas?**

I think continued education for those in the industry is crucial. With new science and regulations constantly changing, being knowledgeable and flexible is a must.





If you are a licensed P.G. or G.I.T. in Texas and would like to be featured for Geoscience in the Spotlight, please contact TBPG at [licensing@tbpg.texas.gov](mailto:licensing@tbpg.texas.gov) for an interview!

## Highlights from the February 06, 2025 Board Meeting

### Requests For Waivers

The Board reviewed four requests for waivers. The Board approved all four of the requests.

### Discussion

Chair Prescott discussed outreach and Board accomplishments. Executive Director Truan gave a report on Operations, Staff, and the current legislative session.

Several new subjects were assigned to the applicable committees for review, research and discussion, including a possible Emeritus or Retired Status, Rule Review and how to increase outreach to universities.

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## **A reminder for those in Soil Science!**

The Council of Soil Science Examiners administers the Soil Science examinations four times a year. These windows are the only times that Candidates can sit for the Fundamentals or Practice of Soil Science examinations.

**The next testing window is April 2nd through April 16th and is open for registration through March 24th!**

**Additional Upcoming dates for the Soil Science examinations are:**

### **Registration:**

Q3. July 2 - July 28, 2025

Q4. October 1 - October 27, 2025

### **Available Exam Dates:**

Q3. August 6 - 20, 2025

Q4. November 5 - 19, 2025

Exam Registration is only available during the dates listed above, and only for the corresponding Available Exam Date. For example, if you want to take your exam in the July 24 - August 5, 2024 exam period, you would register in the June 20 - July 15, 2024 period.

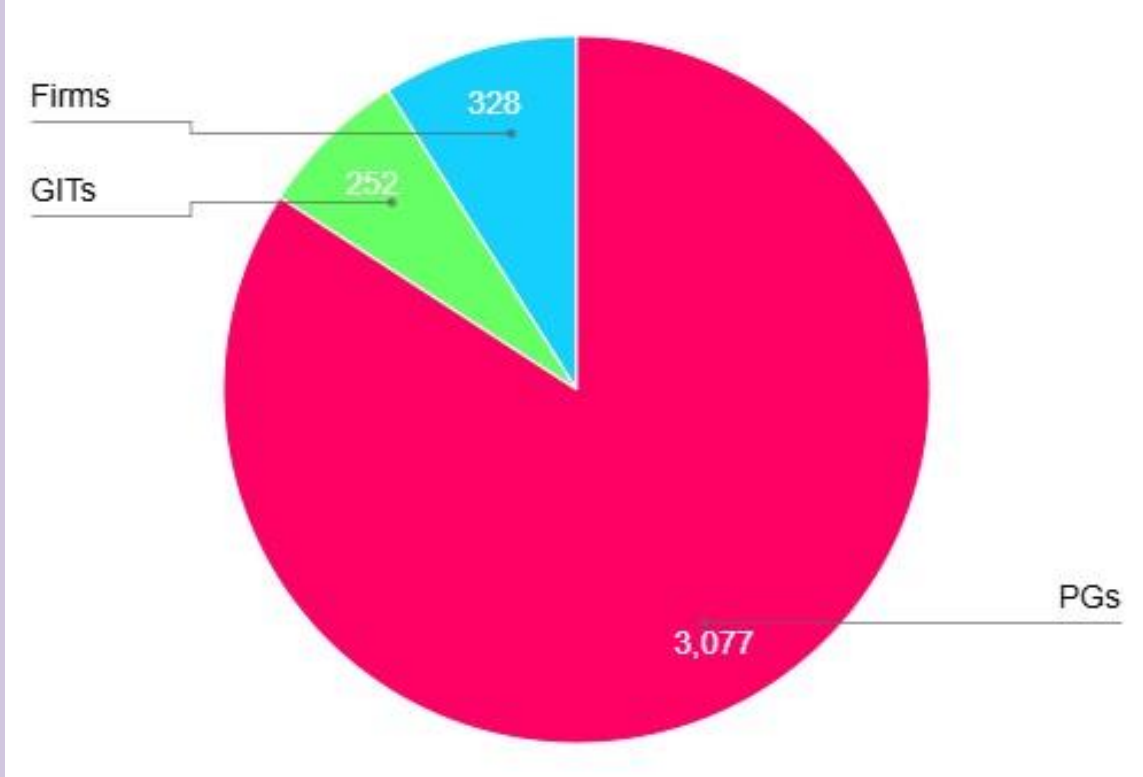
Please see:

<https://www.soils.org/certifications/exam-information?q=certifications/exam-information/> for additional details and how to register for your examination!

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## **CURRENT LICENSES AS OF 03/01/2025**





**TOTAL LICENSES MANAGED 4,632 - Current and Expired eligible to renew.**

<b>PGs</b>	<b>GITs</b>	<b>FIRMS</b>
<b>Current: 3077</b>	<b>Current: 252</b>	<b>Current: 328</b>
<b>Expired: 698</b>	<b>Expired: 195</b>	<b>Expired: 34</b>

TBPG is excited to be attending the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Trade Fair and Conference in San Antonio on June 3rd and 4th. We have been granted a complimentary booth (#563) and will have staff available to answer questions about licensure, Waiver requests, renewing, Continuing Education and Compliance and more!

TBPG Board Secretary Mark Varhaug, P.G., C.P.G., will also be providing an Ethics lecture.

Please click on the link [HERE](#) for more information about the Conference, or to register to attend.

Hope to see you there!



## Upcoming TBPGE Meetings Austin, Texas

### **May 8, 2025**

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

### **May 9, 2025**

TBPGE Board Meeting

These meetings may be available for public comment or participation via Zoom.

*Meeting agendas including Zoom links will be available on the TBPGE 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
CONTINUING	CE Program, CE Audits,	512-936-4410

EDUCATION	CE Requirements	COMPLIANCE@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
OUTREACH	Outreach Opportunities	512-936-4401 VOLUNTEER@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
FINANCE	Accounts Payable, Receivables, Purchasing, ITVs	512-936-4404 CORETTA.BRISCOE@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



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