



TBPG Summer Newsletter - June 2025

Message from the Executive Director



Rene D. Truan
Executive Director

On behalf of the TBPG team, we are pleased to provide our Summer Newsletter.

This quarterly publication helps us keep you updated on current information related to our agency so I want to thank everyone, including those licensees who agree to be highlighted in our "P.G. in the Spotlight" section, who play an important part in delivering this update to you every 3 months. I want to also thank those on our team who are able to find the time to put this publication together in addition to carrying out their daily responsibilities – especially our Licensing Lead, **Katie Colby**, who is tasked with providing updated data while putting this publication together as well as our Compliance and Outreach Manager, **Gordon Magenheimer**, for assisting with developing content needed every quarter.

As you may know, the 89th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature recently concluded its business on June 2nd. While the Legislature considers many different bills during each legislative session, the State budget is the only bill that they are constitutionally required to pass. During this session, our agency provided testimony on our Legislative Appropriations Request for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 (biennium) in front of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees. While many agencies go into the budget process seeking considerable additional funding, we were proud to provide a request that maintained our same baseline budget amount in FY2026 that we were provided during the previous two years along with the ability to add one additional position in FY2027 if needed. We are thankful to the legislature for recognizing our efforts to consistently operate in a fiscally responsible manner and approving our budget as submitted. Operating within our same budgeted amount over multiple years as we have continued to do is always challenging but I am proud of our team for everything they do to seek efficiencies in carrying out our daily operations while always providing quality/responsive service to our customers.

On behalf of our office team and our appointed Board, I would like to also recognize our certified Geoscientists in Training, licensed Professional Geoscientists, and registered

Firms for your continued partnership in protecting public health and safety. We hope you have a safe and successful summer season!

Rene D. Truan
Executive Director, TBPG

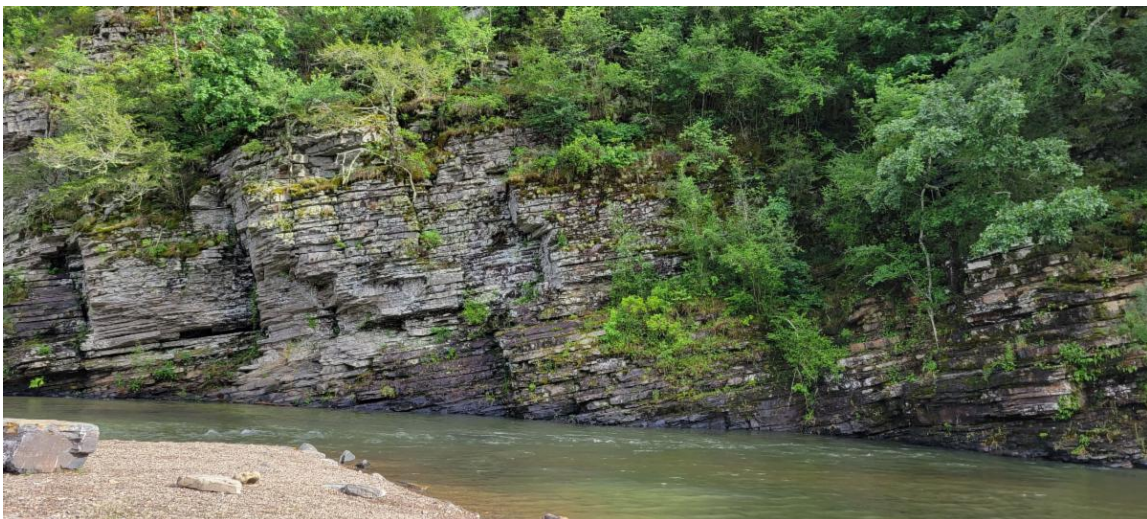
ARTICLE FROM THE TBPG VAULT!

Failing to Seal Geoscience Work by Becky Johnson, P.G.

TBPG has seen a significant increase in the amount of unsealed public work, and we want to make sure that licensees are aware of the sealing requirements and avoid violations. Many of our recent complaints have stemmed from the mistaken idea that "if work is not submitted to a government agency, it doesn't have to be sealed." Nothing could be further from the truth. The rules are clear - any final work product that involves geoscience **MUST** be sealed. (See 851.156(k-l)) Many of our recent violations involve Phase II Environmental Site Assessments.

While the TBPG has determined that a Phase I ESA does not require a seal, Phase II and Phase III work do. (See Enforcement FAQs). A number of our interactions involve licensees that sign and seal Phase IIs going to TCEQ, but don't sign and seal Phase IIs that are "only going to a client." Some call this an "internal" document - let me be clear - **THIS IS NOT AN INTERNAL DOCUMENT AND MUST BE SEALED**. Performing a Phase II (or any other non-exempt work) for a client constitutes performing geoscience for the public and is subject to regulation regardless of whether this work is submitted to a regulatory agency or sealed. (See 851.156(k)). Lastly, we have had several licensees state that they are "stingy" or "cautious" with their seals and they "don't seal just anything," instead only sealing work submitted to a regulatory agency. While we appreciate PGs taking their sealing duties seriously, being "careful" should not cause you to violate the sealing rules. Rather, a PG's caution and care should result in quality work that is worthy of your seal.

This article was first published in TBPG's Newsletter in the Fall of 2017. TBPG would like to thank Kevin Almaguer, P.G. for suggesting we republish this article. Please see our website for additional archived Newsletters.





ASBOG Fall 2025 Computer-Based Examinations

Congratulations to the 33 New P.G.s, and the 40 new G.I.T.s!
The March 2025 ASBOG Results have been sent to all Candidates.

Fundamentals of Geology

Candidates approved: 147
Candidates who sat: 96
Candidates passed: 54

Pass Rate: 56.2%

Practice of Geology

Candidates approved: 58
Candidates who sat: 51
Candidates passed: 35

Pass Rate: 68.6%

National Statistics have not been released yet.

The Fall exam dates currently scheduled are **October 2nd and 3rd, 2025**
On 05/23/2025 TBPG started reviewing and approving applications for the October exam dates. If you have submitted an application, please watch for an approval email and check your spam inbox frequently. Once all currently complete applications are approved, TBPG will begin notifying applicants with incomplete files to let them know what is missing.

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!](#)

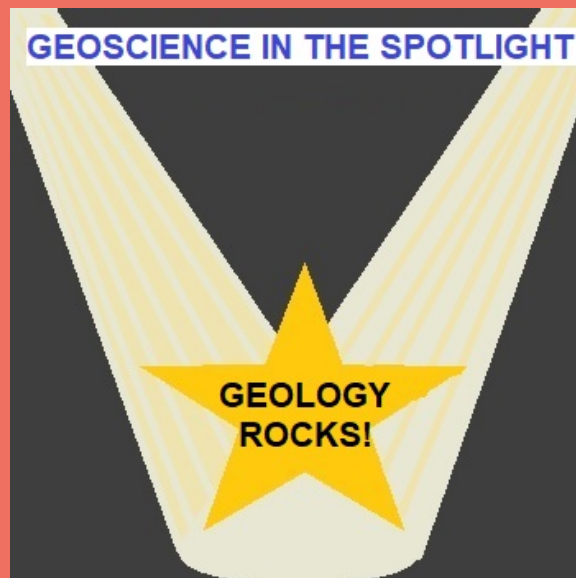
[ASBOG Examinee Candidate Handbook, click here!](#)

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!](#)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE NEW P.G.'S WHO RECEIVED
LICENSES LAST QUARTER!!!**

