



TBPG Summer Newsletter - June 2026

What's New!



New TBPG Staff Member!



TBPG Distinguished and Emeritus P.G. Recognition Programs Approved!



New Outreach Initiatives!



TBPG-Registered Geoscience Firm Survey Results!



A Message from the Board Chair!

The TBPG Board met by Zoom on May 8, 2026. At the meeting we covered topics including discussing and approving applications, reviewing Rules, reviewing TBPG operations and licensing statistics, future outreach opportunities, and initiatives designed to better serve our licensees and the people of Texas.

In coming months, the Board will continue an in-depth review of our Statute and Rules, looking to identify Rules that can be updated, simplified or eliminated. These efforts are aimed at reducing impediments to getting a P.G. license and making sure that TBPG Rules can be easily read and understood.

On our website, you can find our [statute](#) and [rules](#). I encourage all licensees to review the Rules and make comments. The Board will carefully review and consider all comments.

In May, I made a presentation on Professional Ethics to about 150 P.G.s at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Environmental Trade Fair. It was gratifying to see so many licensees following through on their ethics training.

OUTREACH AND AWARENESS – WHAT DOES A P.G. DO?

The Board will continue to promote professional geoscience and professional licensure with college and university geoscience students, geoscience department heads and faculty, as well as at professional geological society and industry meetings.

If you would like a Board member to address your professional or social group, please contact us.

Also, please consider giving a talk to students and the public at school events and professional or social meetings. You can be the public face of professional geoscience, and you might help a student decide to pursue a career in geoscience.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER SERVING ON THE TBPG BOARD?

Serving on the TBPG Board is a way for you to serve the people of Texas by participating in policy, ethics, and licensing decisions that affect geoscience practice statewide. You can also make an impact on the future of our profession. I, or any other Board member, can give you information and answer any questions. Applying is simple! For more information, visit the [Governor's Appointments Office](#).

NEXT BOARD MEETING AUGUST 14, 2026

All licensees and all members of the public are encouraged to attend our Board meetings, whether they are in person or by Zoom. The next meeting is planned for Friday August 14. This meeting will be a Zoom meeting, beginning around 9:00AM. At every Board meeting, there is time allotted for comments from the public, including our licensees. For security reasons (Zoombombing), please notify TBPG if you'd like to attend.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

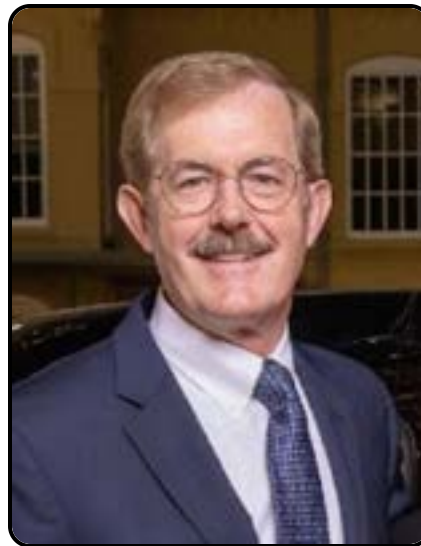
The Board, our Executive Director, and agency staff remain dedicated to our mission to protect public health and safety through licensure and provide the highest level of service to the public and our licensees in Texas.

On behalf of the Board, I thank all Texas P.G.s for your dedicated service to the people of Texas.

Have great summer,



Mark Varhaug P.G., C.P.G.



Introducing a New TBPG Staff Member!

Natalia Tolpeeva joined TBPG on April 1 as our Financial Officer. She brings more than 30 years of accounting experience and holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Houston. Prior to joining TBPG, Natalia spent most of her state-service career with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, where she gained extensive experience in state financial operations and accounting.



Outside of work, Natalia enjoys traveling, following sports, and learning new languages.



Below is the Texas Summary of Statistics for the March 2026 ASBOG Examinations

Texas Results March 2026	Total Number of Candidates	Number of Candidates Passing	Percent of Candidates Passing
FG Exam	104	51	49%
PG Exam	59	43	73%

[ASBOG October 2026 Computer-Based Examinations](#)

Now that the March 2026 ASBOG examinations have passed, TBPG is preparing for the Fall 2026 exams scheduled for October 1st and 2nd.

The deadline to apply for the October exams is September 1, 2026. We encourage candidates to apply early to ensure all required documentation is submitted before the deadline. We are now actively reviewing October exam applications, and applicants should hear from our team shortly regarding whether their application has been approved for the exam or if any deficiencies need to be addressed.

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.

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!](#)



Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists Releases Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2027-2031

The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) completed an agency-specific five-year strategic plan for the period 2027 through 2031. Completion of a strategic plan is required prior to the beginning of each biennial State legislative session. This strategic plan addresses three operational goals in support of our ongoing mission and is aligned with the following TBPG philosophy:

- Maintain a licensing, compliance, and enforcement program to ensure that only those who meet established standards are licensed to carry out the public practice of geoscience in the State of Texas;
- Use the Board's statutory authority to clearly define the parameters of the geoscience profession and promote licensure and compliance through education and outreach;
- Act in accordance with the highest ethical, accountability, and efficiency standards in our agency operations and licensing/enforcement actions;
- Base decisions on the law, established geoscientific principles, appropriate standards of practice, and fiscal responsibility;
- Ensure that rules are necessary, effective, current, and do not create barriers to licensure;
- Maintain a continuing education program that promotes excellence in professional geoscience practice, ethics, and standards through a continuous learning model;
- Monitor compliance to Board rules in a fair and consistent manner;
- Ensure consistent, just, and timely enforcement when the Act or Board rules are violated; and,
- Hire, develop, and retain a highly effective diverse and dedicated workforce.

A copy of this strategic plan is available from our website using the following link:

<https://tbp.state.tx.us/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/TBPG-STRATEGIC-PLAN-2027-2031-1.pdf>

TBPG Customer Service Survey – In Progress!

TBPG initiated a Customer Service Survey on April 24, 2026, emailing 6,929 individuals regulated by the agency or subscribed to TBPG's email distribution list.

As of May 28, 2026, we have received 283 survey responses, resulting in a current response rate of 4.1 percent. These results were included as a part of the agency's Five-Year Strategic Plan which was recently submitted. The final results of this survey will be provided in TBPG's Fall 2026 newsletter.

The survey will close on August 31, 2026 so, if you haven't yet completed the short 10 question survey, please Click [here](#) to begin.

Emeritus and Distinguished Texas P.G. Recognition Program Update!

The final Rules for TBPG's Distinguished and Emeritus programs were published in the *Texas Register* on April 1, 2026 and are now finalized. Definitions for each program are available at the TBPG website.

[https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?\\$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=05%2F02%2F2026&recordId=228216](https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=05%2F02%2F2026&recordId=228216)

The *Distinguished* Texas P.G. recognition program is an honor that may be granted to certain qualifying active licensees with individuals nominated by the Board. This program allows the TBPG to identify and recognize a PG who has demonstrated exceptional, extended and sustained professional practice of geoscience in Texas. The minimum criteria the Board will consider are: the individual must be a current Texas P.G. in good standing, must have a minimum of 15 years of licensure as a Texas P.G., and must have a clean license record with no penalties. Candidates for Distinguished Emeritus status are identified and nominated by the Board; this is not an application-based designation. The Board retains sole discretion in evaluating and selecting candidates for recognition during a calendar year.

The *Emeritus* Texas P.G. program provides an opportunity for a P.G. retiring from licensure to receive recognition for their outstanding career achievement as a licensee and remain associated with TBPG while also retaining their license number on a permanent inactive/retired basis. The minimum qualifications the Board will consider is: must be a current Texas P.G. in good standing, must have a minimum of 20 years as a licensed Texas P.G., must have a clean license record with no penalties, and, must meet a minimum age requirement of 65 years at the time of application. Application for this recognition will be completed by a licensee using a form that will soon be available on the TBPG website.

Qualification criteria for both recognition programs established by the TBPG Board are available at the following link on the TBPG website.

[https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?\\$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=05%2F02%2F2026&recordId=228216](https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=05%2F02%2F2026&recordId=228216)

Earn Your Ethics CE Hour with TBPG's Videos!

TBPG now offers five ethics videos on our YouTube channel that may be used to fulfill the required ethics hour for continuing education. These engaging videos cover ethical responsibilities and professional expectations for P.G.s and G.I.T.s.

If you still need your ethics hour, this is an easy and accessible way to meet the requirement!

Watch all five ethics videos on TBPG's [YouTube](#) channel today!

