

Delaware Board of Geologists

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2018 Renewal Edition

Summer/Fall 2018

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A Message from the Board President

Steven M. Smailer, P.G.

Fellow geologists, I hope that you will find this newsletter helpful and informative. Each year when we are pulling the newsletter together we try to include what we believe is useful information for our licensees, however, this is very much a one-way street. The members of the Board reflect on what has transpired over the past licensing period, and what we believe are important upcoming activities, but we would like your input too. If there are topics that would benefit our community and the public that you would like to see in future newsletters or on future Board agendas please reach out to us at customerservice.dpr@state.de.us. We continue to look for ways to support our community of licensees in ensuring the competent practice of geology while we administer the requirements of the laws of our State.

As you will see in the following articles, we have worked with the University of Delaware to provide an opportunity for graduating seniors in the geosciences to take the Fundamentals of Geology portion of the ASBOG tests as an exit/final exam. They may, or may not, end up working as Professional Geologists, but this provides them with a potential jumpstart down that path and simultaneously provides the University with the opportunity to review the curriculum content against national standards. Another topic we are working on is the legislative process necessary to clarify what we believe is a confusing and overly broad statutory exemption in our law [24 Del. C., Sec. 3602](#) with regards to licensed engineers and well drillers. As the Board of Geologists, it is not our intent, nor our place, to in any way restrict others from practice within their field; however, the scope of those fields does not necessarily equate to all things that would be considered as the Practice of Geology. There are obvious overlaps in many areas between these disciplines, and it is the competent practice in those areas that is paramount, not the fact that someone is exempted from a requirement because of a statutory definition.

As you can see, the Board is actively pursuing ways to improve and support our licensed community in the interests of public protection. This goes beyond the review of continuing education requirements and applicant qualifications, and we would like to hear from you as to what you believe is important in furthering the Board's mission of enhancing licensee competence and ensuring protection of the public.

Sincerely,
Steven M. Smailer, P.G.

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An Open Letter to Delaware Licensed Geologists from the Board

Dear Delaware Professional Geologist:

In an effort to maintain the highest standards within the practice of geology, the Delaware Board of Geologists (Board) wishes to remind Licensed Professional Geologists of the following expectations pursuant to Delaware law.

First, the Delaware Professional Geologists' Code of Ethics, set forth in Board Regulation 10.0, includes a reporting requirement. Specifically, Board Regulation 10.1.7 states that "a geologist, having knowledge of the unethical or incompetent practice of another geologist, shall avoid association with that geologist in professional work. If a geologist acquires tangible evidence of the unethical or incompetent practice of another geologist, he/she shall submit the evidence to the Division of Professional Regulation." The Board's primary objective is the protection of the public. The Code of Ethics provides the basis for high standards of practice and should guide your work and professional interactions. Unethical or incompetent practice must be reported if public protection, and a high standard of practice, is to be achieved and maintained.

Further, be aware that the Board considers the review and approval of the geologic content of another professional geologist's work the "Practice of Geology", as defined in the Board's law under Section 3602(5) of Title 24 of the Delaware Code, and as such, is subject to the Board's standards and requirements.

On another note, our last newsletter, prior to the 2016 renewal period, provided information about a regulation change related to the Geologist Seal made back in mid-2016. Many of you have License 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. Currently your seal should indicate that you are a Delaware Licensed Professional Geologist. The regulation states that licensees have until September 30, 2018, the end of the current renewal period, to bring their seal up to the current standard as referenced [here](#).

Thank you for your vigilance in maintaining the high standard of practice for the geologic profession and for helping protect the public's health and welfare.

Sincerely

The Delaware Board of Geologists

Steven M Smailer

Douglas E Rambo

William S Schenck

David W Reinhold

Judith A. Nicholas

Delaware Professional Geologist. License Statistics

Since June 2016, the Delaware Board of Geologists has licensed Twenty Five (25) Geologists

New Licenses Submitted by:

Examination 8

Reciprocity 17

Total Number of Delaware Licensed Geologists (as of 6/01/18): 331

Delaware Residents 55

Non-Delaware Residents 276

The Division of Professional Regulation has administered Forty-one (41) ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology and Nine (9) Practice of Geology examinations since May 2016.

New Geologists

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

Spring 2016	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Spring 2018
	Todd Keyser	Daniel Parker		Jeffrey Foster
	John Yerkes	Karin Olsen		Thomas McKenna
	Simon Mullen			Gavin Kitchens

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

Geoffrey Kristof
Brian Hale
Alexander Ross
Amber Granger
Christopher Zeliznak
Jamey Stynchula
Raymond Minarovic
Claude Vandever
Daniel Canavan

Scott Wendling
Patrick Crawford
George Lukert
Thomas Cumello
Richard Southorn
Jeremiah Greenland
Jason Beck
Samuel Galenty

The Delaware Board, since the spring of 2017, has approved 15 graduating Geology majors from the University of Delaware to sit for the Fundamentals of Geology examination. This allows the University of Delaware Geology Department to utilize the ASBOG Curriculum Performance Assessment Tool (CPAT) to see how it is doing at teaching the material to help geology students succeed in the professional world.

2018 Renewal Starts Soon

Licensees will receive renewal notices for the upcoming 2018 renewal via e-mail 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 included 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 to completing your continuing education (CE) requirement. 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 contact hours and geologist seal to the Board office by the due date on the notice.

If you find you do not have enough CE or will not be able to complete the required 24 hours of CE before September 30, and wish to be placed on Inactive Status please contact Meredith Hurley, Board Administrator, in writing at:

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

2016-2018 CE Requirements

Delaware-licensed Geologists are required to complete 24 continuing education (CE) contact hours to renew their licenses every two years. The current license period is October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2016.

If you were recently licensed, this table shows your CE requirements.

IF you have been licensed...	THEN you are required to have...
Less than 1 year	0 CEUs
More than 1 year but less than 2 years	12 CEUs
2 years or more	24 CEUs

CE Approval

As renewal time approaches, the Board receives many requests for approval of continuing education. The Board is happy to review continuing education (CE) events/items for both licensees and for sponsors of CE. To clarify these two types of approvals, **for licensees** the Board will only approve CE events/items for geologic content and category from Section 6.9 of the Rules and Regulations. **For Sponsors/ Providers** the Board will approve CE events/items for geologic content, number of approved contact hours, and Category from Section 6.9 of the Rules and Regulations. There is a \$40 fee for sponsor/course providers for the review / approval of CE events/items.

Categories of Continuing Education, Maximum Credit Allowed & Documentation needed

Continuing Education Category	Credits
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
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 12 CEUs (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

*Meetings are defined as events beyond the scope of normal job-related activities that are open to the public. Business meetings with clients do not qualify as CE.

Unlicensed Practice

It is unlawful to practice geology in Delaware without a 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](#), supervising Delaware-licensed geologists are:

- ***responsible for activities of unlicensed persons practicing geology under his/ her license.***
- ***required to inform the Board of the unlicensed practitioners under their 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 the persons who are the recipients of our services and to maintain standards of practitioner competency. Additionally, 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 need to either re-apply for licensure or make sure that they are working under the umbrella of someone else's license.

What you need to know about Geology Continuing Education

- Continuing education must be in the field of Geology. The CE period is from **October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2018**.
- One Continuing Education Unit (CEU) = one contact hour (60 minutes).
- You are responsible for maintaining accurate records of CEUs that you obtain.
- There is a list of organizations that have automatic course approval in the Geologist Regulations. See [Rules and Regulations](#)
- Lists of pre-approved CE activities and providers are available on the Board's website under [Approved Continuing Education](#).
- To apply for approval of CE courses that the Board has not pre-approved, you may submit an [Application for Continuing Education Approval](#) 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 going on **Inactive Status**.

Continuing Education Audits

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. [Rule 6.9](#) (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, CD's or DVD's.**
- 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](#), Categories of Continuing Education & Maximum Credit Allowed, in the Board's Rules and Regulations. 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.

Continuing Education Audits cont. (from page 6)

- If you are not sure if an event will count toward CE or how much credit will be allowed for an event, submit an [Application for Continuing Education Approval](#) **well in advance** of the end of the renewal period. The application form is found on the Board's web site 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 Courses](#).
- 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.

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 of the Regulations.**



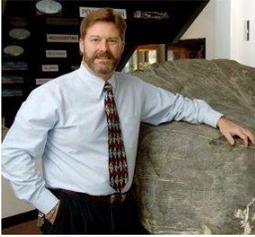
This sample seal is shown at actual size.

