



Oregon Geologist Examiner

April 2005

Official Publication of the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

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Next Board Meeting:

June 10, 2005

**Directly following the
1:00 PM Public Rulemaking
Hearing**

Sunset Center South
Conference Room
1193 Royvonne Ave. SE
Salem, Oregon

Board Eliminates Oregon-Specific Exam Requirements

In 1999, the Board developed and began administering the Oregon Specific Geology Examination to test candidates on their knowledge of Oregon's geology. The intent was to assure that geologists practicing in Oregon had fundamental knowledge of the geologic provinces, formations, tectonics and setting of our treasured state. Passing this test became one criterion for becoming a Registered Geologist in Oregon, along with passage of the fundamentals and practice examinations prepared by the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG).

Since adoption of the Oregon Specific exam, many Board members and Oregon registrants have participated in the development of examination questions, including learning more than they ever imagined about psychometric principals employed in creating and administering professional practice examinations. Board members routinely participate in the ASBOG Council of Examiners (COE), where each ASBOG national exam is compiled. Following the administration of the examination, the COE is convened for a second review of that examination. Engineering Geologists registered in Oregon and Washington have worked together developing exam questions for the Certified Engineering Geologist (Licensed Engineering Geologist in Washington) examination administered by both the Oregon and Washington Boards. Through these experiences, Board members have gained a keen awareness regarding exam construction and defensibility. ASBOG has withstood legal challenges to its examination by employing these principles.

In 2004, ASBOG conducted its latest Task Analysis, which is a compilation of geologic practices from all 50 states and several Canadian provinces. Task analyses are conducted approximately every five years and the results are used to revise the ASBOG practice examination. Perhaps you were one of the randomly selected Oregon Registered Geologists that completed this important survey. Geologic tasks are evaluated regarding how commonly the geologist performs the task, how critical the task is with respect to public safety and how frequently it is part of the professional practice of geology. Although final statistics from the 2004 Task Analysis are not yet available for distribution, preliminary results showed that the 1999 and 2004 Task Analyses provided very similar results – it revealed that professional geologists provide services that are remarkably consistent across most of the U.S. and Canada. Exceptions were in the states of Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming, where the fields of mining and petroleum industries weighed more heavily. Results of the Task Analysis

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Knight's Notes

In 1999, the stand-alone office opened for the work of the Board of Geologist Examiners (OSBGE). During the ensuing 6 years, no permanent paid staff has been added. Work-study students, temporary employees, and now a volunteer have served as staff support. With online information available as well as phone voicemail, staff has been able to be away without complications. But during these years, the Board has often discussed the need for back-up staff with inner knowledge of the work of the office.

At the December OSBGE meeting, the Board approved a contract with the Oregon State Board of Landscape Architects (OSLAB) for the administration of the OSLAB office through the end of the biennium, June 30, 2005. Since December 1, 2004, OSBGE staff has been handling all the work of both Boards. Members of OSLAB have served as support staff to supplement the contract. In mid-January, the offices were relocated and are now co-located in the same building. OSLAB is interested in maintaining the joint administrative contract through the 2005-2007 biennium, but with the understanding that a second half-time staff must be added. This will allow backup knowledge for both OSBGE and OSLAB, a need that OSBGE has recognized for numerous years. Early in the new biennium, the plan is to have a second staff member on board.

On another note, our lead article discusses the Board's decision to discontinue the Oregon Examination as a requirement for registration. I would like to acknowledge all the time and effort expended by Board Member Orr in the development and administration of the examination. Those registrants who sat and passed the examination as part of the registration process have an expanded knowledge of the geology of Oregon and should take pride in their participation in the rigors of that examination.

The 73rd Legislative Session is in full swing. The Board submitted one bill, SB80, which survived the whole legislative process and was signed by the Governor on March 29, 2005. It becomes effective January 1, 2006, and will authorize the Board to establish coursework expectations in rule. The Administrative Rules Committee will be called upon in the development of the new rule to enact this legislation. Thank-you to the members of the Board for their participation in the passage of this law.

Susanna Knight
Administrator

Oregon-Specific Exam Eliminated

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project the perception that if a geologist is competent to practice in a specific field of geology, then that geologist is deemed competent to practice in that field, regardless of the physical location.

The Oregon Board of Geologist Examiners' CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT (Oregon Administrative Rule 809, Division 20) was established to protect the public by holding registrants accountable for their geologic work. While this CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT does not prevent Oregon RGs from providing services in fields of geologic practice new to them, it obligates registrants to provide the public practice of geology only in fields where they are qualified by education, training and experience. Incumbent in geologic work is the requirement for a geologist to educate themselves about a specific site or study area before conducting any work there. Knowledge of the entire state is not necessary in carrying out such work

Reflecting on the above information, the Board unanimously voted at their March 8, 2005, meeting, to eliminate the Oregon Geology exam as part of its registration requirements. The decision was made with careful deliberation and a fundamental finding that the Oregon-Specific exam is not justified on the basis of the uniformity of geologic practice nationally, which is tested by ASBOG. Further, the essay format of the Oregon-Specific exam could prove difficult to defend in a challenge. Also considered was that an ethically practicing geologist will always familiarize themselves with the geologic setting of the area where they are working. In essence, the Board found that the public safety was not improved through administration of the Oregon-Specific exam.

Although we believe this decision is well founded and correct, many on the Board have a sense of sadness in losing the Oregon-Specific exam. We believe that the exceptional knowledge level of Oregon Geologists (as demonstrated by our consistently high ASBOG test scores) was likely enhanced by having an Oregon-Specific exam. Please remember, yourself, and encourage young geologists-in-training, or other geologists new to Oregon, to study our state's interesting and varied geologic terranes. You won't need the details to be registered, but it makes traveling our state a lot more fun!

Notice of Rulemaking Hearing

On June 10, 2005, the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners will hold a rulemaking hearing at the Board offices in Salem to consider the following actions:

Amend: OAR 809-010-0025, Operating Budget

Rule Summary: The amended rule will adopt the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners 2005-2007 biennial budget. The Public Hearing will allow input from registrants with regard to the budget. No increase in annual renewal fees is included. A copy of the proposed budget and/or rule amendment is available by contacting the Board Rules Coordinator.

ORS 183.335(2)(b)(G) requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

Welcome New Registrants

The final Oregon-Specific Geology examination was administered on Friday, March 4. The Board welcomes the following new registrants who, by passing this examination, have now completed all requirements for registration:

Geoffrey C. Brown, G1941
Stephen P. Swope, G2050
Ryan G. Vannier, G2053

The Board congratulates the following Registered Geologists who passed the March 4, 2005, administration of the Engineering Geology examination and are now certified to practice engineering geology in Oregon:

Darren L. Beckstrand, E1940
Andrew V. Goodell, E1793
David J. Higgins, E2026
Timothy J. Richter, E1893

Registrant Appreciation

The Board wishes to acknowledge the following Certified Engineering Geologists for providing new questions for the expansion of the Engineering Geology examination. Regulatory exams are built on a volunteer base, and question writing is a very difficult piece. So a big **THANK YOU** to the following registrants who stepped up and responded to the Board's request. If you did provide questions in response to the Board's solicitation and your name is *not* listed, please accept staff's apology.

Douglas Boyer	Warren Krager
Bob Busch Jr	Vern Newton
Bob Deacon	Peter Patterson
William Elliott	James Rodine
James Fisher	William Sanguine
Barry Hecht	Christopher Stohr
Todd Jarvis	James Williams
Richard Kent	Raymond Yost

Additional Certified Engineering Geologists volunteered 2 days in the review and revision of examination questions. A big **THANK YOU** to the following registrants who served as volunteers on February 16 and/or 17 in Vancouver, Washington, collaborating with Washington registrants.

Susan Bednarz, Jacobs Associates
Scott Billings, ODOT, Bend
Chris Humphrey, H.G. Schlicker & Associates
Todd Jarvis, OSU
David Michael, Board Member
David Scofield, Corps of Engineers

Through the efforts of the above-listed CEGs, the engineering geology question bank has been expanded. All Oregon CEGs are encouraged to continue compiling questions for a future solicitation.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION AT RENEWAL TIME

ORS 672.585 (2) states that all applications for renewal shall be filed with the administrator **before** the expiration date, accompanied by the annual fee. Effective July 1, 2005, any renewal postmarked **on** or after the renewal date **must include the applicable late fee**. Staff has incorrectly accepted renewals postmarked on the renewal date without penalty in violation of this statute.

Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

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Lapsed Registrations

The following registrants' licenses to practice geology in Oregon lapsed during December, January, and February. An active registration is required to practice in Oregon. If your renewal payment was processed, please contact the Board office so the error can be identified and a correction made. Your assistance in the process is appreciated.

Copeland, Jeff D
Garcia, Eric Wayne
Garza, Jennifer Owens
Gilmour, William B
Hudson, Ann Davies
Kranz, Scott
Schymanietz, Jeff R
Snell, Jonathan P

2005 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- June 10: 9:00 AM Board Work Session,
Salem Office
1:00 PM Public Rulemaking Hearing on
2005-07 Budget; Board Meeting directly
following Hearing
- June 9: ASBOG Application Deadline
- August 27: Former and Current Board Member Picnic
- Sept. 9: Board Meeting, Salem, Oregon
- October 7: ASBOG Exams, Salem, Oregon
- Nov. 11: Board Meeting, SOU, Ashland, Oregon