

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 12:12:30 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 12:12 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS BOARD PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS TBPG

First Name: Regina

Last Name: Herry

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I oppose the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report's recommendation that the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists be abolished and the requirement that geoscientists be licensed also be abolished.

One of the arguments put forth by the Sunset Commission report is that there has been no significant public harm directly attributable to unqualified or unlicensed geoscientists. This is incorrect, and I would like to provide two examples of significant public harm.

I would like to point out that the results of the practice of geoscience can take decades to become obvious, and that is the case with the two examples I am providing.

The first example of significant public harm due to the unqualified practice of geoscience is Gulf Metals Superfund site near Houston. This highly contaminated site posed such a threat to public welfare that it qualified for the Superfund program. The site was a hazardous waste disposal site in the 1960s. The hazardous waste was released because the site was located in an extremely inappropriate geologic setting-- a buried river channel. A qualified geoscientist would have known the geology to be extremely inappropriate site for waste disposal. Indeed, the disposal pits were known at the time as being impossible to fill up. Had the disposal site been located in an appropriate geologic setting, it would not have become a Superfund site.

The San Jacinto River Superfund site was also a hazardous waste disposal site that was located in an extremely inappropriate geologic setting--a river bank. A qualified geoscientist would have known the location to be an extremely inappropriate site for long-term waste disposal.

These are just two examples of the unqualified practice of geoscience. The fact that this resulted in Superfund sites shows the seriousness of the impact to public welfare. Abolishing the licensing requirement and licensing board for

geoscientists would result in negative impacts to public welfare that might not be discovered for decades. I urge the continuation of geoscientist licensing and the continuation of the licensing board-- the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: No

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree