

# Delaware Board of Geologists

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2016 Renewal Edition

Summer/Fall 2016

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Administrative Specialist II

## A Message from the Board President



Douglas E. Rambo, P.G.

It is hard to believe that we are coming up on another license renewal period. To us Board members it feels like we completed all of the continuing education (CE) audits only a few months ago.

When we sent out the last newsletter back in July 2014, then President Dave Reinhold mentioned that the Board was going to work on some changes to the Geologist regulations. One of these changes involved how our Geologist Seal is to be used. That section was completely rewritten. Procedures in the regulations now specify what needs to be sealed and how electronic documents are to be sealed. As our work products are becoming more and more electronic these days, please take some time to look over the changes and work them into your procedures.

The [Rules and Regulations](http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title24/3600.shtml) governing Delaware-licensed geologists, including the new seal requirements, are available in their entirety at:

<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title24/3600.shtml>

CE audits continue to consume a great deal of Board time, as does the process of dealing with individuals who fail to meet this requirement of licensure. As a licensee, you need to be aware that there are legal and financial consequences for misrepresenting CE on your license renewal application.

During the last renewal cycle, the Board sent audit requests to 15 randomly selected geologists. Two additional licensees were audited because there were issues found with their CE audits from the 2010-2012 license period. Eight more licensees were audited because they renewed their licenses after the September 30, 2014 license expiration date.

Four cases from this past audit cycle were referred to a Hearing Officer. The Board hopes that awareness of the provision as well as the inactive status provision will reduce audit time and improve compliance. For more information, please review the Board's regulations on CE and the *2016 Renewal Starts Soon* article in this newsletter. (continues on page 3)

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## Delaware Professional Geologist License Statistics

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Since June 2014, the Delaware Board of Geologists has licensed 18 Geologists

New Licenses Submitted by:

Examination	7
Reciprocity	11

**Total Number of Delaware Licensed Geologists (as of 6/1/2016): 349**

Delaware Residents	52
Non-Delaware Residents	297

The Division of Professional Regulation has administered 26 ASBOG *Fundamentals of Geology* and nine *Practice of Geology* examinations since June 2014.

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### New Geologists

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Since the last newsletter, the following individuals have joined the ranks of Professional Geologists in Delaware via licensure by examination:

Fall 2014 Test Session	Spring 2015 Test Session	Fall 2015 Test Session
Nathan Doyle	Jason Daliessio	Elizabeth Eyer
Gary Lasako, Jr.		Mala Ciancia
Donald Sorbello		Jesse Drummond

Since the last newsletter, the following individuals have joined the ranks of Professional Geologists in Delaware via licensure by reciprocity:

Theresa Aguiar  
Robert Croydon  
Randy Deardorff  
William Gilchrist  
Dirk Grahl  
Nicholas Larabel  
Stephen Miller  
Jamie Pratt  
Aaron Siegel  
Robert Watson  
Trevor Woodward

## A Message from the Board President (continued from page 1)

One of the functions of the Board is to approve CE requests from course providers and from our licensees. Over the years the Board has provided feedback on all CE requests including hours approved for each request. Per our regulations we are only required to do that for our course providers. From now on, course approval requests from licensees will be reviewed on a yes/no basis, and it will be up to the licensee to account for their hours of attendance. Please make sure that you keep accurate records and obtain all necessary proofs of completion in the event you are audited in the future. The Board will continue to review sponsor requests for CE with numbers of hours.

The Board is here to serve the licensees. All Board meetings are open to the public, and we welcome your attendance. The Rules and Regulations, License Law, meeting minutes, exam schedules, and other relevant information are all available on the Board's [website](http://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/geology/) at <http://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/geology/>.

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## 2016 Renewal Starts Soon

If you were licensed in Delaware before June 1, 2016, your Delaware license will expire on September 30. Renewal notices will be mailed in midsummer. You must complete your renewal application online with payment by credit card; paper renewal applications are no longer available. Instructions for using the online renewal service will be on the renewal notice. ***It is your responsibility to keep your contact information up-to-date so that the renewal notice will reach you.***

On the renewal application, you will be asked to attest that you have completed the required contact hours of continuing education (CE). Audit Notices will be sent to randomly selected licensees by November 30. If you receive an Audit Notice, you must submit proof of your CE and geologist seal to the Board office by the due date on the notice.

Delaware-licensed Geologists are required to complete 24 CE contact hours to renew their licenses every two years. The current license period is October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2016. However, if you were recently licensed, this table shows your CE requirements.

If you have been licensed...	Then you must complete...
Less than 1 year	0 CEUs
More than 1 year but less than 2 years	12 CEUs
2 years or more	24 CEUs

If you will not have enough CE by the expiration date, you may request to place your license in inactive status. However, bear in mind that you cannot practice in Delaware while your license is inactive (Section 5.5 of the [Rules and Regulations](#)). Another option is to request an extension of time to complete your CE due to hardship (Section 6.5 of the [Rules and Regulations](#)). To request inactive status or a hardship extension, please send a request, in writing, to the attention of Meredith Hurley at:

Division of Professional Regulation  
Cannon Building, Suite 203  
861 Silver Lake Blvd.  
Dover, Delaware 19904  
fax: (302) 739-2711  
email: [customerservice.dpr@state.de.us](mailto:customerservice.dpr@state.de.us)

## Categories of Continuing Education, Maximum Credit Allowed & Documentation Needed

Continuing Education Category	Maximum Credits & Documentation
6.9.1 Geologic courses Academic - 24 CEUs	24 CEUs Total Documentation – Proof of Completion
6.9.2 Professional Development in the Application of Practice of Geologic Sciences Meetings - 12 CEUs* Workshops - 12 CEUs Field Trips - 12 CEUs Seminars - 12 CEUs	24 CEUs Total Documentation – Proof of Attendance and Duration  *Meetings are professional meetings, open to the public, and not related to your everyday professional duties.
6.9.3 Peer Reviewed Publications Composition - 12 CEUs Review - 12 CEUs	12 CEUs Total Documentation – Proof of Participation
6.9.4 Research/Grants	12 CEUs Total Documentation – Proof of Submission
6.9.5 Specialty Certifications	12 CEUs Total Documentation – Proof of Completion
6.9.6 Online courses and Web seminars	12 CEUs Total Documentation – Proof of Completion
6.9.7 Teaching/Presentations  Presentation	12 CEUs Total (1 hour prep time per hour presented of original presentation) Documentation – Verification from Sponsoring Institution
6.9.8 Service on a Geological Professional Society, Geological Institution Board/Committee or Geological State Board	6 CEUs Total Documentation – Proof of Appointment
6.9.9 Regulatory Based Activities Certifications/Training	12 CEUs Total 12 CEUs Total Documentation – Proof of Completion

Source: [Rules and Regulations](#)

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## Unlicensed Practice

It is unlawful to practice geology in Delaware without an active Delaware license. However, qualified unlicensed persons are permitted to actively participate in the practice provided they work under a Delaware-licensed Geologist's direct supervision.

Under [24 Del. C. §3617](#), a supervising Delaware-licensed Geologist is:

- *responsible for activities of unlicensed persons practicing geology under his/ her license.*
- *required to inform the Board of the unlicensed practitioners under his/her charge*

Notifying the Board is simple. Just send a letter to the Board office. When personnel changes occur, you should routinely update this information.

While providing those new to the field the opportunity for “on the job” experience, we are mandated to protect  
(continues on page 5)

## Unlicensed Practice (continued from page 4)

the persons who are the recipients of our services and to maintain standards of practitioner competency. In addition, by notifying the Board, we are able to better verify the required experience for these geologists-in-training when they are ready to apply for licensure.

The same can be said for colleagues who have let their Delaware license lapse or expire. If they are still working on projects in Delaware without a license, they can be subject to hearings and fines related to their unlicensed work. They should either re-apply for licensure or make sure that they are working under the umbrella of a licensed Delaware Geologist.

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## What You Need to Know about Geology Continuing Education

- Continuing education (CE) *must be in the field of Geology*.
- The CE period is from **October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016**. This is the period during which you must complete your CE.
- 1 Continuing Education Unit (CEU) = 1 contact hour (60 minutes).
- You are responsible for maintaining accurate records of CEUs that you obtain.
- A list of organizations that have automatic course approval is in Section 6.10 of the [Rules and Regulations](#).
- Lists of pre-approved CE activities and providers are available on the Board's website under [Approved Continuing Education](#).
- To request approval of CE courses that the Board has not pre-approved, you may submit a [Request for Approval of Continuing Education](#) form at any time during the licensure period.
- You **cannot** carry over CEUs earned in excess of the required 24 contact hours to the next biennial renewal period.
- You **cannot** count the same course twice during a renewal period (e.g., OSHA HAZWOPER 8-Hr refresher).
- **IF YOU RENEW LATE, YOU WILL BE AUDITED. There is no grace period built into the CE period for those who renew late.**
- The 3-month window to renew your license is **not** a window to catch up on missed CE hours.
- If it looks like you are going to be short of CE credits, consider placing your license in *inactive status*.

