

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Brittany Calame](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:03:59 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:02 AM  
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: Vicky

Last Name: Kennedy

Title: Hydrogeologist, Professional Geoscientist

Organization you are affiliated with: TBPG

Email: vicky.kennedy@traviscountytexas.gov

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I oppose the recommendations stated in the staff report. I work for Travis County in the review of hydrologic studies especially for the adequacy of water supplies to meet current and future demands for water supplies for subdivisions, review geologic reports for site assessments in the protection of water supply sources, and make recommendations for the placement of monitoring wells. All these reviews are designed to help protect the health and safety of the public by protecting water supplies and setting minimum standards for persons who evaluate and certify that the health and safety of the public is provided. The geologic studies are key to protection human health and safety by ensuring the quality meets minimum standards and should continue to require certification by a professional geoscientist to perform.

Travis County rules and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) rules require these studies to be certified by a licensed professional geoscientist or engineer in recognition of the importance to public welfare. Persons who install pumps in wells or drill wells are required by State law to be licensed pump installers and drillers to protect water supplies.

Geoscientist routinely oversee the work of these professions. Geoscientists also evaluate whether the well is placed correctly and will yield water of the quality needed for human health, therefore, it would be ineffective if the geoscientist is not also required to be licensed.

One of the comments that staff included in the report was that many geoscientists were grandfathered into the program without the rigorous exam.

The Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) offered the same benefit for professionals who had been practicing for many years and should have been grandfathered and allowed to continue to practice. The TBPE also offered a method of licensure for many years, even past the initial grandfathering period, that did not require an exam and also led to licensure.

There is also economic impact to the thousands of licensed geoscientist who will suddenly lose licensure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on sunset report for Geoscientists.

Vicky Kennedy

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Perhaps the TBPE should be given broader oversight powers and more employees for effective oversight.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree