

MINUTES
South Carolina Board of Registration for Geologists
Conference Call Meeting
10:00 A.M., August 25, 2009
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Room 201-21
Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting Called to Order

Jason Terry, Chairman, of Charleston, called the regular meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Geologists to order at 10:08 a.m. Other members present for the meeting included: Vernon T. Ichimura, PhD., Vice-Chairman, of Aiken; Craig Kennedy, of Columbia; and Richard D. Warner, PhD., of Clemson.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Sharon Dantzler, Deputy General Counsel and Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator.

Mr. Terry announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Board of Registration for Geologists office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Unfinished Business

Reciprocity Agreement

Ms. Dantzler informed the Board that under South Carolina Statute 40-77-280 a reciprocal agreement is not required to recognize other states' licenses. The South Carolina statute indicates "a person holding a license to practice geology, based on comparable licensing requirements by a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any foreign country and who, in the opinion of the board, otherwise meets the requirements of this chapter may, upon application, and payment of the applicable fees be licensed without further examination." If the statutory requirements were equivalent to SC and there are no "yes" responses on the initial application, the applicant would automatically get recognized in South Carolina.

The South Carolina Board of Geologists would have to determine which Texas licenses were issued under comparable licensing requirements. The Texas practice act was established in 2003 and the South Carolina act was established in 1986. The Texas grandfather provision ended August 31, 2003. The Board determined that persons licensed in Texas based on the qualifications set by the Texas statute since September 1, 2003 hold a license that is based on comparable licensing requirements. Individuals holding licenses based on different qualifications than those currently in effect will be handled on a case by case basis, i.e., grandfathered licensees.

Ms. Dantzler advised the Board that comity applications do not need all the details of an initial examination application. She recommended the Board should make it easier for applicants that are applying through comity because the other state board has already evaluated the education and work experience. She suggested an abbreviated application packet for comity applicants that would include a completed application, license verification from the other state and professional references.

Ms. Dantzler advised the Board that South Carolina cannot sign the reciprocity agreement with Texas because it is not within the Board's statute to do so. She stated the Board can sign a memo of understanding, which she will draft for board members to review. After review of the draft letter, the Board will schedule another conference call meeting for approval.

Executive Session

The Board did not enter executive session.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.