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## Continuing Education Audits

Regular participation in technical, professional and ethical training, and participation in professional and technical organizations ensures that professional geologists are exposed to new ideas and keep their skills current. The overriding consideration in determining if a specific program or activity qualifies as continuing education (CE) is whether it updates and/or expands the professional's knowledge and skills in the practice of geology beyond their normal job-related activities. The requirement that all professional geologists must participate in such activities is meant to further safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the public.

## Continuing Education Audits (continued from page 5)

On the renewal application, you will be asked to attest that you have completed the required CE. After the renewal, the Board conducts a random audit. If you are selected for audit, you must provide documentation certifying the CE to which you attested on your renewal application. The Board recommends the following tips to prepare for the audit:

### TIPS

- Throughout the renewal period, complete a Continuing Education Log form and keep it up-to-date. The form will help you track the contact hours you are using for CE.
- File the appropriate documentation for the CE event in a folder so that you are organized if selected for CE audit following the renewal period. Section 6.9 in the [Rules and Regulations](#) (see table on page 4 of this newsletter) spells out the appropriate documentation for each type of CE event. **DO NOT submit electronic media such as videos, CDs or DVDs.**
- DO NOT expect the Board to “figure out” what you are supplying for documentation. Put yourself in the Board member’s place. Ask yourself these questions “Does the documentation I’m submitting clearly show that I attended the event and support the number of contact hours that I am requesting? Is the geologic content of the event clearly evident?”
- Read Section 6.9 of the Board's [Rules and Regulations](#), Categories of Continuing Education and Maximum Credit Allowed. Don’t request more credit than this rule allows for each type of CE event. For example, the Board cannot approve an audit claiming 24 contact hours of professional meetings because the maximum credit allowed in this category is 12 hours.
- If you are not sure if an event will count toward CE or how much credit will be allowed for an event, submit a [Request for Approval of Continuing Education](#) form *well in advance* of the end of the renewal period. The form is on the Board’s website under [Forms](#).
- BEFORE you submit a CE event for the Board’s approval, check the list of CE events that the Board has already approved during the renewal period. The list is on the Board’s web site under [Approved Continuing Education](#).
- Make sure you have a Geologist’s Seal. If you are audited, you *must* seal the audit form. Your audit will not be accepted without a seal.
- Finally, before sending in your CE Log and documentation, *please* make sure the log and supporting documentation are in tandem order so that the Board member reviewing the audit will be able to follow both the CE Log and documentation.

2016 - 2018 ASBOG Examinations		
Final Date to Submit Application and Required Documentation	Last Board Meeting Before Exam Date	Examination Date
November 25, 2016	December 9, 2016	March 17, 2017
June 30, 2017	August 11, 2017	October 6, 2017
November 24, 2017	December 8, 2017	March 16, 2018
June 22, 2018	August 10, 2018	October 5, 2018

If you are aware of anyone interested in taking the ASBOG exams, please give them these dates so that they may plan accordingly for ordering their exam and having their application to sit approved by the Board. See [Exam Schedule](#) on the Board’s website.

## Seal Information

The Geologist seal is used to seal reports, drawings, maps, or similar technical submissions (including electronic documents) involving the practice of geology that a licensed Geologist has prepared, reviewed and approved and that will become a matter of public record, or relied upon by any person, in Delaware for geological purposes. The purpose of the licensed Geologist's stamp or seal is to show that the licensee accepts responsibility for the work regardless of whether the work was performed by the licensed Geologist or by his or her subordinate.



Many of you have Seals that indicate that you are a Registered Professional Geologist. When the Board went through Sunset Review back in 1997, all wording related to registration was removed from the Board's purpose and the charge of the Board shifted to that of licensure. Licensees should have been notified at the time that their seals needed to be changed to reflect the change in wording, but that did not happen. Therefore, the Board is giving licensees until September 30, 2018, the end of the next renewal period, to bring their seal up to the current requirements.

The stamp and seal requirements are in Section 3.0 of the Board's [Rules and Regulations](#).

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## ASBOG News



The ASBOG Council of Examiners (COE) Workshop was held April 7 and 8, 2016 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Forty-seven subject matter experts (SMEs) from ASBOG's member Boards attended. The SMEs reviewed the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) examinations given in March of 2016 and the upcoming FG and PG examinations to be given in September. There were 766 candidates who sat for the FG examination and 319 who sat for the PG examinations during the March administration.

Now that the legislation has passed for New York to license Professional Geologists, New York State will be the next state to join ASBOG as a member Board. The New York Board will officially join ASBOG later this year and plans to administer the FG and PG examinations starting in March 2017.