The Texas Professional Soil Scientists Association awards the annual Charles Thompson Memorial Scholarship Award to an aspiring soil science student from Stephen F. Austin University



Ed Janak, a former Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) board member and a Texas-licensed Professional Geoscientist (Soil Science) presented the Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas (PSSAT) annual Charlie Thompson Memorial Scholarship to Ashley Riley, a Spring 2026 graduate in Environmental Science (soil science) from Stephen F. Austin University (SFA). PSSAT awards this scholarship annually on a competitive basis to a Texas college student aspiring to a career in soil science. It is named after Charles M. "Charlie" Thompson who led the Texas soil survey program from 1975 to 1986 as the Soil Conservation Service State Soil Scientist. As a soil scientist, Mr. Thompson was also a licensed Texas Professional Geoscientist receiving his license following the enactment of the Texas Geoscience Practice Act into statute.

Ashley developed an interest in soil science after taking an introductory course on the subject where she recognized the important role that soils play in land management, water quality, and agricultural sustainability. Ashley was co-founder of SFA's first competitive soil judging team, named the *Loam-berjacks* (combining a soil texture classification and the SFA mascot). This effort allowed Ashley and her fellow students the ability to sharpen their technical skills in evaluating soil morphology, classification and soil taxonomy in the field. Ashley intends to pursue a graduate degree in soil science and starting on the path for licensure as a Geoscientist-in-Training, the first step in becoming a Professional Geoscientist in Texas within the field of Soil Science.



The SFA Loam-berjacks on the final day of the Region IV competition in Fayetteville, Arkansas, are posing for a picture after completing their first competition. Ashley Riley is the second from the right.



Participating in the Regional IV competition in Fayetteville, Arkansas, the SFA Loam-berjacks prepared by describing soil horizons, using the Munsell Color Book for soil coloring, assessing texture by feel, and evaluating land use limitations in a practice pit.



**We are pleased to introduce our P.G. In The Spotlight:
Alyssa Balzen, Texas P.G. # 15236**



Ms. Balzen works as a Hydrogeologist at the KT Groundwater. She received her Undergraduate and Graduate degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio (B.S., Geology) (M.A., Geology).

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

I was first licensed in 2021. Having a P.G. license is important to me because it demonstrates I am committed to always improving and trying to be a better scientist.

2. Why did you pursue a career in Geoscience? What part of Geoscience I

was not really a rockhound growing up, although I did enjoy finding and collecting rocks from my elementary school playground as a young kid. However, I've always been deeply fascinated by science, and spent significant time self-guiding my learning in environmental science, biology, chemistry, and Egyptology growing up. I'd read just about any science book I could get my hands on, but I had a particular affinity for water science – in middle school my

science fair project was conducting water quality testing on a creek near my neighborhood, and in high school I earned my Girl Scout Gold Award by merging art and science to create an educational conservation display at the Barton Springs Splash! Exhibit in Austin, TX. My stepfather is a groundwater modeler so he was my ultimate influencer – near the end of high school I knew I wanted to do what he did!

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

Water is our most precious resource, and I am grateful and proud to play a small part in helping others have safe drinking water. I also enjoy learning about the nuances involved in our profession. I love hearing about other geoscientists' views and opinions and how it impacts their work, learning how to be as objective as possible when presenting technical information, and understanding how our own bias can influence our presentation of and reactions to scientific data and research. I also really enjoy seeing how others progress in their careers. I've never met a geoscientist who didn't care deeply about what they do and how they help others through their work.

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

I hope that the geoscience industry is viewed by the public as collectively working to improve everyone's lives through data collection, research, and education. I'd also love to see others have an improved understanding about what geologists do and how widely varied the career opportunities are – I know it has been challenging to recruit geology students, partially because of misconceptions about the field and partially due to a lack of knowledge about it, so I think this is crucial to sustain the industry.

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

Find the branch of geoscience you're most interested in and pursue that niche. Meet as many people as you can who work in that field and strive to build good relationships. Most importantly, go to networking events whenever possible, and be proactive with your career development by going above and beyond when you can, such as by volunteering – it's very difficult to build a career by doing the bare minimum. The real magic happens at the happy hours, conferences, and all the time spent with your peers.

6. What do you do in your spare time?

My answer is different depending on the month and year – I love to learn new things! Spending time with my kids and husband will always be my top priority, and after moving recently my time has been spent doing home décor and repair projects including drywall repair and painting, with a goal to learn how to re-tile my kitchen backsplash. Any additional time I have is usually spent entertaining people with my violin at weddings, corporate events and touring orchestras, cooking and baking, sewing or knitting clothes, gardening, woodworking, needlepoint, or doing some other craft relevant to the time of year/occasion/current inspiration.

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

Good communication between scientists and policymakers is critical, as this determines the course of many policy decisions that affect all of us for

generations to come.

Anything else you would like us to know?

After my geology career I want to master couture sewing skills and have an awesome home sewing studio. I'd love to spend my time at home sewing beautiful clothing and quilts and building/creating all day with my family.



We are pleased to introduce our G.I.T. In The Spotlight:
Ramiro Aguinaga, Texas G.I.T. # 737



Mr. Aguinaga works as a GIT at Terracon Consultants Inc. He graduated from The University of Texas at San Antonio (B.S., Geology) and received his Texas G.I.T. Certification in 2024.

1. Why is having a GIT Certification important to you?

A GIT certification represents both a commitment to professional excellence and a critical step in my career growth within the geosciences industry. As someone eager to deepen my technical understanding and expand my practical experience, this certification validates the foundational knowledge I have developed and demonstrates my dedication to meeting industry standards. Additionally, obtaining my GIT designation allows me to continue progressing toward licensure as a Professional Geologist, which is a long-term career goal. It signifies that I am not only committed to improving my competencies, but also to contributing responsibly and ethically to the profession.

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

I was surrounded by geology for as long as I could remember. At a young age, I was fascinated with fossils and paleontology. My admiration for fossils expanded into a vast collection of rocks and minerals. My favorite subject in school was science, and I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in geology. What interested me the most was understanding the geologic processes that over time shaped our environment.

3. What is your favorite part of working as a Geoscientist-in-Training?

My favorite part of working as GIT is seeing a project move forward from initial investigation to tangible development. Being able to drive past a completed site and recognize that my efforts played a role in making that development possible, provides a strong sense of accomplishment.

4. What are your hopes for the Geoscience industry in Texas? What would you like to see somewhere in the future?

The geosciences field is constantly evolving. I would like to see the geoscience industry and students, eager and motivated to stay current with best practices, emerging technologies, and environmental considerations. I also would like to see geoscience students open to career opportunities in different disciplines. In college I was persistent in a career in oil and gas. I had not considered a career

in environmental geology until I was offered an internship with an environmental consultant. This exposure to another discipline of geology opened many doors for me. My advice to up and coming geoscience students would be to not limit themselves to a single discipline and be eager to learn. That way opportunities for career growth, such as the one I had, are not passed on.

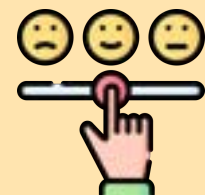
Anything else you would like us to know?

In my free time, I enjoy camping, playing piano, taking road trips, and spending time with my wife and two dogs. This past year, I served as Secretary for the South Texas Geological Society and was just re-elected for the position.



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

TBPG-Registered Geoscience Firm Survey



As part of TBPG's periodic review of our Geoscience Firm Registration Program, A survey of currently registered geoscience firms was completed on March 1st with a total of 59 responses received over a one-month period. TBPG staff used the 2019 geoscience firm survey as a starting point and developed the five questions provided below.

Question 1: *Do you agree that Geoscience Firm Registration in Texas plays an important role in protecting public health and safety? [Yes/No/Not Sure]*

