

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Brittany Calame](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 15, 2018 7:58:25 AM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 8:49 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: Roxie

Last Name: Voran

Title: Senior Project Manager

Organization you are affiliated with: Kleinfelder, Inc.

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

I disagree with the Sunset Commission's recommendation to discontinue the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. I have worked as an environmental geologist in Texas for 27 years and my experience includes projects such as the evaluation of soil in a residential development that was contaminated with mercury and lead, assessment of dredged sediment containing dioxins that was being considered for placement on a public beach, and leaking underground storage tanks where gasoline vapors were present in storm sewers at explosive levels. These and other projects could directly affect the health and well-being of the citizens of Texas. Without licensing of geoscientists, anyone could do this kind of work regardless of their qualifications or experience and with no applicable standards of professional ethics.

In the early 1990s prior to the existence of the geoscientist licensing program in Texas, I worked on a project for an agency of the State of Texas.

A significant amount of gasoline had contaminated the groundwater beneath the State-owned property. A geologist working for the owner of the adjacent property where the release had originated prepared a report that incorrectly claimed that the source of the release was on the State-owned property. Had I not completed the subsequent assessment and report, in which the source of the contamination was correctly identified, it could have cost the State of Texas hundreds of thousands of dollars in cleanup costs. I do not know if the previous report was prepared unethically or with incompetence, but both are unacceptable.

Finally, please understand that I am 65 years old and nearing retirement. I have little or nothing to gain by taking the time to submit this information.

However, I believe the citizens of Texas have a lot to lose if the recommendation of the Sunset Commission is not reversed.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I strongly recommend that the Sunset Commission

reconsider their conclusions and support continuing the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree