Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

Professionals in Service to Oregonians Since 1977

What do we have to offer today?

Board members collectively have lots of experience in the geosciences and are here to share that with you.

- **Why is registration (aka licensure) important?**
- **What public benefits does registration provide?**
- **What can registration mean for you?**

History of Registration in Oregon

Mission: To "safeguard the health and welfare and property of the people of Oregon"

- Laws Governing Practice of Geology Enacted 1977
- Oregon Revised Statute 672.505 to 672.991
- Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 809

Registration: Why in Oregon?

…so those practicing have met minimum standards of competency to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

….so that citizens, agencies, businesses, & design professionals can rely on geological work being performed

…so there is a legal responsibility for the quality of the work performed for the public and a public process to address problematic work

…to serve as a path to promote best practices and ethics in the profession.

OSBGE: Mission Statement

- Register those publicly practicing of geology
- Respond to complaints about geology practice
- Provide education to the regulatory community
- Cooperate with other boards/commissions
- Promote ethics in public practice of geology
- Provide outreach about public practice issues

OSBGE: Who Are We?

- Semi-Independent Board / Governor Appointed
- Fee Supported / Self-Sustaining – No Taxpayer Burden
- Volunteers from Community and Profession

2014 Board Members

- Peter Stroud, RG, CEG (Kleinfelder), Chair
- Kenneth Thiessen, RG, CEG (ODEQ) , Vice Chair
- Hans Feige, RG (Feige & Assoc.)
- Scott Burns, PhD, RG, CEG (Portland State Univ.)
- Brad Avy, RG-WA State, State Geologist (ex officio)
- Steve Tucker, Public Member (Cascade Radon, Inc.)

Staff

Administrator: Christine Valentine, MS (OSU)

Registration Specialist: Marilou Arrobang, BS

Who must be registered ?

Individuals engaged in the public practice of geology:

- **Performance for another of geological service or**
- **Work related to public welfare or safeguarding of life, health, property and the environment, except as specifically exempted**

Exemptions

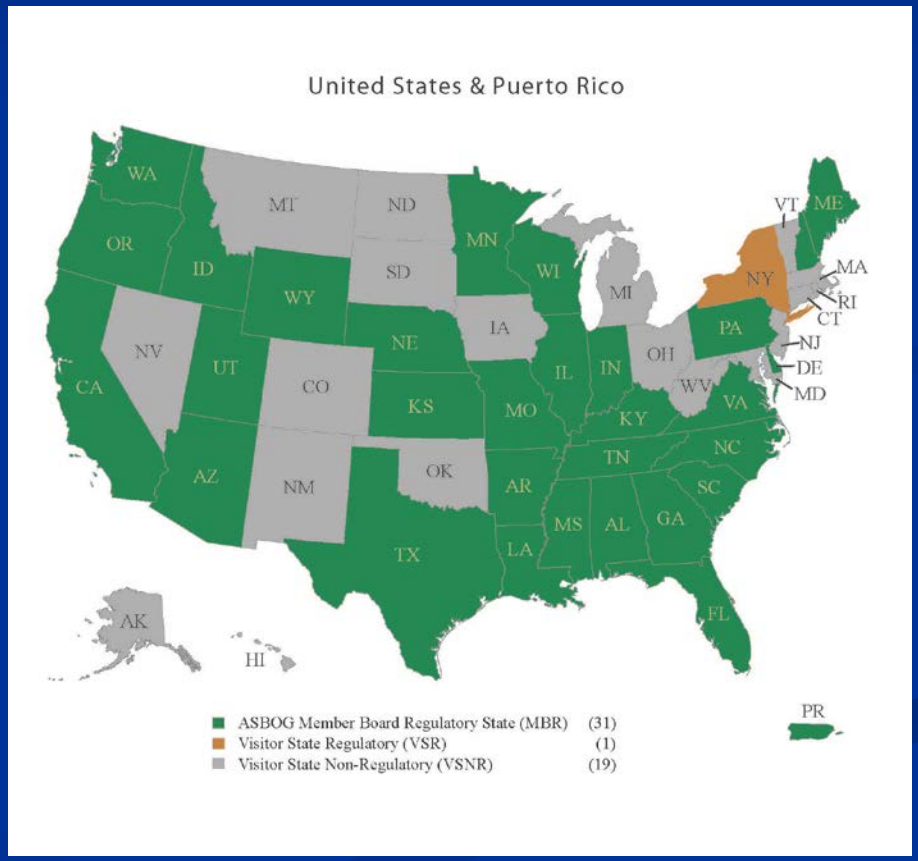
- Federal or tribal employees working solely on employment-related projects
- University professors working solely on employment-related teaching and research
- Subordinates to Registered Geologists and report scriveners
- Private citizens providing testimony at public hearings as part of their free-speech rights

Registrations Offered

- Geologist-in-Training (GIT)
- Registered Geologist (RG)
- Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG)

Standardized Testing
Assoc. of State Boards of Geology

- 30 States & Puerto Rico
- Oregon has been a member since 1990
- Nationally standardized exam by ASBOG:
  - Fundamentals
  - Practice
- ASBOG Council of Examiners meets twice per year to review exam sections

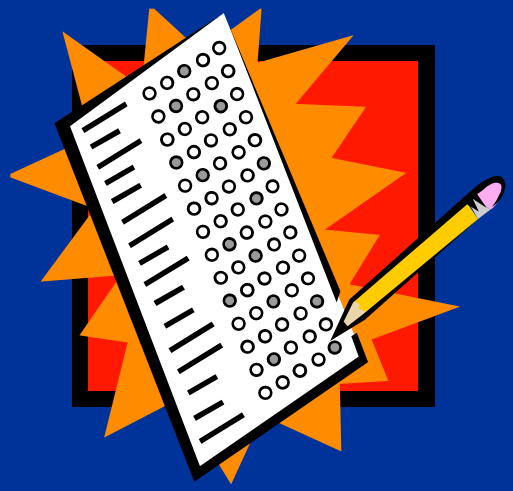


ASBOG Exam

offered twice per year (Spring, Fall)

Fundamentals (GIT)

- Meet coursework requirement



Practice (RG)

- Meet coursework requirement

AND

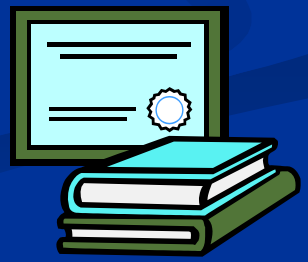
- 5 years of experience
  - graduate study
  - work experience

Geoscience Coursework

45 qtr. hrs., w/ 80% “upper division”

from following list or as approved by Board

- Coastal processes;
- Economic geology;
- Engineering geology;
- Environmental geology;
- Geochemistry;
- Geology field camp;
- Geology field methods;
- Geomorphology;
- Geophysics;
- Geostatistics;
- Glacial geology;
- Historical geology;
- Hydrogeology;
- Lithology;
- Marine geology;
- Mineral exploration;
- Mineralogy;
- Paleopedology/ Paleosols;
- Petrography;
- Petroleum geology;
- Petrology;
- Planetology;
- Remote sensing;
- Rock mechanics;
- Sedimentology;
- Seismology;
- Stratigraphy;
- Structural geology;
- Tectonics;
- Volcanology.



Registration Requirements

University Study

Geology-related degree and/or
45 quarter hrs. of geoscience

Fundamental Geology Examination

Minimum: 70% passing score (ASBOG Exam)

GIT

Work Experience

5 years post-bac. experience

Practice Geology Examination

Minimum: 70% passing score (ASBOG Exam)

RG

Engineering Geology Examination

CEG

Engineering Geologist Exam

- Must be a Registered Geologist (RG)
- Requires work experience in engineering geology, generally under a CEG
- Oregon – Washington share the exam
- Offered twice per year, same dates as ASBOG
- CEG exam now accepted by State of CA
- CA EG exam also accepted by OR & WA

Where do RGs work?

- Private Individuals
- Consulting Firms
- Local, State, Federal, & Tribal Agencies
- Developers, Industries, Corporations
- Mining and Petroleum Companies

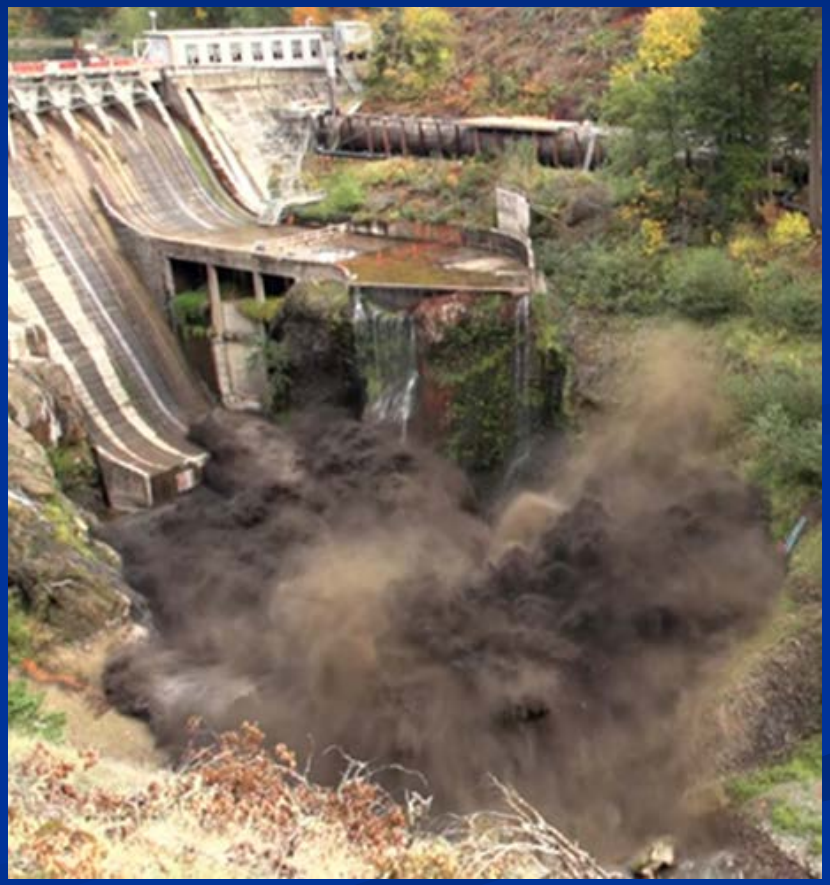
What types of public projects do RGs work on?