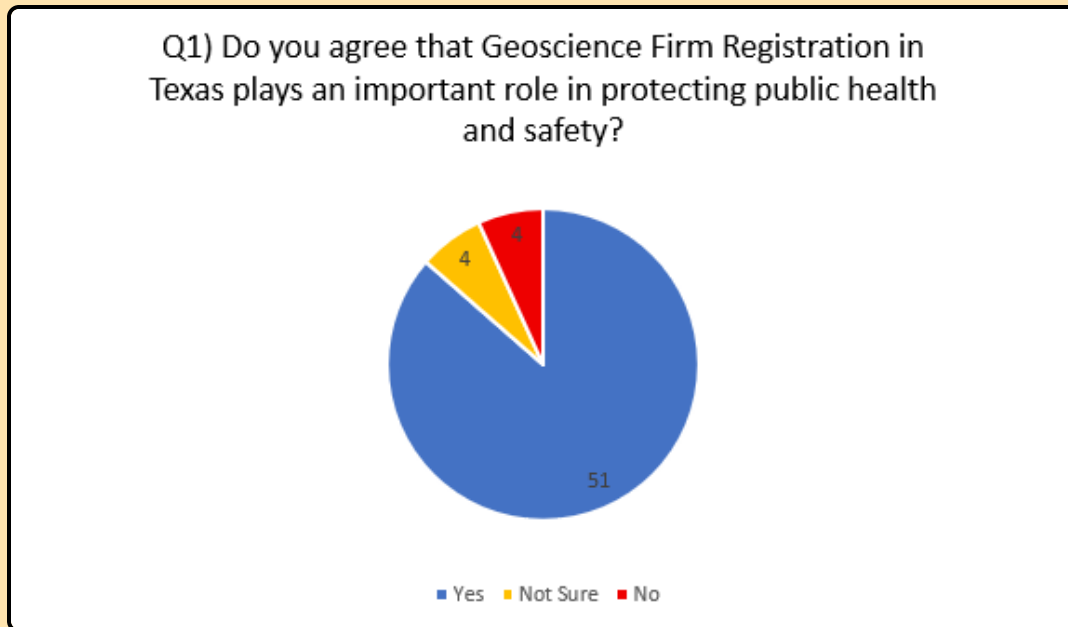
Question 2: *Does your firm support Geoscience Firm Registration in Texas? [Yes/No/Not Sure]*

Question 3: What do you believe is the most significant benefit from Firm Registration in Texas?

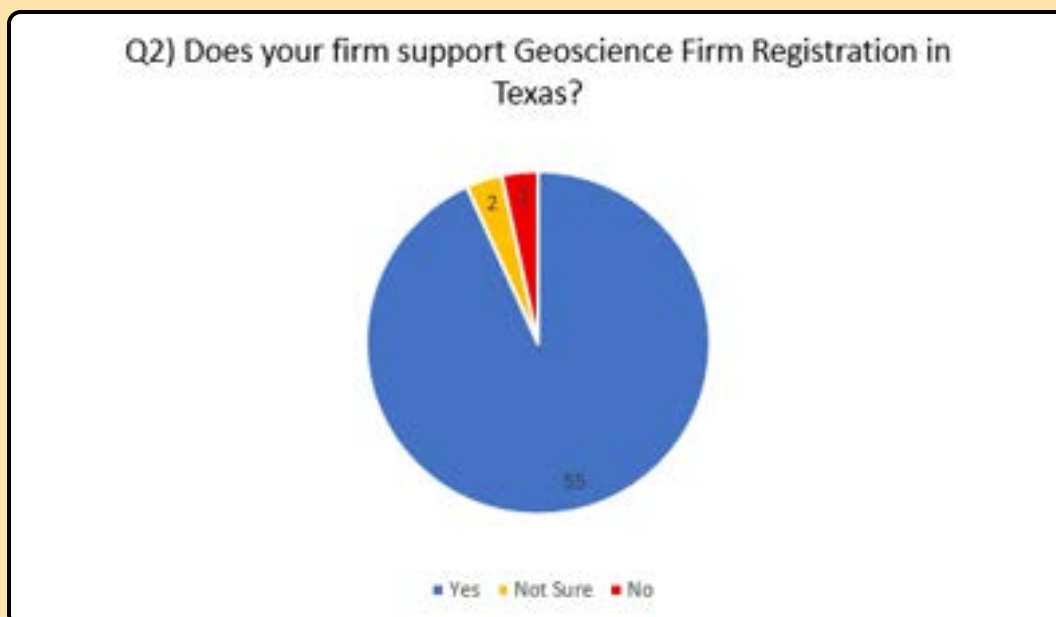
Question 4: What are the biggest challenges in maintaining compliance with Texas Geoscience Firm Registration requirements?

Question 5: Please provide any additional comments or suggestions regarding Geoscience Firm Registration in Texas or how we can better serve geoscience firms.

The response to the first two survey questions are provided in the following charts:



For Question 1, most registered geoscience firms that responded believe that firm registration does play a role in protecting the public (86.4 percent responded “Yes” with another 6.8 percent answering “Not Sure”).:



A total of 93.3 percent of survey respondents indicated that they support firm registration in Texas with 3.4 percent responded that they were “Not Sure.”

Responses to Question Three indicated the top four significant benefits of firm registration were ensuring ethical practice, competent work, public safety/protection, and environmental protection.

