

A Perspective (Allan Standen, PG 127) to the Sunseting of the Professional Geoscientist (PG) Licensing

The following are statements in the Sunset Review Document of the TBPG

2. There has been no measurable impact of Geoscientist licensing on Public protection.

- The approximately 100 Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) are tasked to protect and manage the groundwater for the residents within the District. The PG geoscientists that work for these GCDs provide unique scientifically backed information and models (3D and predictive) that allow the District Boards (elected) to make informed decisions for groundwater management for the next 50 years and to meet the legislative requirements of Texas. The security of future water supplies is a major measureable impact on the public.
- An environmental geoscientist's understanding of the subsurface geology of contaminated area is critical to the correct interpretation and remediation methods used which protect the public. Geoscientists oversee assessments of soil and groundwater contamination, remediation of contamination and sites for the disposal of municipal and hazardous wastes.
- Geophysicists, structural geologists and geochemists have specialized educations and skill sets that assist other geoscientists (groundwater models and contaminated sites) to understand the complex, heterogeneous subsurface and its chemical interactions.

A geoscientist's work product should require that the geoscientist be accountable and registered.

4. Almost no geologists deal directly with the public – our clients are mainly organizations. Therefore, licensing is not necessary for public protection.

I have been a consultant for over 24 years and have had my own company for the last 6 years. During the last 6 years I have worked for the following clients;

- Groundwater Conservation Districts (7), State Agencies (BEG, TWDB) (5), Engineering Firms (4), Private Individuals (3), Cities (2), Oil Companies (2), Mining Companies (2), W. Texas Ranches (2), Univer. of Tx Lands (1), Investment Bankers (1) and Law Firms (1)

Present Public Threat Requiring Geoscientist's Skill Set

*Within the last two years, an engineering firm has been talking to me about building a high resolution 3D model of the subsurface geology surrounding the collapse of state road 1053 in northern Pecos County. This collapse is caused by multiple leaking and abandoned San Andres oil wells and is a present threat to the local residents. This threat requires geological analyses.

Potential Impacts of Eliminating TBPG

- If a PG seal is still required by state agencies, municipalities, etc., then PGs from other states will fill the gap vacated by the Texas PGs.
- Consultant liability insurance may increase because of the probability of more claims