- Water Resource Evaluation
- Aquifer Characterization
- Watershed Analysis
- Mining and Petroleum
- Environmental Remediation
- Hazards Assessment
- Seismic Evaluation
- Land Stability Studies

What types of public projects do CEGs work on?

Apply geologic data and factors affecting planning, design, construction, and maintenance of civil engineering works.

- Dam construction / removals
- Bridges / roadways
- Buildings
- Power plants
- Landslides affecting structures



Condit Dam Breach

OSBGE Registrant Statistics (May 2016)

- Active Registrants = *
  GIT = 68; RG = 1135*
  *250 RGs are also CEGs
- Average Annual New Registrants
  (GIT = 10 to 15; RG = 40 to 45; CEG = 5 to 10)
- Average Annual Examinees
  (FG = 30 to 35; PG = 15 to 20; EG = 2 to 6)

OSBGE Outreach

- ASBOG Participation
- City and County Outreach
- State Agency Outreach
- University Outreach
- Coastal Hazards Group

Oregon Registered Geologists

Protecting state resources for future generations

Professional Engagement

Quarterly Newsletters

Oregon Geologist Examiner

SUMMER 2015

Regional Recognition for Engineering Geologist Exam

Well over a decade ago, the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (OSBGE) entered into a cooperative venture with the Washington Department of Licensing and Washington Geology Licensing Board to establish a joint exam for use in testing for minimum standards in engineering geology. The two states have maintained this exam, and each state recognizes exam results regardless of whether the exam was taken in Oregon or Washington. Until now, these exam results were not recognized outside of the two states.

OSBGE is pleased to announce a new agreement with the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. In a letter to OSBGE dated April 24, 2015, the California Board confirmed that it would accept results of the Oregon-Washington Engineering Geologist Exam in lieu of the California Engineering Geologist Exam. For an Oregon registrant has passed the joint Oregon-Washington exam, this means that the process of applying for engineering geologist certification in California now a bit easier.

certification in that state. This process is the same in reverse. A California

Under this new agreement between OSBGE and the California Board the basic tenant of how ing to meet state regis tion standards remain is. It is understood between the Boards that Oregon Registered G gist (RG) will need to obtain a Professional ologist (PG) registrat in California before a plying for the speciali

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Oregon Geologist Examiner

WINTER 2016

A Future for Continuing Education?

The Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (Board's) fundamental mission is to regulate the public practice of geology for the benefit of public health, safety and welfare. In relation to this broad mission, the Board has decided to move forward with an investigation to determine if continuing education (CE) requirements should be added to the registration program. The Board is aware that the geology profession continually evolves in response to new science and technological advances and that this has implications for standards of practice in Oregon. The question the Board is asking is would mandatory CE for registrants better assure that the practice of geology in Oregon is protective of the public health, safety and welfare.

The Board's investigation into CE is just starting out, and no final decision about how or if to proceed has been made. The Board has identified a need to engage registrants in this process over the course of this year or however long may be needed. A decision on whether to proceed further with CE development could be made towards the end of year once the Board feels that sufficient outreach has been completed. Initial thoughts on how to obtain registrant input include sharing a "straw" proposal showing what a CE program might look like along with some combination of face-to-face forums, questionnaires, email notices, and polling. The purpose of outreach is to determine the opinions and views of registrants about a CE program and it would target all registrants, whether residing in or out of state. Registrants might want to weigh in generally on the pros and cons of CE and or more specifically on ideas about CE program design.

If the Board's investigation ultimately leads to a decision to proceed with CE development, then work to create a program will likely take approximately 4 to 5 more years before implementation can begin. The long timeline is because the Board would need to work through a legislative change process and any associated legal issues. The Board tentatively is thinking that the 2019 regular session of the Oregon Legislature is the earliest that a Board-sponsored proposal could be considered. After securing legislative changes, the Board would then have to develop administrative rules and related internal processes to make it all work.

Registrants might consider that the geology profession in general is outside the current normal with respect to CE. Most regulated professions in Oregon have a CE component built into their registration programs. For example, engineers, architects, landscape architects, construction contractors, landscape contractors, lawyers, accountants, and numerous health professions currently complete CE as part of licensure obligations. The Board feels it is appropriate to ask its registrants whether

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PROF. GUIDELINE DOCUMENTS

- Guidelines for Preparation of Engineering Geologic Reports, 2nd Edition, 5/30/14
- Geologic Report Guideline, 2nd Edition, 5/30/14
- Hydrogeologic Report Guideline, 2nd Edition, 5/30/14
- Professional Practices Guidance, 5/30/14

Available at: http://www.oregon.gov/OSBGE/Pages/index.aspx

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QUESTIONS ?

Marmot Dam Removal