Many of the responses (21) for Question Four indicated that geoscience firms had no challenges in maintaining compliance with TBPG's firm registration requirements. Cost of firm registration was noted in six responses with two respondents indicating challenges with firm renewal and four responses indicating challenges with the online renewal system.

Question Five was for additional comments. Many of the Firms that completed the survey did not have anything to add, though five responses were complimentary of the job that TBPG does. Areas for improvement were noted as developing a plan to increase the public awareness of PGs and the work they do and expanding the opportunities for Continuing Education.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE NEW P.G.'S WHO RECEIVED LICENSES BETWEEN 03/01/2026-05/31/2026!!!



Licensees are listed in the order in which the licenses were issued*

Geology 15802 **JESSICA LYNCH** CANYON LAKE, TX
Geology 15803 **KYLE KLAUSNER** SAN ANGELO, TX
Geology 15804 **THOMAS BUERKERT** THE WOODLANDS, TX
Geophysics 13039 **IBRAHIM ILHAN** AUSTIN, TX
Geology 15805 **NORMAN MEEKS** THOMPSONS STATION, TN
Geology 15806 **ASHLEY ROWE** BRANDON, FL
Geology 15807 **KEVIN O'TOOLE** CHATTANOOGA, TN
Geology 15808 **JOANNA WALKER** CONROE, TX
Geology 15809 **DAVID LINDSEY** KEVIL, KY
Geology 15810 **MARK POOLE** ELLENWOOD, GA
Geophysics 13040 **ASHLEY NGUYEN** HOUSTON, TX
Geology 15811 **PAUL CHASCO** TOLEDO, OH
Geology 15812 **SCOTT LAKEY** DENVER, CO
Geology 15813 **MICHAEL POUNCEY** MCKINNEY, TX
Geology 15814 **LUKE WILSON** DALLAS, TX
Geophysics 13042 **FARAG MEWAFY** MURPHY, TX
Geology 15815 **JANET COLEMAN** EL LAGO, TX
Geology 15816 **NATHAN RONCAL** WESLEY CHAPEL, FL
Geology 15817 **FRANK SIMS** CONIFER, CO
Geology 15818 **DANIEL VALENCIA** ARLINGTON, TX
Geology 15819 **YOSEPH ASFAW** BEAUMONT, TX
Geology 15820 **DOMINIC BAPTISTE** SPRING, TX

Geology 15821 **COLTON BARR** COLLEGE STATION, TX
Geology 15822 **MICHELE BIRMINGHAM** FORT WORTH, TX
Geology 15823 **MICHELLE WARNER** HOUSTON, TX
Geology 15824 **ROBERT CARTE** SAN ANTONIO, TX
Geology 15825 **RONNY SHOLDT** SANTA FE, NM
Geology 15826 **MICK WROLSON** ROUND ROCK, TX
Geology 15827 **FREDERICK FENNER** HOUSTON, TX
Geology 15828 **JASMINE ESTRADA** FARMERS BRANCH, TX
Geology 15829 **ALONDRA TREVINO** LAGO VISTA, TX
Geology 15830 **GREGORY SULLIVAN** AUSTIN, TX
Geology 15831 **SARAH SHAPLEY** HOUSTON, TX
Geology 15832 **WILLIAM SEELIG** EL PASO, TX
Geology 15833 **DELANEY ROBINSON** HOUSTON, TX
Geology 15834 **ANDREW OSBORNE** BROOMFIELD, CO
Geology 15835 **KYLE METZ** MARCELLUS, NY
Geology 15836 **MARY HUGHES** BULVERDE, TX
Geology 15837 **REBECCA HELM** AUSTIN, TX
Geology 15838 **ALEXANDRE GUITTARD** SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Geology 15839 **ASHLEY RUSHING** DALLAS, TX
Geology 15840 **COLT KERNAN** WYLIE, TX
Geology 15841 **NATHANIEL COLEMAN** FORT WORTH, TX
Geophysics 13043 **ADILKHAN KERIMOV** HOUSTON, TX
Geology 15842 **GERALD LANCASTER** ARLINGTON, TX
Geology 15843 **SYDNEY PATEL** BURLESON, TX
Geology 15844 **WILLIAM GOUGH** HOUSTON, TX
Geology 15845 **ADRIAN CHARLES** ROUND ROCK, TX
Geology 15846 **GREGORY FLUM** MIDLAND, TX
Geology 15847 **MORGAN REEVES** AUSTIN, TX
Geology 15748 **DAVID SEAVER** EUGENE, OR
Geology 15849 **MICHAEL CREWS** CORONA, CA
Geology 15850 **GUATAM KHANAL** IRVING, TX



Showcasing a TBPG Geoscience Firm!



R.W. Harden & Associates, Inc. Texas Firm # 50038

Geoscience Firm registration in Texas began on September 1, 2003, following the establishment of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) by the Texas Geoscience Practice Act in 2001 and became effective on September 1, 2006.

The act mandates that Firms such as corporations, partnerships, or limited liability companies that offer professional geoscience services (geology, geophysics, or soil science) to the public in Texas are required to register.

Additional information on Firm registration requirements is available at this TBPG website link: (<https://tbpg.state.tx.us/firm-registration-requirements/>).

Questions:

1. When did your Firm become a TBPG Registered Geoscience Firm?

R.W. Harden & Associates, Inc. became a Registered Geoscience Firm following the TBPG's establishment in 2003.

2. How many employees does your Firm have? How many geoscientists?

Our firm currently has six employees - soon to be seven with an intern joining our team this summer from the University of Texas. We have three PG's and one GIT.

3. Describe the geoscience work your Firm performs.

Since its founding in 1972, RWH&A has over 50 years of experience in Texas with a combined professional experience of over 4,500 groundwater-based projects for municipalities, governmental agencies, private owners, and a wide range of commercial clients including power generation, mining, exploration, chemical, petroleum, construction, land development, agricultural, and well drilling industries.

Typical projects begin with desktop groundwater availability studies followed by “boots on the ground” field investigations including exploratory drilling, coring, and logging performed alongside licensed water well drilling contractors, conducting well and aquifer testing programs including groundwater sampling and analyses, well and wellfield planning and design, groundwater flow modeling utilizing both numerical and analytical methods, groundwater conservation district permitting, expert witness testimony, oversight of well construction, pump and motor design, and obtaining State approvals for public water supply systems.

Our in-depth field-based hydrogeologic investigations and experience provide a practical understanding of subsurface conditions that reduce uncertainty during project planning, development and design and helps identify potential challenges early in the process. Our decades of experience guiding groundwater projects from concept through operation has continuously allowed us to minimize client risk and deliver successful projects on schedule and within budgetary constraints.

4. What opportunities or changes in geoscience practice have you seen or do you anticipate? What have been (or may be) the impacts to Firms/PGs in Texas?

As we know, AI is a growing resource and tool readily available for almost anyone to use. Therefore, discussions about the use and application of AI as a tool in a professional design realm should be considered from an ethics perspective. Annually, select employees in our firm participate in a Design Professional Liability Education Program offered through our insurance provider and our recent course titled, “AI Ethics in Design Practices” discussed this very topic. The information presented was eye-opening in that as we use AI as a support tool in our ever day work there is a level of responsibility by the design professional in applying that information as well as taking responsibility in the use of that information. In our industry, we use computer programs and models almost on a daily basis to aid in solving problems. Therefore, similar to the use of computer programs and models, the responsibility still lies within the practicing professional to evaluate and review the inputs and outputs of data when AI is used as a resource and tool.

5. Tell us more about your Firm’s PG in Responsible Charge?

RWH&A’s company President, Liz Ferry has over 20 years of experience in almost all aspects of hydrogeologic evaluations with a focus on groundwater development, flow calculations, water quality analyses, and determination of groundwater availability with respect to quantity and quality of water from almost all the major and minor aquifers across Texas. Ms. Ferry’s diverse and long-term field experience aids in the application of the data as well as in identifying issues that arise in applying inaccurate data to models for predicting long-term effects from groundwater production. Ms. Ferry’s groundwater modeling work focuses on the importance of understanding real-world aquifer responses to pumping for all types of uses including dewatering and depressurizing for safely perform mining operations to planning for long-term sustainable groundwater production for large-capacity municipal supply and other supply users. Although local groundwater conservation districts enact regulatory limitations on the production of groundwater it is important to recognize these constraints oftentimes are restrictions in production and

availability of groundwater to an amount that is much less than what may be physically available from both fresh and brackish groundwater resources readily available across Texas.

6. How has Geoscience Firm registration benefited your Firm?

A geoscience firm registration has benefited R.W. Harden & Associates, Inc. by strengthening our client and regulatory confidence in application of our work and increasing client trust as projects are performed and overseen under recognized professional standards. For a firm that performs extensive science-based groundwater-related work, registration demonstrates professional responsibility in work performance and project deliverables.



