



TBPG Fall Newsletter - September 2026

What's New!



New TBPG Team Members!



13 PGs Granted Emeritus Status at August Board Meeting!



New PG Ethics Video!



New Outreach Initiatives!



Customer Service Survey Results!



A Message from our Board Chair!

The TBPG Board met by Zoom on August 14, 2026. At the meeting we discussed and approved waiver applications, discussed TBPG operations and licensing statistics, and voted on revisions to several Rules. We also discussed how Board members can inform university students and professional societies about the benefits of professional licensure.

The Board will continue reviewing our Statute and Rules, and how they may be modified to better serve our licensees and the people of Texas. These efforts are aimed at reducing impediments to obtaining a P.G. license and making sure that the Rules can be easily read and understood.

On our website, you can find our [Statute](#) and [Rules](#). I encourage all licensees to review the Rules. If you have any comments or suggestions, please forward them to the Board for consideration.

OUTREACH AND AWARENESS – HOW PGs SERVE YOU AND OUR STATE

Now that the academic year has commenced, Board members will be visiting universities and colleges. We'll be informing students and faculty about how professional licensure can benefit them. We'll also make presentations to professional societies. If you'd like a Board member to address your group or organization, contact TBPG and we'll make arrangements.

THE OFFER IS STILL OPEN - WOULD YOU CONSIDER SERVING ON THE TBPG BOARD?

Applying to serve on the TBPG Board is a way to serve the people of Texas by participating in policy, ethics, and licensing decisions that affect geoscience practice statewide. Your service can positively impact the future of our profession. Any Board member will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact us for more information or visit the Governor's Appointments Office.

NEXT BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2026

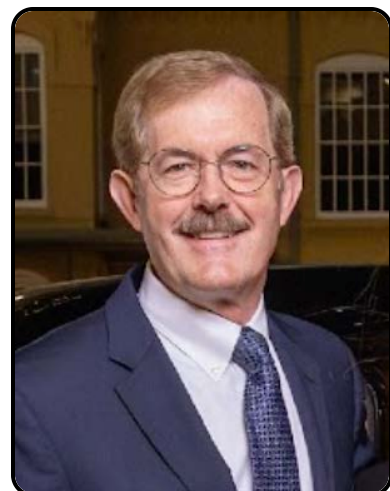
All licensees and members of the public are encouraged to attend our Board meetings, in person or by Zoom. This meeting will begin at 9:00AM. At every Board meeting there is time allotted for comments from the public, including our licensees. Anyone who wishes to speak during the meeting should register ahead of time by emailing licensing@tbpg.texas.gov with their name, contact information, who they are representing, and indicating they would like to provide public comments.

The Board, our Executive Director, and agency staff remain dedicated to our mission to protect public health and safety through licensure and provide the highest level of service to the public and our licensees in Texas. On behalf of the Board, I thank all Texas P.G.s for your dedicated service to the people of Texas.

Best wishes to everyone,

Mark Varhaug

Mark Varhaug P.G., C.P.G.





Introducing New TBPG Team Members!



Anthony Sanchez joined our licensing team on August 10, 2026 as an Administrative Program Specialist. With over 40 years of dedicated public service in Texas state government, Anthony brings a wealth of experience to the agency. He holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Drafting and Design. Over his career, Anthony has held technical and customer service roles across several state agencies, including the Railroad Commission of Texas (Oil & Gas Division), the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy, the Texas Medical Board, and the Texas Real Estate Commission.

Anthony is a proud fan of the Dallas Cowboys and the Texas Longhorns.



Jaylee Williams joined our licensing team on August 10, 2026 as an Administrative Program Specialist. She graduated in May 2026 from The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science in Geosciences.

Outside of work she enjoys hiking, crocheting, and watching basketball.



TBPG is preparing for the Fall 2026 examinations, scheduled for **October 1st and 2nd, 2026.**

The deadline to submit an application for the October ASBOG examinations has passed and TBPG is now reviewing the applications we received. Applicants will be contacted by our team regarding the status of their application and given a chance to supply additional documents if

required for approval. Please be advised that any application considered incomplete on September 23rd will be moved to the March 2027 examination cycle.

[For more information about applying for an Exam, click here!](#)

After an application is approved, candidates can choose from 40+ testing locations across Texas. For a complete list of the current cities with testing sites, please visit Prometric by [CLICKING HERE](#).

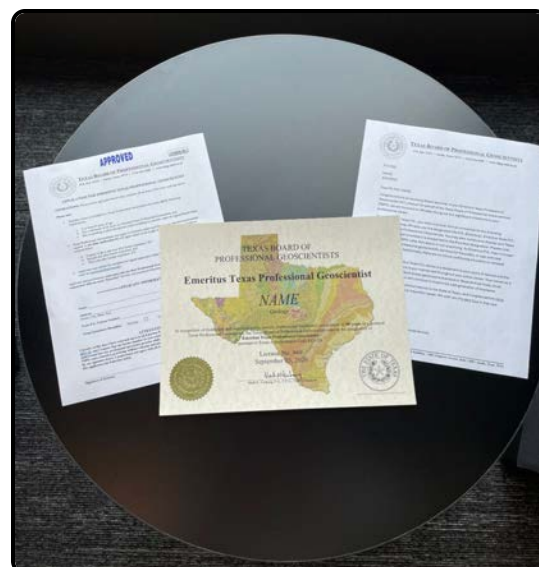
The ASBOG Examinee Candidate Handbook is the official guide to policies and procedures for the ASBOG National Geology Examinations. This guide will provide important information to exam candidates regarding scope; content and development of the licensure exams; a step-by-step guide to register and pay for the computer-based exams, and example practice questions to help prepare for the ASBOG National Geology Examinations.

[ASBOG Examinee Candidate Handbook, click here!](#)



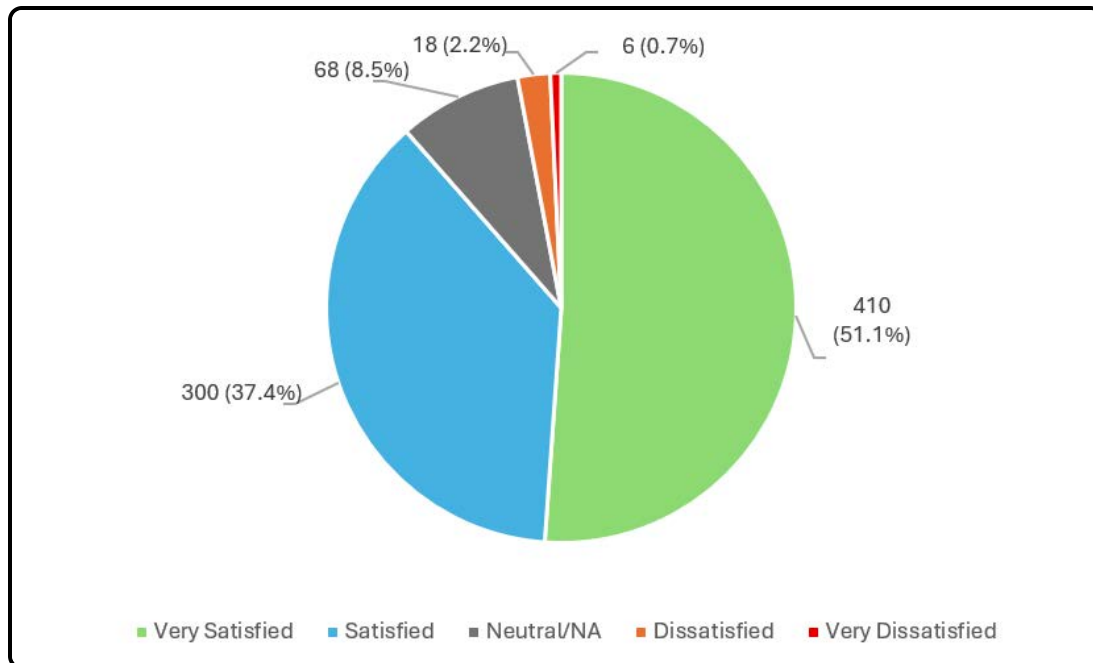
TBPG Emeritus Program Update

We are proud to announce the first Professional Geoscientists granted Texas Emeritus P.G. status. Scroll down in this newsletter for a list of those P.G.'s who were approved during our August Board Meeting.



TBPG Customer Service Survey Complete

TBPG initiated a ten-question anonymous Customer Service Survey on April 24, 2026, emailing 6,929 individuals regulated by the agency or subscribed to TBPG's email distribution list. As of the survey close date of August 31, 2026, we received 802 survey responses, resulting in a final survey response rate of 11.6 percent. Interim survey results from the May timeframe had been previously incorporated into the agency's [Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2027-2031](#) that is available on our website. The overall satisfaction rate for this TBPG survey was 88.5 percent (see chart below). A complete report detailing survey results for all ten questions will be completed during the first quarter of FY 2027.



New TBPG Professional Geoscience Ethics video is now available!

