



WYOMING BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

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PROPOSED 1997 AMENDMENTS TO THE GEOLOGIST'S PRACTICE ACT OF 1991

The original bill, which passed in 1991 was introduced as a practice act, but was enacted as a title act. This bulletin is being forwarded to all professional geologists residing in Wyoming, in order to clarify the proposed amendments in Senate File 103, which has been introduced in the 1997 Legislative Session. The Board and officers of the Wyoming Geological Association support this bill.

WHY AMEND THE ORIGINAL 1991 BILL?

- To better protect the public.
- To make some housekeeping changes.

HOW DOES THE AMENDED BILL BETTER PROTECT THE PUBLIC?

- It will require the registration of all geologists that want to practice before the public, not just those who choose to be registered.
- It will put all geologists practicing before the public under the board's jurisdiction.
- It will make it much easier for a lay person to identify a qualified geologist, since all those who offer geological services must be registered by the board.
- It will give the board authority to levy fines.
- It will require the approval of a registered geologist on any geologic reports or maps submitted to State and local entities.

FAIRNESS ISSUES

- It will establish another one-year "grandfathering" period, during which qualified applicants will not need to take the board's examinations. They will still need to meet all educational and experience requirements.
- It will exempt geologists working in the extractive mineral industries (coal, oil, gas, uranium, etc.) as well as those teaching or in research as long as their activities do not meet the definition of "practice before the public".
- Non-registered geologists will still be able to work under the direction of a registered geologist.
- It will recognize those of you already licensed under the existing act. You won't have to re-register!

DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN TITLE AND PRACTICE ACTS

- Both kinds of acts confer the title of "professional geologist" only to individuals who meet statutorily set standards of education and experience.
- Title acts, however, do not require the registration of all individuals practicing geology - it is voluntary registration. The licensing board only has jurisdiction over those that choose to be registered.
- Practice acts require the registration of all individuals wishing to practice before the public. The licensing board has jurisdiction over anyone practicing geology before the public.