2018-2020 ASBOG Examinations

File Date to Submit Application & Documentation	Last Board Meeting to Review Applications Before Exam Date	Examination Date
6/22/2018	August 10, 2018	October 5, 2018
November 22, 2019	December 14, 2019	March 15, 2019
June 28, 2019	August 9, 2019	October 4, 2019
November 29, 2019	December 13, 2020	March 20, 2020
June 26, 2020	August 14, 2020	October 2, 2020

If you are aware of anyone interested in taking the ASBOG exams prior to licensure, 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.

ASBOG News



Sandy Schenck



Doug Rambo

- Current Delaware P.G. Board member Doug Rambo was made Chair of the ASBOG Committee on Outreach and Uniform Procedures at the ASBOG Executive Committee Meeting held back in January 2018.
- Delaware P.G. Board member Sandy Schenck is currently the Chair of the ASBOG Organizational Development Committee and will be stepping down from the committee after the ASBOG Annual Meeting in November. Sandy has been very active in ASBOG having been Delaware's Subject Matter Expert (SME) representative at many Council of Examiners Workshops, served on and chaired multiple committees, and held every elected office within the Organization. He was awarded the Charles R. Sherman Award for outstanding service ASBOG at the November 2, 2016 ASBOG Annual Meeting in Lawrence, KS. The Sherman Award is ASBOG's highest honor for outstanding service to the organization. Sherman Award Recipients must have demonstrated meritorious service to ASBOG® in one or more of the following areas:
 - Mentoring of SMEs to the Council of Examiners (COE).
 - Participation and exemplary leadership on ASBOG® Committees
 - Exemplary service to the Council of Examiners (COE)
 - Representation of ASBOG® at Affiliate Organization meetings and functions.

Congratulations Sandy on your service to ASBOG and to Professional Geologists across the country.

- The most recent ASBOG Council of Examiners (COE) Workshop was held April 5 and 6, 2018 in Atlanta, GA with 45 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from ASBOG Member Board states attending. The SMEs reviewed the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) examinations given in March of 2018 and the upcoming FG and PG examinations to be given in October. Nationally there were 760 candidates who sat for the FG examination and 301 who sat for the PG examinations during the March administration.

Useful Links

Delaware Geological Survey:

<https://www.dgs.udel.edu/>

United States Geological Survey:

<https://www.usgs.gov/>

USGS MD/DE/DC Water Science Center:

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/md-de-dc-water>

National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG): <http://www.asbog.org/>

Chips from the Quarry

[American Geosciences Institute Releases Status of Recent Geoscience Graduates 2017](#)

The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) is pleased to announce the publication of *Status of Recent Geoscience Graduates 2017*. This report details the results of AGI's Geoscience Student Exit Survey for academic year 2016-2017, documenting trends in geoscience coursework, student experiences, and the immediate career plans of the new graduates. This is the fifth consecutive year of this survey and report, and with this release, consistent trends have emerged about the experiences of postsecondary geoscience students.

New publications available for download from the Delaware Geological Survey

[RI81 Characterization of Tidal Wetland Inundation in the Murderkill Estuary](#)

[GM24 Geologic Map of the Millington, Clayton and Smyrna Quadrangles, Delaware](#)

[SP28 Digital Elevation Model of Delaware](#)

[RI80 Investigation of Submarine Groundwater Discharge at Holts Landing State Park, Delaware: Hydrogeologic Framework, Groundwater Level and Salinity Observations](#)

Publications available for download from the United States Geological Survey

Public supply and domestic water use in the United States, 2015:

Open-File Report 2017-1131

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20171131>

Water quality in the surficial aquifer near agricultural areas in the Delaware Coastal Plain, 2014

Scientific Investigations Report 2017-5054

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20175054>

Estimated use of water in the Delaware River Basin in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, 2010

Scientific Investigations Report 2015-5142

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20155142>

Occurrence and distribution of arsenic and radon in water from private wells in the Rancocas aquifer, southern New Castle and northern Kent Counties, Delaware, 2015

Open-File Report 2016-1143

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20161143>

Hydrogeologic Framework, Hydrology, and Refined Conceptual Model of Groundwater Flow for Coastal Plain Aquifers at the Standard Chlorine of Delaware, Inc. Superfund Site, New Castle County, Delaware, 2005–12

Scientific Investigations Report 2014–5224

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2014/5224/>

Did you know...?

Section 6.10 of the Delaware Geologist Regulations lists organizations that the Board will offer automatic approval of events/courses for Continuing Education. Search out their websites and see if they are offering meetings, courses, or webinars that you may use to fulfill your CE requirements.