ASBOG representatives manned an exhibitor booth at NEGSA, SEGSA, and Cordilleran GSA sectional meetings this year. This was a continuing effort to reach out to graduating geoscience students with information about taking the ASBOG FG examination as they graduate or as soon as possible after they graduate. Fundamental knowledge, if not used daily, gets replaced by work knowledge. Taking the FG examination provides these graduating students the best possible environment to be successful in their first step towards professional licensure. Additionally, ASBOG has been discussing using the FG examination for curriculum assessment with university faculty at these GSA meetings. ASBOG also plans to attend the National GSA Meeting in Denver in September to continue these outreach efforts.

# Chips from the Quarry

## AGI Releases New Geoscience Student Exit Survey

The annual Status of Recent Geoscience Graduates 2015 report has been released by the American Geosciences Institute, and covers the experiences of geoscience majors through university-level programs and on which sectors graduates had gained employment by the time of commencement.

Among the highlights, is a decrease in the number of undergraduate geoscientists indicating that they would be enrolling in graduate school immediately following the completion of their degree as well as a shift in employment from oil and gas industries to the environmental and engineering fields.

This report covers a year in which a major employer of geoscientists - the oil and gas industry - was rocked by low prices of oil. While this industry is still a major employer of master's and Ph.D. geoscientists, bachelor-level geoscientists were not as widely sought after in 2014-2015. This study did show that the environmental services industry has also become a viable career option for bachelor-level geoscientists. Additionally, the non-profit and information services industries hired students immediately upon graduation indicating geoscientists are considering career options in non-traditional aspects of the geoscience.

The latest version of the report still underscores the incredible value experiences like, field camp, research experiences, internships and high-level quantitative and statistical coursework can have for a graduating geoscientist. The complete report is available online for free download at <http://www.americangeosciences.org/workforce/reports>.

## Upgraded Glossary of Geology App Now Available for Android and iOS

The American Geosciences Institute is pleased to announce the release of its upgraded Glossary of Geology app for the Android and iOS platforms.

This indispensable reference tool contains definitions of nearly 40,000 terms used in the earth and environmental science literature. The AGI Glossary of Geology has long been considered the definitive reference by geoscientists and other students and professionals needing fully-supported and detailed definitions of earth science terms. This is a must-have for all geoscientists, engineers working with earth-related issues, and students and other professionals that have questions about our planet.

Special enhancements for this version of the app include:

- Full-text search
- Hyperlinked See-Also
- Flag and store terms
- Share terms and definitions
- Special access to AGI's GeoWord of the Day with a simple touch

Go to [Google Play](#) or in [iTunes](#) for more information.

(Chips from the Quarry continues on page 9)



## **Chips from the Quarry (continued from page 8)**

### **ASBOG Releases Position Statement on EPA Coal Combustion Residual (Coal Ash) Disposal Rule**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the Coal Ash Disposal Rule (Rule, 40 CFR Parts 257 and 261), published on April 17, 2015, to protect, in part, groundwater and air from impacts related to disposal of coal ash. The Rule states that only qualified professional engineers possess the expertise and authority to certify compliance with the technical requirements of the rule. The rule further states that, “EPA is not convinced that hydrologists or geologists licensed by a state are held to the same standards as a professional engineer licensed by a state licensing board. For example, it is unclear whether geologists are subject to the rigorous testing required by professional engineers or that state licensing boards can investigate complaints of negligence or incompetence....”

ASBOG has written a position statement on the EPA wording regarding hydrologists and geologists are not held to the same standards as professional engineers. Full text of the statement is available at [Professional Geology Licensure Examination Development Procedures](http://www.asbog.org/documents/EPA%20CCR%20Position%20Statement_Final_rev1.pdf) or [http://www.asbog.org/documents/EPA%20CCR%20Position%20Statement\\_Final\\_rev1.pdf](http://www.asbog.org/documents/EPA%20CCR%20Position%20Statement_Final_rev1.pdf)

### **Delaware Geological Survey Releases Multi-Part Bulletin on Hydrogeology Related to Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs) as a Method of Wastewater Treatment and Disposal**

[Evaluation of Wastewater Treatment Options Used in Rapid Infiltration Basin Systems \(RIBS\)](http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21-A_0.pdf) or [http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21-A\\_0.pdf](http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21-A_0.pdf)

[Hydrogeology of a Rapid Infiltration Basin System \(RIBS\) at Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware](http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21B_0.pdf) or [http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21B\\_0.pdf](http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21B_0.pdf)

[Groundwater Quality and Monitoring of Rapid Infiltration Basin Systems \(RIBS\), Theory and Field Experiments at Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware](http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21C_0.pdf) or [http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21C\\_0.pdf](http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21C_0.pdf)

[Using Numerical Models to Assess a Rapid Infiltration Basin System \(RIBS\), Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware](http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21D.pdf) or <http://www.dgs.udel.edu/sites/dgs.udel.edu/files/publications/B21D.pdf>