15668 VALERIA SUAREZ PFLUGERVILLE, TX
15669 BENJAMIN GRUNAU RICHARDS, TX
15670 AMMON LUTZ FORT WORTH, TX
15671 MARIA HRUSKA AUSTIN, TX
15672 NATHAN KILGORE HOUSTON, TX
15673 WALLACE RICHARDSON FAYETTEVILLE, AR
15674 ANDREW MCGUFFIN ALEXANDRIA, VA
15675 PAUL GIESTING AMARILLO, TX
15676 ADAM TOY HONEOYE FALLS, NY
15677 MAX HOFFMAN SPRINGFIELD, MO
15678 JOHN PETERSON ARVADA, CO
15679 MICAH FORBES PHOENIXVILLE, PA
15680 CHRISTOPHER HOGLUND OLATHE, KS
15681 CADE KLOCK LONG BEACH, CA
15682 CLYDE EASTER CHAPIN, SC
15683 WESLEY WEICHERT DURANGO, CO
15684 JUSTIN LASHLEY DICKSON, TX
13031 ABAY VELI MCKINNEY, TX
15685 STEVEN ZOTTO DALLAS, TX
15686 PATRICK BRYAN SAN ANTONIO, TX
15687 STEPHANIE WONG HEWITT, TX
15688 FRANCISCO OCHOA CONROE, TX
15689 DOMONIC LIVOTI WICHITA FALLS, TX
15690 EZEQUIEL MORENO FLORES MIAMISBURG, OH
15691 REBECCA OWENS RUSK, TX
15692 DAKOTA DRAPER GEORGETOWN, TX
15693 ROSS EIDE AUSTIN, TX
15694 HANNAH GNOZA WICHITA FALLS, TX
15695 MICHAEL GRENTZER AUSTIN, TX
15696 BRYAN LEE TOMBALL, TX
15697 JOSHUA O'CONNELL AUSTIN, TX
15698 LENORE PERKINS NACOGDOCHES, TX
15699 PATRICK BOBBITT AUSTIN, TX
15700 CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ VICTORIA, TX
15701 WILLIAM DAVIS LAMPASAS, TX
15702 MARIIA ALEKHINA AUSTIN, TX
15703 DANIEL ST. GERMAIN MIDLAND, TX
15704 JOSHUA WOOSLEY AVE MARIA, FL
15705 HELENA ZAHRA SUGARLAND, TX
15706 KATHARINE SINK SACHSE, TX
15707 CHRISTOPHER BROWN NEW YORK, NY
15708 OLGA MOSKVINA DALLAS, TX
13032 MOHAMED AHMED CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
12920 RICHARD REID TOLAR, TX
15709 ALEJANDRO SANCHEZ HOUSTON, TX
15710 JEROME GUYNN HOUSTON, TX
15711 KATIE BRICE HOUSTON, TX
15712 CODY CASH CARROLLTON, TX
15713 KORY TALCOTT ELGIN, TX
15714 ADAM LEE BUDA, TX
15715 CAITLIN CISCO CALEDONIA, MI
15716 JOSEPH HANCOCK CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
15717 HUNTER ROY FRIENDSWOOD, TX



**We are pleased to introduce our P.G. In The Spotlight:
Rebecca Owens, PhD, P.G. #15691**



Dr. Owens is the Department Chair for Engineering and Physical Sciences and a Professor of Geology at Tyler Junior College. She graduated from Texas A&M University.

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

I was licensed in May of 2025. I am proud to carry a PG license because it attests to my knowledge of geology as an academic subject and in practice. As a department chair and professor, my students know that I speak from a level of expertise on the topics in our class and as a geologist, potential clients have assurance of knowing I've met established standards of knowledge.

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

I pursued a career in geoscience because in college, I realized that I wanted a job that would get me outside. I grew up canoeing, and thought a field that would get me back into

rivers would be ideal. Flash forward a few years, and I found my place in fluvial geomorphology.

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

The field work remains my favorite part. There's nothing better than being somewhere beautiful and remote and it be part of your job! As a geology professor, my favorite part of my job is seeing students decide to major in geosciences after initially taking my class simply to fulfill a science credit. I'm proud to have sent students to SFA, Texas A&M, Angelo State University, UT Permian Basin and Texas Tech as successful geology or geoscience majors.

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

I hope to see the geoscience industry continue to innovate to meet the needs of our changing world and its inhabitants. The students entering college now have different outlooks, goals and values than those of years past and will bring exciting viewpoints and ideas to the geoscience industry. Rather than writing them off, listen to them! My students teach me things every day.

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

Start learning GIS and remote sensing analysis as soon as you can. And don't think that geoscience isn't for you because you don't fit some sort of arbitrary mold.

