

JOURNAL #1- JANUARY 2016



LBOPG's First Board of Directors: (L to R) William B. Meaney, Lloyd G. Hoover, Arthur H. Johnson, William R. Finley, L. Todd Perry, Madhurendu B. Kumar, John E. Johnston III, Daisy B. Pate. (Kelli A. Hardesty not pictured)

Background

The Louisiana Professional Geoscience Practice Act was passed into law effective on January 1, 2011. The Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists (LBOPG) consists of nine members: six of whom are licensed geoscientists; one of whom is a licensed professional engineer with expertise in geotechnical engineering and geoscience; and two of whom are members of the public.

The governor of Louisiana appoints all members to the board subject to Senate confirmation. The governor appoints one member from each congressional district. Except

for the two members of the public, the governor selects nominees from lists of names submitted by each of the following:

1. The Louisiana Engineering Society
2. The New Orleans Geological Society
3. The Baton Rouge Geological Society
4. The Shreveport Geological Society
5. The Lafayette Geological Society

Each member of the board must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Louisiana for at least three years preceding appointment.

The mission of LBOPG is:

- To protect public health, safety, and welfare and to guard the state's natural resources with regard to environmental and civil projects where a geoscientific review and evaluation is required in the making of recommendations of any geoscientific components of those projects;
- To be the sole licensing authority for testing, validating, and certifying individuals to practice geoscience with regard to providing a required geoscientific evaluation for projects in the state of Louisiana;
- To define, establish, publish, and enforce rules and regulations stipulating the standards of good moral and ethical character and professional competence of the licensed geoscientist and to ensure that these standards are maintained and current; and
- To provide the public with access to a list of licensed candidates for the procurement of required professional geoscientific services within the state of Louisiana.

LBOPG conducted their first meeting on September 3, 2013. The initial grandfathering period ended January 1, 2014 but was extended to January 1, 2015. Nearly 2,000 people submitted grandfathering applications. One staff member was hired on March 11, 2014, and the current LBOPG office opened on May 1, 2014. The office is located at 9643 Brookline Ave., Ste. 101, Baton Rouge, LA 70809; the telephone number is 225-505-3766, and the email address is apply@lbopg.org. LBOPG Rules and Regulations were finalized on October 20, 2015, and were published in the November edition of the *Louisiana Register*. LBOPG applied for membership to the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) on October 20, 2015.

Current Licensing Numbers

The LBOPG website, www.lbopg.org, launched in June 2014, enabling potential licensees to submit their applications electronically. Nearly 1,500 people have begun applications. More than 1,000 licenses have been issued to date.

Reciprocal Licensing

The Louisiana Professional Geoscience Practice Act authorizes LBOPG to issue licenses to applicants who provide proof of licensure or registration in other states under requirements that the LBOPG determines to be substantially similar to those established by the Act. LBOPG has been actively working with neighboring states to promote reciprocal licensure agreements. LBOPG entered into a reciprocity agreement with Texas on October 23, 2016.

ASBOG's Fundamentals of Geology exam and Professional Geoscientists Exam

LBOPG will administer the Fundamentals of Geology exam and the Practice of Geology exam for the first time on March 18, 2016, and again on September 30, 2016. Please go to the "Resources" tab at www.lbopg.org and click on "ASBOG" for more information, deadlines, and the Proctoring/Verification form to apply to take either exam.

