

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 2:17:00 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 2:12 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: Paula Jo

Last Name: Lemonds

Title: Project Manager

Organization you are affiliated with: HDR Engineering

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
1501 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701
Senator Brian Birdwell, Chair

RE: Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission:

I work for a firm registered with both the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists and Texas Board of Professional Engineers. I perform geoscientific work as a licensed geoscientist. I am also a licensed professional engineer. The licenses are equally important. I am often involved in publicly funded projects related to future and existing public water supply, dams, pipelines, highways, and bridges. I am responsible for evaluating geologic surface and subsurface conditions that may impact these projects. As part of my responsibilities, I recommend mitigation of adverse geologic conditions in project design. My work impacts public health and safety through these evaluations and recommendations. Engineers in my firm and in other firms with whom we collaborate rely on licensed geoscience work products because they know licensed geoscientists are legally responsible to the State of Texas for their recommendations and conclusions.

One specific example that I would like to share where a licensed geologist protected public health and safety involved the proposed location of a new dam in Texas. For over a decade a proposed dam location was studied with regard to the amount of water that would be available to it and how municipalities could gain access to this new water supply. However, after geologic study of well borings at the proposed dam site, the geologist recognized highly water soluble gypsum beneath the dam site. Because of the geologist's recognition of this dangerous location

for a dam, the proposed dam was relocated to a site that did not have gypsum present in the subsurface. Even though the municipality had already invested millions of dollars in study of the original dam location, the proposed location was moved to protect the public against the high potential for dam failure should the dam have been built at the original location. My hope is that example illustrates the role and responsibilities that licensed geoscientists carry.

I support keeping the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists in place.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments regarding the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Jo Lemonds, P.G., P.E.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Austin, TX

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I support keeping the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists in place.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree