



# Oregon Geologist Examiner

April 2006

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Vice Chair

**Susanna R. Knight**  
Administrator

**Marilou Arrobang**  
Licensing Specialist

**Jane F. Feinberg, RG, CEG**  
Design Editor, Webmaster

## Next Board Meeting:

**June 2, 2006**

**1:00 PM**

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

## Joint Compliance Committee

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) was signed between the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (OSBGE) and the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS) back in December of 2001. The MOU provided for the convening of a Joint Compliance Committee (JCC) to review complaints in overlap practice areas. The MOU was the result of action during the 71st Legislative Assembly (early 2001), when a Senate Committee, while hearing SB447, recommended the Boards work together to handle overlap practice issues rather than legislating such changes.

During the ensuing years, JCC meetings have been sporadic. In January 2004, the OSBGE members of the JCC did meet with a Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG). The purpose of the meeting was to point out practice concerns as determined by the JCC. In meeting with the CEG, additional coursework was recommended before acquiring certain project work.

Resolution of overlap issues has been slow and often discouraging for OSBGE. OSBEELS determined that they had no authority over Professional Engineers practicing geology. But the Geology statute exempts civil and mining engineers. This GAP in the practice arena was identified, but progress on correcting it has been slow. In May 2005, OSBEELS recommitted to participation in the JCC after temporarily withdrawing pending a review by their Board.

A meeting in July 2005 was convened to strategize a process for success with the JCC effort. OSBGE was represented by members Gary Peterson and William Orr and Administrator Susanna Knight. OSBEELS was represented by members Sue Lazlo, Stu Albright and Dan Linschfield along with JR Wilkinson and Brian Halfman, Investigators for OSBEELS. The process outlined in the MOU for handling complaints was discussed. The complaint investigation procedures for each Board were described so that all participants would be informed as to each staff's method for handling complaints. An agreement was reached for implementing the MOU.

The JCC again convened on January 31, 2006, to continue discussions about overlap practice complaints. Three complaints against CEGs were reviewed. One was dismissed and OSBGE agreed to meet with two other CEGs to discuss their work product. Two complaints about the hydrogeology work quality of Professional Engineers were revisited. Although the complaints had previously been closed by OSBEELS, OSBGE stated the need to point out the deficiency of the work product and this request was honored by the JCC.

The JCC also discussed the need for ongoing discussion of overlap practice areas. The committee confirmed that their purpose is to review complaints in overlap practice areas, but agreed that they are also willing to discuss practice issues as time allows in the meeting. OSBGE presented a new complaint against a PE to the committee. The next JCC meeting date has not yet been set.

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## Knight's Notes

Former Board Member Bill Orr dropped off a new reference book for the staff library titled Oregon Water: An Environmental History. Many of your libraries may contain prior Orr publications such as the "Geology of Oregon" or "Geology of the Pacific Northwest." In this newest book, Orr and his wife Liz have tackled the water issues facing Oregon.

Orr states that:

"Oregon's water laws and water rights are Byzantine. How have these evolved to the present-day usage? This book includes chapters such as 'Where Has All the Water Gone?'; 'The Greening of Oregon; Water for Agriculture'; and 'Water to Wash Away our Sins.'" Areas experiencing critical groundwater shortages are summarized, as is the Water Resources Department's process of distributing permits for appropriation, dams, and well drilling; and the Department of Environmental Quality's permitting for the right to pollute. Even with some of the purest water anywhere from both Cascade streams and reservoirs along with groundwater aquifers, communities in the northern Willamette Valley are drinking a soup of chemicals from the Willamette River, one of the most polluted systems in North America."

If you are interested in the new book, Oregon Water, it is available from Inkwater Press, Portland, from Amazon.com, and from Borders.

The Board itself has had numerous complaints in recent years about the issue of water availability. The most recent Task Analysis conducted by ASBOG reveals that the dominant practice arena for geologists is currently hydrogeology. The water issues faced both in Oregon and across the nation will not soon be going away!

On another note, two new faces are now at the Boardroom Table. Both Christopher Humphrey and Stephen Taylor have arrived at this new appointment with their shirt sleeves rolled up and ready to go to work.

In addition, the Board will attempt to include an article in each quarterly newsletter that will be of interest to those city and county officials on our newsletter mailing list who regularly hire Registered Geologists or Certified Engineering Geologist. See the article titled, "Valuing RG Input."

Happy Spring to all of you!  
Susanna Knight  
Administrator



## Valuing RG Input

Whether your county or city is siting bridges, roads, and dams, or residential, commercial, and industrial developments, Registered Geologists (RG) and specialty Certified Engineering Geologists (CEG) play a significant role in these developments. Understanding the geology of a site as it relates to the proposed development is fundamental to the success of a project. But the challenge facing the RG and CEG is two fold: relaying that information to the local or state government entity that will permit the project and educating the decision makers with regard to the geology.

Registered professionals have the responsibility to safeguard the health, welfare, and property of the people within the state of Oregon. They must abide by a CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, and for geologist, this is found in Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 809, Division 20. A geologist should convey technical information to government entities in laymen's terms such that the government entity can make informed decisions regarding a proposed project. To assist local and state governments in understanding the importance of the geology and the role of the geologist, Registered Geologists/Certified Engineering Geologists may need to carefully describe geologic conditions and hazards to the local or state governments. Developing relationships and meeting with the local planners to discuss potential impacts of the site geology on a project is extremely important to assist in this public process. Geologists need to make the time to build these relationships.

Government planners should also spend the time understanding the RG/CEG concerns regarding a project. Because many city, county, and state government entities do not have geologists on staff to review technical reports, they must rely on the fact that a Registered Geologist has met the criteria of registration and therefore meets basic qualifications to provide accurate technical analyses. More interaction between geologists and planners can result in more informed decisions that account for the impacts of the geology on a development.

Non-registered individuals, including geologists that do not practice in Oregon, also have a right to voice their opinions on a proposed project in the hearing process. However, the decision makers should rely on reports prepared by qualified Oregon-registered professionals who have the responsibility and liability of providing accurate technical information regardless of the political nature of a project. The law requires that in order to provide geological guidance to local government, be it city, county, or state, the geologist must be a RG or CEG.

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## Searching for Past AGI Minority Participation Program Scholars

The American Geological Institute is searching for past scholarship recipients from the AGI Minority Participation Program (MPP) to complete a short survey.

The AGI MPP program dates back to 1972 and is the longest running minority program in the geosciences. More than 950 MPP scholars have received millions of dollars of scholarships over the past 34 years. Many of our past scholars are currently working as leaders in the geoscience community, and many have gone on to exciting careers in other fields.

AGI would like to evaluate the AGI MPP in order to improve it for current and future students. The survey will take only 10 minutes and will be used to track the successes of the program over the past 34 years! If you were a MPP scholar, please take the time to participate.

The AGI Minority Participation Program survey is available at <http://www.agiweb.org/mpp/>. AGI will provide results of this survey for publication at a later time.

If you have any questions on this survey or the Minority Participation Program, please contact Cindy Martinez.

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## CEG Candidates Up; ASBOG Candidates Down

National ASBOG exams and the OR/WA CEG exam were administered by the Board on Friday, March 3, 2006. Eleven candidates sat for the ASBOG fundamental exam with seven passing for a pass rate of 64%. Eight candidates sat for the ASBOG practice exam with a pass rate of 100%. Board Member Eileen Webb served as proctor for the ASBOG exams.

Four candidates were administered the CEG exam. The pass rate for the exam was 75%. Board Member Gary Peterson served as proctor of the CEG exam.

The pass rate for Oregon examination candidates continues to be outstanding!

APRIL 2006

## Welcome New Registrants!

The Board congratulates the following new registrants, who have been added to the roster since the last newsletter. The Board extends a welcome to each of you and wishes you much success in your practice as a Geologist-in-Training; Registered Geologist; and/or Certified Engineering Geologist in the State of Oregon.

Wayne C. **Adams**, E2107; Eric **Bowman**, G2110; Brad A. **Bessinger**, G2117; Scott F. **Burns**, E1550; Gilbert **Butler**, G2115; Craig A. **Dockter**, G2118; Eric **Floyd**, G2111; Justin **Foslien**, G2114; William H **Godwin**, E1851; Marc **Hache**, G2116; Mark L. **Kemner**, G2119; Dale **Kerner**, G2113; John L. **Lawes III**, E1853; Gordon **Levin**, G2112; Matthew S. **Mudge**, G2120; Jeffrey G. **Mutti**, T2121; James B. **Newton**, T2122; Paul **Peterson**, G2108; Brian C. **Ranney**, E1917; Adam J. **Reese**, T2123; Jason **Woodward**, G2109

## Disclosure Document for Cities and Counties

If you work with the Planning Department of your city or county, the Disclosure Document developed by the Board should be of interest to you. The document was distributed to all cities and counties in Oregon last November, but you may not have been the recipient of the document in your city or county office.

The purpose of the document is to assist Boards and Commissions in the public hearing process. Many people come before these panels to give input through the Public Hearing process. The Disclosure Document is designed to give panels some background information on the presenter to assist the Board or Commission in evaluating the content of the presentation.

If you were not a recipient of the document but would like to view it, go to the Board's website and secure a copy under the PUBLICATIONS tab. The Board encourages you to use this document as will best suit your county or city's need, including revising it to make it useable in your arena. The Board welcomes feedback about this document and wishes to thank those of your who have already provided input.



## Volunteers WANTED

To assist with developing  
"Guidelines for Geologic Reports"

Please contact the Board office  
if you would like to help with  
this important project.

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### Lapsed Registrations

The following registrants' licenses to practice geology in Oregon lapsed during December 2005, January and February 2006. An active registration is required to practice geology in Oregon. If your renewal payment was processed, please contact the Board office so the error can be identified and a correction made to our registrant database. Your assistance in the process is appreciated.

**Burns, Craig, T1976;**  
**Castelin, Paul, G0839;**  
**Cornachione, Harriet, G1480;**  
**Demsey, Karen, G1481;**  
**DeSantis, Michael, T1911;**  
**Graff, Rick, G1689;**  
**Lamadrid, David, G1905;**  
**Schymanietz, Jeff, G1954;**  
**Sprott, Thomas, G1284;**  
**Trevis, Robert, T1476;**  
**Weir, Robert, T2017;**  
**Wentworth, Todd, G1704**

### 2006 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- April 7, 8: Council of Examiners  
Houston, Texas
- June 2: Quarterly Board Meeting  
Salem, Oregon
- June 9: ASBOG October Exam Application Cutoff
- July 22: Annual Board Picnic  
Orr Farm
- Sept. 14: Quarterly Board Meeting  
Salem, Oregon