

Board of Registration for 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.

❖ *Results of outcomes*

By the end of FY00, the board had licensed 3,412 professional geologists (some are now deceased and others have not renewed their licenses). At the end of FY00, there were 3,030 active professional geologists and 69 active geologists-in-training. Since its inception in 1991, 4,062 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 FY00, the board, with assistance from its staff, mailed 53 application packets; received 25 applications for licensure; proctored 30 national examinations; processed 23 requests for verification of licensure; granted licensure to 25 geologists, 13 by examination, five by comity and seven under grandfather provisions; and granted certifications to four geologists-in-training. The board distributed 263 rosters, more than 3,000 bulletins and more than 3,500 consumer pamphlets to licensees, state agencies, county libraries and other parties. The FY00 survey of the board's licensees resulted in 70 percent of the respondents indicating that the board was meeting or exceeding their expectations.

General information

Geri L. Allen, Executive Director

Agency contact

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Year established

1991

Statutory references

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

Number of authorized personnel

One full-time, one part-time

Clients served

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

Budget information

Earmarked funds \$109,839

Agency to which group reports

Department of Administration and Information

Meeting frequency

Minimum of four meetings required per year

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 a designee to serve on the ASBOG Council of Examiners. In FY00, the number of states using the ASBOG examinations rose to 24. Continued contacts made on the national level have expanded the number of working alliances beneficial to the board.

The board established a Web site in FY99, providing access to the following: all statutes and rules, application forms that can be downloaded, a roster of licensees that can be searched based on varied criteria, exam information, instructions for filing complaints, annual reports, bulletins, meeting information and other pertinent information relating to the board. Connections to the Web site averaged 500 per month for the last six months of FY00.

❖ *Strategic plan changes*

In FY97, the board's activities became a strategy under the Department of Commerce's Strategic Plan. In FY98, all licensing boards were transferred under the umbrella of the Department of Administration and Information. Whether the board's activities become a part of the Department of Administration and Information's strategic plan has not yet been determined.

The board focus for FY2001 will be to further expand public awareness through continued development of its Web site, publication of regular bulletins and broader disbursement of its revised consumer pamphlet. The board will continue to increase its 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 continue to take disciplinary action for violations of the Wyoming Geologists Practice Act as well as for violations based on professional disciplinary actions taken in other jurisdictions.