TBPG Board and Staff Outreach Activities



TBPG Board Chair Mark Harhaug and Board member Danny Kingham participated in a two-day meeting of the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Council of Examiners meeting on April 9 and 10th. The ASBOG Council of Examiners meet twice a year to review results from the most recent *Fundamentals of Geology* and *Practice of Geology* exams as well as proposed questions for the next exam cycle (exams are held in October and March).

TBPG Board Chair Mark Varhaug delivered a presentation on ethics for professional geoscientists on May 19th at the 2026 TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio and was attended by approximately 150 attendees. TBPG staff members Pia Mas (Administrative Program Specialist) and Gordon Magenhein (P.G.; Compliance and Outreach Manager) were also present at the TCEQ conference and provided information and discussed the agency's licensing, continuing education, and compliance programs with an estimate of 140 TCEQ conference attendees over a two-day period ending on May 20th.



Gordon Magenheim (TBPG) attended the Annual State Groundwater Coordination meeting on May 20th hosted by the Texas Railroad Commission.

TBPG Board Member Rusty Branch presented information on the importance of professional geoscience licensure and applied geoscience at a Society of Texas Environmental Professionals (25 attendees) in Fort Worth, Texas on March 27th as well as at a meeting of local professional geoscientists on June 3rd .

Highlights of the May 8th, 2026 Board Meeting

Requests For Waivers

The Board reviewed eight requests for waivers. The Board approved all requested waiver requests.

Discussion

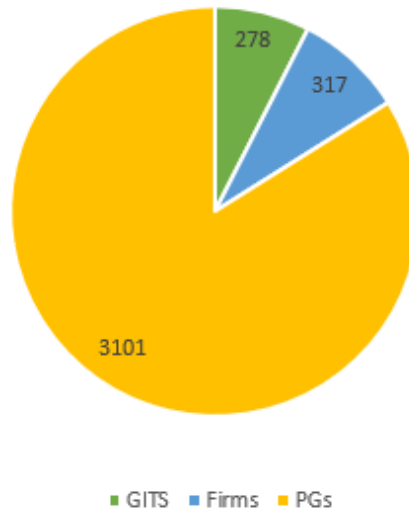
Board Chair, Mark Varhaug, P.G., C.P.G., introduced new Board Member Tycom "Ty" Wright and approved the minutes from the February 27, 2026 Board Meeting.

Executive Director Rene Truan introduced Natalia Tolpeeva as the TBPG's new Director of Finance. Mr. Truan also provided a report on Operations, Staff Updates, Program updates, and ongoing TBPG staff activities.

Committee Chair Mark Varhaug reported on the General Issues Committee's research and discussion regarding the ongoing review of existing TBPG rules, as well as the posting of Distinguished and Emeritus Texas P.G. recognition programs on the Texas Register.

Compliance Manager Gordon Magenheim provided the quarterly Compliance report.

Current Licenses as of 06/01/2026



Total Licenses Managed: 4594 (Current and Eligible to renew)

Status	PGs	GITs	Firms
Current	3101	278	317
Expired	638	221	39



☀️ HELLO SUMMER!!

A Message from the TBPG Staff:

Wishing all our licensees and colleagues a safe, enjoyable, and productive Summer season! As the days grow longer and temperatures rise, we hope you find opportunities to recharge, spend time outdoors, and enjoy all that Summer has to offer. Whether you're in the field, the office, or enjoying some well-deserved time off, we appreciate all that you do to support and advance the profession.

A quick friendly reminder: Summer is a great time to verify that your contact

information is current and to check your renewal status to ensure you remain in good standing throughout the year.

Upcoming Quarterly TBPG Meetings

Austin, Texas

August 13, 2026

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

August 14, 2026

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 inquires, 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	512-936-4410 GORDON.MAGENHEIM@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
FINANCE	Accounts Payable, Receivables, Purchasing, ITVs	512-936-4404 ntolpeeva@tbpg.texas.gov
LICENSING	New license inquires, Applications, Examinations, Waivers and Qualifications	512-936-4408 LICENSING@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV

OPEN RECORDS	Open Records of Public Information Requests	512-936-4401 RTRUAN@TBPG.TEXAS.GO V
ONLINE ASSISTANCE	Assistance with the online licensing portal	LICENSINGHELP@HPC.STATE. TX.US



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