

Board of Professional Geologists

Mission and philosophy

The mission of the Wyoming Board of Professional Geologists is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by promoting the practice of geology by professional geologists and by providing fair and balanced regulation of the geologic profession. This mission is accomplished by licensing only those persons who meet or exceed the minimum statutory requirements of education, experience, and competency necessary to be called professional geologists. This licensing process currently involves examinations to establish an applicant's competency to practice as a professional geologist. The board's regulatory responsibility includes the discipline of professional geologists licensed in Wyoming as well as seeking the prosecution of unlicensed persons who violate the Geologists Practice Act.

The board balances its regulatory responsibilities with service and support to the public, as well as to its licensed professional geologists. The board is objective and ethical, as well as responsive to and considerate of the needs of its various constituents. Quality, cost-effective services are provided, whether for information, testing, professional support, the administrative process of licensing, or other services. Fees charged are those reasonably necessary to support the board's activities in a responsible and accountable fashion.

Major Accomplishments & Efficiencies

By the end of FY 04, the board had licensed 3,524 professional geologists (some are now deceased and others have not renewed their licenses). At the end of FY 04, there were 2,835 active professional geologists and 61 active geologists-in-training. Since its inception in 1991, a total of 4,221 applications have been received by the board, with 56 applications rejected for not meeting minimum statutory requirements and one for submitting a fraudulent application.

In FY 04, board staff mailed six application packets (the actual number of applications downloaded from the board's web site is unknown); received 32 applications for licensure; proctored 44 national examinations; processed 22 verification of licensure requests from 12 states; granted licensure to 30 geologists, 18 by examination, and 12 by comity; and granted certifications to seven geologists-in-training. The board distributed rosters (printed and on CD) and consumer pamphlets to licensees, state agencies, county libraries and other parties. "Hits" to the board's

General information

Geri L. Allen, Executive Director

Agency contact

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Web site: <http://wbpgweb.uwyo.edu>

Year established

1991

Statutory References

W.S. 33-41-101 through W.S. 33-41-121

Authorized personnel

1 full-time; 1 part-time

Clients served

General public, licensees, Wyoming state and local governments, business and industry, and the geologic profession as a whole.

Budget information

Earmarked Funds \$128,555

Agency to which group reports

Department of Administration & Information

Meeting frequency

Minimum of four meetings required per year

web site averaged over 1,800 hits per month for FY 04.

On the national level, the board continued its active role within the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG). The board had members serving on the By-Laws Committee, the Examination Committee and the Task Analysis Committee. The board also appointed two designees to serve on the ASBOG Council of Examiners. During FY 04, the number of states using the ASBOG examinations remained at 29. Continued contacts made on the national level have expanded the number of working alliances beneficial to the board.

Although the majority of the geologists licensed as professional geologists in Wyoming reside out-of-state, there are approximately 353 licensed professional geologists who do currently live in Wyoming. Of those who reside outside Wyoming, many have worked in Wyoming in the past, and all anticipate working in the State at some time in the future.

One of the major accomplishments for FY 04, was the execution of a contract to develop a new licensing software program which will be implemented during FY 05. Utilizing current technology, this program will provide additional functions and capabilities necessary for more efficient handling of applications, renewals, and day-to-day processing of requests from the board's clientele.

Strategic plan changes

As a licensing board, the Board of Professional Geologists is not subject to the strategic plan requirements.

The board focus for FY 05, will be to further expand public awareness and access through continued development of its web site and e-government options, through publishing bulletins and through broader disbursement of its revised consumer pamphlet. The board will pursue contacts on the state, national and international levels to expand the number of alliances beneficial to the board, its licensees, and the general public. The board will act on any complaints received referencing violations of the Wyoming Geologists Practice Act as well as for violations based on professional disciplinary actions taken in other jurisdictions.