6) What do you do in your spare time?

I like to run, lift weights, hike, and play piano. We live on 40 acres in east Texas with five dogs and six cats, so there's always something going on.

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

Stay open-minded and innovative. The challenges we face today and will face tomorrow require creative solutions. Listen to the people that offer them.

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 for an interview!

Highlights from the May 9, 2025 Board Meeting

Requests For Waivers

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

Discussion

Chair Prescott discussed organization updates and Board member terms. Executive Director Truan gave a report on Operations, Staff, Program updates and the current legislative session.

Committee Chair Varhaug reported on the General Issues Committee's review, research

and discussion regarding a possible Emeritus or Retired Status, Rule Review and how to increase outreach to universities.
Licensing Specialist Katie Colby provided the licensing report, including statistics from the March 2025 ASBOG Examination.

Comments on Compliance TBPG's Continuing Education Program

All currently licensed Texas Professional Geoscientists (P.G.s) as well as Geoscientists-In-Training (G.I.T.s) have a requirement for professional development to be completed over each twelve-month period of licensure. The following information is intended to provide a brief overview of TBPG's professional development program and several of its more significant requirements.

The Texas Geoscience Practice Act (TGPA, or the "Act") established a continuing education statutory requirement for all Texas professional geoscientist licensees under the Texas Occupations Code and is a program administered by the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG).

Details of TBPG's Continuing Education Program (CEP) are available online at TBPG's website (<https://tbpg.state.tx.us/rules/>) with specific annual licensee continuing education requirements located in 22 Texas Administrative Code §851.32.

The following are several relevant items regarding the continuing education requirements found in TBPG Rule §851.32:

- Meeting CEP requirements is a condition of license renewal.
- All licensed P.Gs. are required to complete a minimum of 15 continuing education hours annually; G.I.Ts. have a minimum annual requirement of 8 hours of continuing education. This includes a minimum of one hour in professional ethics, roles and responsibilities of Professional Geoscientists, or review of the TGPA and TBPG rules.
- A maximum of 30 PDHs may be carried forward into a licensee's subsequent review periods. This does not include the annual ethics training requirement which must be completed annually.
- PDHs may be earned in a variety of manners as listed in TBPG Rule §851.32 (f)(1) – (10) but must be relevant to the practice of a discipline of geoscience
- It is the responsibility of each licensee to use their best judgement to determine if a claimed PDHs meet the CEP requirements (TBPG Board staff do not pre-approve or endorse any CEP activity).
- Licensees are responsible for maintaining adequate records used to support all claimed PDHs for a period of three years.

The preceding bullets are intended to highlight several major points regarding CEP requirements and issues that TBPG Compliance routinely sees when conducting monthly CE audits of individual Texas license holders.

As is always the case, Texas P.G. and G.I.T. licensees can contact TBPG Compliance Staff if they have a question regarding CEP requirements and can be reached by email at compliance@tbpg.texas.gov or by phone at (612) 936-4408.

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 August 6th through August 20th, 2025 and is open for registration through July 28th!

Additional Upcoming dates for the Soil Science examinations are:

Registration:

Q4. October 1 - October 27, 2025

Available Exam Dates:

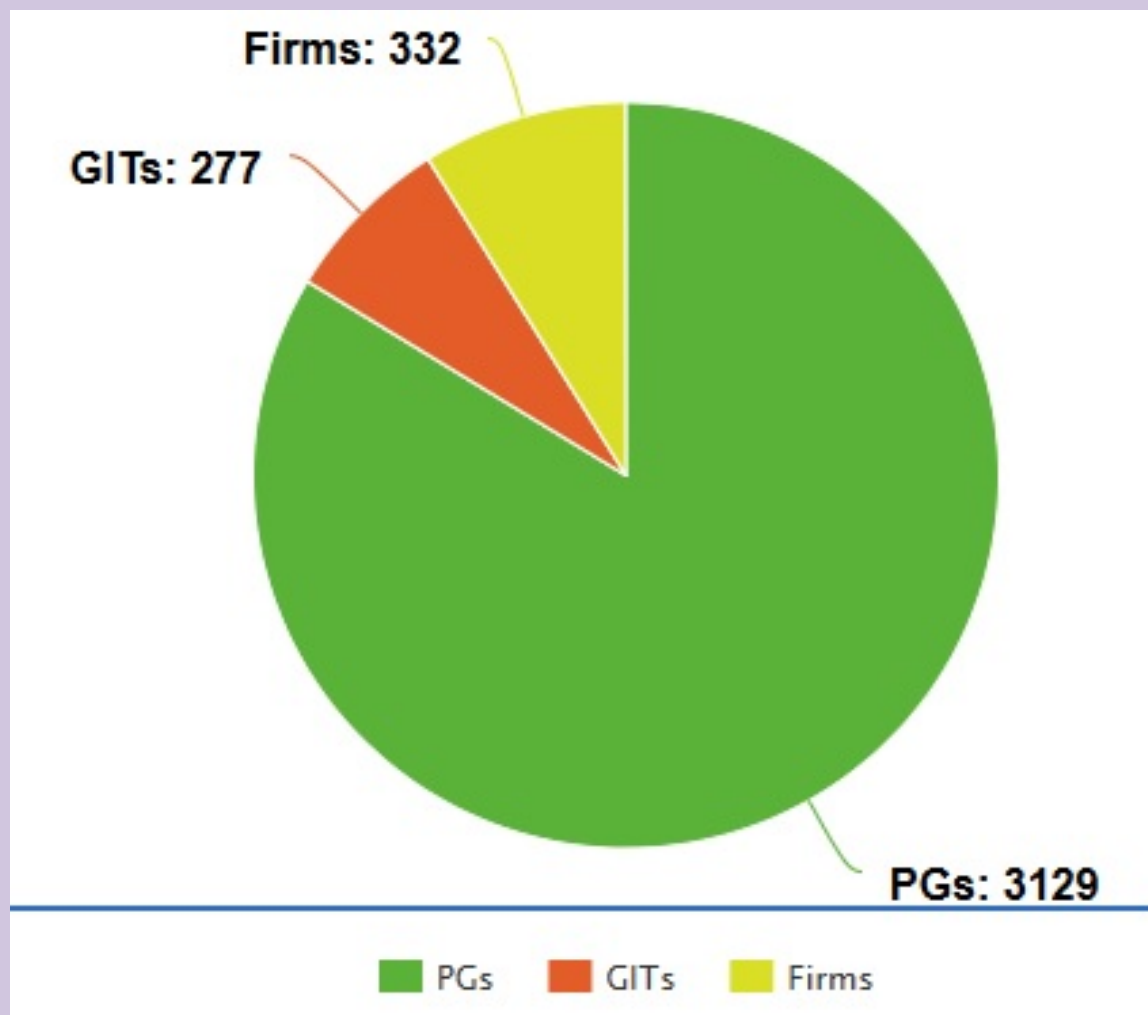
Q4. November 5 - 19, 2025

Exam Registration is only available during the dates listed above, and only for the corresponding Available Exam Date.

Please see:

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

CURRENT LICENSES AS OF 06/01/2025



PGs

Current: 3129
Expired: 655

GITs

Current: 277
Expired: 208

FIRMs

Current: 332
Expired: 37

TCEQ Trade Fair

TBPG wants to thank the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for providing us with a complimentary booth at their trade fair on June 3rd and 4th. We had an amazing time and are always so pleased to meet our licensees, answer questions and continue outreach in the important field of Geoscience.

If you stopped by to see us, THANK YOU! You are the reason we do what we do and it is very important to us to see how we are making a difference.

If you have any follow up questions for us;

Please reach out to kcolby@tbpg.texas.gov with any questions about licensing, examinations or waiver requirements.

Please reach out to gordon.magenheim@tbpg.texas.gov for any questions about Continuing Education, Compliance, or Enforcement.

A special thank you to TBPG Board Secretary Mark Varhaug, P.G., C.P.G., for providing an Ethics presentation and standing by to answer questions at our booth.



August 21, 2025

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

August 22, 2025

TBPG Board Meeting

These meetings may 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@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 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



Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists
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