



# Oregon Geologist Examiner

April 2009

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## Next Board Meeting:

**June 12, 2009**

**1:00 PM**

*Preceded by 8:30 AM  
Work Session*

Salem, Oregon

## Board Provides Input to AEG Regarding Joint Task Force on Areas of Practice

In mid-March, the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (OSBGE) sent a formal response to The Association of Engineering Geologists regarding the draft document entitled, "Engineering and Geology Practice Guidelines," dated April 2009, and prepared by the Joint Task Force on Areas of Practice (JTFAP). The JTFAP document includes a matrix that attempts to divide specific practice areas among Geologists, Engineering Geologists, and Geotechnical Engineers (JTFAP Table 1). The following is an excerpt from the response letter as well as the Board's CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. The entire document can be located on the Board's website under the Publications tab.

"OSBGE is the licensing body that governs the public practice of geology and engineering geology in the State of Oregon. The Board has been in existence since 1977 and its charge is supported by both state law (ORS) and administrative rule (OAR). OSBGE's licensing laws cover the work of Registered Geologists (RG) and specialty Certified Engineering Geologists (CEG). OSBGE's primary mission is to "safeguard the health and welfare and property of the people of Oregon" (Oregon Revised Statute 672.505 to 672.991). OSBGE actively collaborates on areas of overlapping practice with the Oregon Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS). Over the past several years, OSBGE and OSBEELS have been resolving geology-engineering overlap issues under the guidance of a collective MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) dated December 2001. It is from this legal perspective as a regulatory body of the state, that the Board presents comments and recommendations regarding the draft JTFAP document.

The "Engineering and Geology Practice Guidelines" (herein referred to as "Draft Guidelines") were reviewed and discussed at the March 5, 2009, Work Session of OSBGE. It is our understanding that the JTFAP is comprised of representatives from the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG), and the Geoinstitute (G-I) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

*(continued on page 2)*

## Public Hearing on 2009-11 Biennial Budget Announced

The Board will receive comments from those attending a Public Hearing on the draft 2009-11 budget. The Hearing will convene on Friday, June 5, 2009, in the Conference Room of the Board office building at 9:00 AM.

In a special telephone meeting held March 18, 2009, the Board discussed the draft budget that was introduced at the March 5, 2009, Board Meeting by the Budget Committee of Taylor and McConnell.

*(continued on page 3)*

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## Knight's Notes

Again, it is time to thank so many of the Volunteers that step up to help the Board. The Engineering Geology examination development, a Washington/Oregon joint project, is now past the mid-point. See the related article where a few more CEG volunteers are still needed.

Technical Reviewers have also been assisting the Board on two separate compliance cases. Such assistance frees the Board for the multitude of other topics with which it must deal. The energy brought to the task and the thorough reviews are an incredible help to both the Compliance Committee and the Board.

The Board was recently notified that the Appeals Court upheld the Board's January 28, 2008, Final Order on Reconsideration which revoked a registration. The Board also closed a compliance case at the March 2009 meeting by agreeing to a Stipulated Final Order Imposing a Penalty. Both of these documents can be located on the web page under the Compliance tab.

The Annual Board Picnic will convene at the Orr Farm on July 11. If you have served as a volunteer for the Board, you are encouraged to join the Board at the Farm. Please contact the Board for more information.

As ever,  
Susanna Knight  
Administrator



## Exam Results Released

On March 6, 2009, Board exams were administered in Salem, Oregon. Of the 14 candidates sitting for the fundamental section of the exam, 11 passed for a 79% pass rate. Of the seven candidates sitting for the practice section of the examination, five passed for a 71% pass rate.

The Board also administered the Engineering Geology examination in the morning of March 6, 2009. Three candidates sat for the test; one passed.

Congratulations to all candidates that successfully passed the examination during this administration.

## JTFAP Input

*(continued from page 1)*

Based on review of the Draft Guidelines (p. 1), the stated objectives of the JTFAP are to:

- 1) Evaluate the possibility and practicality of developing a statement on the areas of practice for geologists and civil engineers.
- 2) Define the group's contributions to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- 3) Make a recommendation about the practicality of proceeding to develop a document in which areas of practice are spelled out.
- 4) Develop the practice area document as appropriate.

OSBGE has formulated a response to the Draft Guidelines in the context of the above objectives.

## 4. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

**4.1.** Much overlap exists in the practice of Engineering Geology (PEG) and Geotechnical Engineering (GE), which is not correctly represented in Table 1 of the Draft Guidelines. Because Professional Geologists (PG) are not allowed to practice Engineering Geology in 3 of the 29 states that currently regulate the profession, Table 1 appears to represent only the practice of a PG, not the practice of a PEG. It is critical that the practice of Engineering Geology as it exists in those states that regulate engineering geology be properly represented, if this document is to be released to the public. The JTFAP Draft Guidelines limit the scope of existing PEG practice currently allowed by rule, law, and/or established standards in Oregon. Those states that regulate engineering geology as a specialty should have representatives on the JTFAP and significant input on the Practice Guidelines.

**4.2.** It is imperative that the JTFAP recognize that the regulatory boards of each state determine the geology practice in that state, not the professional organizations in which many registrants might participate. Limitations of professional practice for any individual, engineer or geologist, are defined by the respective state's statutes and rules. Registrants can only ethically practice in their area of expertise. Those bounds vary by individual and cannot be legitimately captured in a matrix of limitations, as suggested in Table 1.

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## Engineering Geology Examination Development Nears Completion

**E**ngineering Geologists are still needed for the examination development project for two of the three remaining dates. One additional volunteer is needed for May 14, and four volunteers are needed for June 2. Please contact Board staff at (503) 566-2837 or [osbge.info@state.or.us](mailto:osbge.info@state.or.us) to volunteer your service. This is a huge joint project with the Washington Geology Board and it is nearing conclusion, but **your help is still needed!**

Examination question writing is another very important piece of the examination development process. If you are willing to write questions, please contact staff *immediately*. The examination can never have too many questions in the bank. If you have not previously written questions, various help documents are available to assist you.

Thank you to the following Engineering Geologists who participated on March 9 & 10, 2009:

Douglas Boyer, FERC  
Charlie Clough, Geo Design  
Chris Humphrey, Schlicker and Associates  
Brian Ranney, Geo Engineers

And also a big thank you to the following participants for the February 12, 2009, examination development day:

Jim Braendle, ODOT Geo-Hydro Section  
Kathryn Castelli, ODOT Region 2  
John Lawes III, Pacific GeoTechnical LLC  
Anne MacDonald, ICF Jones & Stokes.

## Registration Updates

**T**he Board welcomes the following new registrants and wishes them a safe and successful practice in Oregon.

By Cooperative Registration

<b>Bianchin</b> , James	E19890	03/11/2009
<b>Giles</b> , Timothy	G2240	01/28/2009
<b>Moore</b> , Gary	G2242	02/25/2009
<b>Beveridge</b> , Carrie	G2243	02/26/2009
<b>Wills</b> , Barton	G2244	03/18/2009

By Passing ASBOG Exam (Oct. 2008)

<b>Broman</b> , Bonnie	T2241	01/29/2009
<b>Tomer</b> , Randolph	T2236	12/30/2008
<b>Cook</b> , Benjamin	T2245	04/10/2009

By Passing EG Exam: (Oct. 2008)

<b>Heidgerken</b> , Joe	E2138	02/02/2009
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## JTFAP Input

*(continued from page 2)*

Check lists like those provided in Table 1 are divisive and they should not be included in *any* guidance documents prepared by the JTFAP.

**4.3.** The JTFAP Guidance Document does not reflect the current practice of geology as a profession, and does not adequately describe the BOK (body of knowledge) for geology as a science. This component either needs to be significantly strengthened, or removed from the document altogether. As the Draft Guideline stands, it should only focus on the roles of PEGs, PEs, and PGEs working in the construction industry. Guidance coverage of greater PG practice in the U.S. is weak to non-existent.

**4.4.** The OSBGE cautions the JTFAP about releasing a document that fails to represent the work of geologists across the U.S., and fails to reflect existing PEG practice in Oregon. As written, OSBGE will not consider adopting the JTFAP guidelines in rule or law, as recommended in Section 5.3. Should the JTFAP guidance document be released to the public without substantial revisions, OSBGE, as the governing board for PGs and PEGs in Oregon, is obligated to notify all related jurisdictions that these guidelines do not adequately represent the legal practice, and should not be adopted into any code or ordinance. This guidance document needs significant additional work before being considered for use in the State of Oregon.

## 2009-11 Biennial Budget

*(continued from page 1)*

The Board confirmed its position that no new fees would be added and no current fees would be increased while acknowledging that during these erratic economic times, it must be diligent in tracking revenue throughout the biennium. Registrant fees are the source of Board income and approximately 4% of registrants did not choose to renew during 2008. The Board must diligently track revenue figures during the upcoming biennium.

To present a balanced budget totaling \$483,975.00, the Board cut all out-of-state travel for the upcoming biennium. Should the revenue stream not decline as anticipated, the Board could reinstate the travel.

Both the Public Hearing Notice and the draft budget figures can be accessed on the Board web page or by calling the Board office.

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**Oregon State Board of  
Geologist Examiners**

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Salem, OR 97302



### Lapsed Registrations

The following registrants no longer have an active registration for practicing geology in Oregon. The registration expired on the date noted below. If your name appears below, but your renewal payment was processed and/or you have a current registration card, please contact the Board office so the database can be properly corrected.

<b>Birman, Joseph H.</b>	E0864	01/31/2009
<b>Cooper, John D</b>	E0879	02/28/2009
<b>Floyd, Eric D</b>	G2111	03/31/2009
<b>Foslien, Justin F.</b>	G2114	03/31/2009
<b>Garcia, Eric W.</b>	G1956	02/28/2009
<b>Nielsen, Jordan W.</b>	G2207	03/31/2009
<b>Troost, Kathy G.</b>	G1701	01/31/2009
<b>Woodward, Jason S.</b>	G2109	02/28/2009

### 2009 Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 14-15:	OR/WA Engineering Geology Exam Development
June 2:	OR/WA Engineering Geology Exam Development
June 4:	Application Deadline for October ASBOG Exam
June 12:	Quarterly Board Meeting, Salem
July 11:	Annual Board Picnic
Sept. 18:	Quarterly Board Meeting Salem, Oregon

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### VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

The Board is in need of CEG volunteers on May 15 and June 2 to complete the Engineering Geology Examination Development project.

To volunteer your help, contact the Board at 503-566-2837 or [osbge.info@state.or.us](mailto:osbge.info@state.or.us)