

July 20, 2000 Minutes

Indiana Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 20, 2000

The meeting convened at 11:10 a.m., July 20, 2000, in the conference room of Black Beauty Coal Company, 414 S. Fares, Evansville, Indiana.

Members present:
John Steinmetz, Chair
Eric Fry
J. Richard Harris
Harlan Roepke

Others Present:
John Hill
Amanda Wilson

Visitors:
Frank Pruett, LPG #1048
Mark Yingling

Minutes of the March 3, 2000 meeting of the Board were amended to note that the meeting date had been changed from July 12th to July 20th. The amended minutes were approved.

The agenda distributed by Dr. Steinmetz was adopted.

John Steinmetz updated the Board on the status of requests for reciprocity with other states. There has been no correspondence since the March 3, 2000 meeting.

John Hill updated the Board on the status of the governor's appointment of a Board member to replace Chris Scott who resigned in December 1999. Steve Lucas, Natural Resources Commission, had agreed to look into the status and the Board is awaiting an update from him.

John Steinmetz explained the actions taken to resolve ambiguities in the Rule. All denied applications were reviewed and two applicants, who had been denied based on the ambiguities discussed in the March 3, 2000 meeting, were granted licensure. One of those applicants responded about a concern of the Board not accepting any experience until a degree had been obtained. The Board discussed this matter and agreed that they have always interpreted the Rule to require a degree before any professional work experience would be accepted.

Frank Pruett had concerns about an ambiguity allowing persons to practice geology within a governmental agency without being qualified as a professional geologist. Dick Harris explained the legislative intent was to exempt geologists working for the government from the licensing law until they had fulfilled the work experience requirements. Frank Pruett believes that there are people being asked to perform geologic work within governmental agencies for which they are not qualified. Dick Harris agreed to prepare language for a new rule that will clear up this ambiguity. The Board will discuss the language in the next meeting.

Amanda Wilson explained that several applicants had asked if the Board would accept the California exam in lieu of the ASBOG® exam. California recently became an ASBOG® state but has required an exam for a number of years. The Board voted unanimously to accept a passing score on the California exam within five years prior to application in lieu of the ASBOG® exam.

Changes to the internal evaluation form were discussed and unanimously approved with one small change. The Board uses this form to aid the members in evaluating applications. Amanda Wilson introduced an internal form for verifying the licenses of an applicant's supervisor and references. This form was unanimously approved. Amanda Wilson also introduced a form for the verification of an applicant's licenses in other states. This form will be sent out in application packets for the applicant to forward to any state he or she is licensed in. This form was unanimously approved.

Amanda Wilson suggested that the Board publish a semi-annual newsletter containing items of interest to Indiana LPGs and applicants for licensure. Harlan Roepke recommended that the newsletter include the Indiana Geological Survey's web page information and be posted on the web. The Board unanimously approved. John Steinmetz and Amanda Wilson will begin working on the newsletter.

The Board resumed discussion on the draft code of ethics. John Steinmetz recapped the responses received from LPGs. The Board began discussing the draft, one section at a time. Revisions of Sections 1-6 were agreed upon, and will be distributed among the Board members for further evaluation. Frank Pruett complimented the Board on taking on the responsibility of creating an ethics statement.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 12, 2000 at 1:30 p.m., in the Indiana Government Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Board met in executive session to discuss and evaluate applicants for licensure.

One applicant, who had taken the ASBOG® exam in another state, was approved. One applicant, who had taken the ASBOG® exam in Indiana in March, was approved pending documented completion of work experience.

John Steinmetz thanked Eric Fry for hosting the Board meeting and thanked Frank Pruett for his comments. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Submitted by Amanda R. Wilson, Board Secretary, July 24, 2000.

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