

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 FY01, the board had licensed 3,440 professional geologists (some are now deceased and others have not renewed their licenses). At the end of FY01, there were 3,150 active professional geologists and 75 active geologists-in-training. Since its inception in 1991, 4,104 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 FY01, the board, with assistance from its staff:

- mailed 37 application packets;
- received 39 applications for licensure;
- proctored 39 national examinations;
- processed 29 requests for verification of licensure;
- granted licensure to 28 geologists, 14 by examination, eight by comity and six under grandfather provisions; and

General information

Geri L. Allen, executive director

Agency contact

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Year established

1991

Statutory references

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

Authorized personnel

One full-time; one part-time

Clients served

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

Budget information

Earmarked Funds

\$98,571

Agency to which group reports

Department of Administration
and Information

Meeting frequency

Minimum of four meetings require
a year

- granted certifications to seven geologists-in-training.

The board distributed 300 rosters, 6,000+ bulletins and 3,500+ consumer pamphlets to licensees, state agencies, county libraries and other parties. The FY01 survey of the board's licensees resulted in 75 percent of the respondents indicating that the board was meeting or exceeding their expectations.

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 FY01, the number of states using the ASBOG examinations rose to 25. Continued contacts made on the national level have expanded the number of working alliances beneficial to the board.

The board established a Website in FY99, providing access to the following:

- all statutes and rules,
- application forms which 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 Website averaged 550 per month during FY01.

Strategic plan changes

In FY97, the board's activities became a strategy under the Department of Commerce's Strategic Plan. In FY98, all licensing board's were transferred under the umbrella of the Department of Administration & Information. Although the Department of Commerce and the requirements under its strategic plan no longer exist, the board strives to and continues to meet the objective of annually achieving a 75 percent consumer/licensee satisfaction rate through increased public awareness, fair and balanced regulation, education, examination, licensure and investigation.

The board focus for FY2002 will be to further expand public awareness through continued development of its Website, through publishing regular bulletins and through 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.