



Oregon

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To: Board Registrants

From: Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

Date: July 8, 2016

Re: **Continuing Education for Oregon Registered Geologists
Update and Comment Opportunity**

The purpose of this letter is to provide registrants with a summary of recent activities by the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (Board) regarding the potential creation of a continuing education component for geologist registration in Oregon. The Board wanted to share what has been discussed and created so far and to provide all registrants with the opportunity to review and comment on ideas under consideration.

To be clear, the only decision the Board has made to date is to create a proposal (including initial draft documents) to provide to registrants for review and comment. The Board is taking a step-wise approach to this and is seeking comments now so the Board can gauge interest and consider potential issues before embarking on the long and time consuming effort needed to seek legislative approval of a continuing education requirement. Furthermore, although the Board feels strongly that a continuing education requirement would benefit public health, safety, and welfare with respect to the public practice of geology, the Board is cautious about pursuing legislative approval if a majority of the Registered Geologists does not agree with the Board's viewpoint.

The Board is providing e-documents direct to registrants and posting all documents on the Board's website. The Board staff will collect comments from registrants over the summer and early fall of this year. Comments will be organized and reviewed by the Board as received during its September 16 and December 2, 2016 Board meetings. The Board intends to make a decision at the December 2016 meeting about whether or not to begin the process of seeking legislative approval.

Seeking legislative approval is a time consuming process, and there is also some risk in any legislative process. The Board must keep these factors in mind. At this point, the Board believes that even if it makes a decision to begin in 2016, any legislative approval would not be realistic until 2019 or 2020 with implementation not starting until 2021. This timetable also assumes the process goes smoothly! Therefore, the Board feels it just makes good sense to gauge the interest of everyone before proceeding too far.

FOR REVIEW: There are four documents associated with this letter as described below. These documents are also posted at <http://www.oregon.gov/osbge/pages/index.aspx> or are available from the Board office upon request. The Board encourages everyone to review these documents and provide comments to the Board.

- A. DRAFT Purpose Statement: This is a short summary of what the Board is seeking, and it includes the primary rationale for why a continuing education component would be included as part of registration in Oregon.
- B. DRAFT Conceptual Continuing Education Rules: This is the first writing of what the continuing education rules *might* look like. These rules were drafted using continuing education rules from other state geologist licensing boards and select Oregon licensing boards as a starting point. The Board wants all registrants to keep the conceptual nature of the rules in mind when reviewing them. Any actual program rules might change significantly based on registrant input and the outcomes of any legislative process instigated.
- C. DRAFT Form for Tracking of Continuing Education Information: The purpose of including this form is to give registrants an idea what kind of information would likely need to be tracked about continuing education activities and submitted to the Board if audited.
- D. April 2016 Continuing Education Research Bibliography: The Board reviewed and utilized numerous sources of information in preparation of these draft documents. This included review of continuing education requirements for geologists in nine other states. The bibliography summarizes these other state programs as well as our other reference materials. The Board encourages registrants to provide additional materials relevant to continuing education that they come across it in their own work or research.

Often, folks who are not pleased with the prospect of something new or a change in an existing process are motivated to provide comments in the negative. The Board recognizes that and welcomes those comments so that all perspectives can be weighed. At the same time, we are hopeful that folks who feel that these changes would be a positive thing will also be motivated to provide comments to the Board. And for those unsure, the Board encourages sharing of questions and concerns. All comments will be helpful to the Board's consideration of next steps.

The process for providing your input to the Board is to send your comments via email or regular mail care of the Board Administrator, Christine Valentine. Email and mailing addresses are located at the top of this letter. **The comment deadline is October 31, 2016.**

Registrants are also welcome to provide public comment at future Board meetings.