



Oregon

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To: Registrants and Other Interested Parties

Date: May 1, 2015

From: Christine Valentine, Board Administrator

Subject: Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners
PROPOSED ADOPTION BY RULE OF 2015 - 2017 BUDGET

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify you of proposed rulemaking by the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (OSBGE).

Summary: OSBGE voted to approve its budget for the 2015-2017 biennium at a public meeting held March 19, 2015. The Board has initiated the rulemaking process to complete the budget process and hereby requests public comments on the proposed budget and associated changes to the Operating Budget rule. The proposed rule amendments have a proposed effective date of July 1, 2015, which is the start of the next state biennium.

Fees: The 2015-2017 budget does *not* include any fee increases. The 2015-2017 budget will be balanced by the use of financial reserves along with new revenue derived from fees.

The Board has observed that expenses continue to grow while fee-based revenues have been trending flat. The Board also recognizes that reserves cannot be tapped indefinitely. Increases in expenses are largely related to the growing costs of business with little discretionary spending in the overall budget. The Board is concerned that fee increases will be required in a few years. As a semi-independent state agency, the Board does not receive any state general fund and must operate off fee revenues. The Board's goal is to continue to delay fee increases as long as possible through careful financial management. The Board's last increase to registration fees was implemented on July 1, 2007.

Rule Hearing: The Board is holding a **hearing** on the proposed rule as follows: **Thursday May 21, 2015, 9 AM**, at the Association Center, 707 13th St. SE, Salem, OR 97301. Contact the Board Office for more information.

Comment Deadline: Verbal or written comments may be provided at the hearing; see above. **Written comments** may also be provided to the Board's office through **close of business (i.e., 5 PM) on Thursday May 21, 2015**. Comments can be sent in hard copy, by e-mail, or by fax. The Board contact information is found at the top of this notice.

Website: Additional details, including the full budget, are available at the Board's website <http://www.oregon.gov/OSBGE/Pages/index.aspx> or by contacting the Board office.