A recently completed TBPG YouTube video on professional geoscience ethics for 2026 is now available. Viewing this video satisfies the PG license and G.I.T. certificate annual requirement for one hour of ethics training. Watch all six ethics videos on TBPG's [YouTube](#) channel today!

New Continuing Education Video on the TBPG YouTube Channel!

A new continuing education video for GIT and PGs is now on our [YouTube](#) channel. We appreciate the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) for providing this video which highlights the use of geophysics in identifying unmarked burials in historic cemeteries. This video (Dignity in Depth: Geophysical Search for Unmarked Burials in Historic Houston Cemeteries) was presented in November 2025 by Dr. Robert Stewart, a professor of geophysics at the University of Houston, as part of an AIPG webinar series.

TBPG Website Update and Refresh

Thank you for the customer service comments regarding desired website improvements. Our site averages over 65,000 visits each year, so we really value this input. TBPG is updating our website to organize and streamline information and meet current website standards. A new site version is expected to go live by December 2026. While an updated site will not address every customer expectation, this is an important step in our continuous site improvement plan. We look forward to your continued feedback on future website improvements.

Please note that our license portal is a separate system maintained and operated by a third party. We continuously provide feedback on enhancements to improve the experience on this site, but we share that platform with many regulatory agencies, so it is not as easy to streamline the site based on our needs.



We are pleased to introduce our P.G. In The Spotlight:
Katie Brice, Texas P.G. # 15711



Ms. Brice works as a Geologist at The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (B.S., Geology).

When were you first licensed? Why is having a PG license important to you?

I was first licensed in May 2025. Having my PG license is important to me because it shows that I am a reliable, responsible professional. The public needs to be able to trust that our work is in the best interest of everyone.

Why did you pursue a career in Geoscience? What part of Geoscience interested you the most?

I have always had an interest in earth sciences. I can remember spending many summers in Arkansas breaking open different rocks (mostly quartz) to see what was inside!

I am most interested in stratigraphy. I love looking at rock layers and determining depositional environments! (A road cut hates to see me coming.)

What is your favorite part of working as a geoscientist?

My favorite part is knowing that my work has a real impact on Texas communities. I get to combine my geologic skills with public service working for the TCEQ.

What are your hopes for the Geoscience industry in Texas?

I hope we can continue working towards groundwater conservation and protection for future Texans. I also hope we can continue protecting our beautiful state.

Do you have any advice for someone interested in a career in Geoscience?

I would say if you have an interest in geoscience, go explore what specifically interests you. Start rockhounding, go on hikes, explore our world! Become comfortable with all the sciences (physics, chemistry, etc.) because it all connects! Participating in local professional geological societies to network and learn about specific industries is also very helpful.

What do you do in your spare time?

I spend a lot of time reading, building Legos, watching documentaries, going on hikes, and spending time with family and friends!

What do you think is the single most important thing for the future of Geology or Geosciences in Texas?

The most important thing to me is probably keeping our state as groundwater-focused as possible. Without that, we don't have clean water, and without that, we don't have anything.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I'm really grateful to be the PG spotlight this quarter! I love rocks and I love learning new things about geoscience!



**We are pleased to introduce our G.I.T. In The Spotlight:
Dana Hintzel, Texas G.I.T. # 885**



Ms. Hintzel recently graduated from The University of Texas at Dallas (B.S., Geosciences) and received her Texas G.I.T. Certification in May of 2026.

Why is having a GIT Certification important to you?

The geoscience discipline is incredibly multifaceted, and even a bachelor's degree cannot cover the full range of material encompassed by the profession. As I neared completion of my degree, I found myself eager to join the workforce and begin gaining practical experience rather than immediately pursuing a master's degree. Earning my GIT certification was important to me because it demonstrated that I had developed and retained a broad foundation in geoscience and was prepared to begin building on that foundation in a professional setting. While a master's degree may still be in my future, at this stage in my career, gaining practical experience by working under and being mentored by a Professional Geologist feels much more valuable.

Why did you pursue a career in Geoscience? What part of Geoscience interested you the most?

In High School, I was given a documentary-style video assignment on a topic of my choice, and I chose the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. What started as a project on plastic pollution and ocean currents quickly became a much deeper fascination involving the relationship between man-made waste and Earth processes. As I pursued my degree, I especially enjoyed learning about soil, groundwater, and geochemistry, later applying that foundation to my senior research on landfill leachate.

What is your favorite part of working as a Geoscientist-in-Training?

Since I am still at the beginning of my career, I think my favorite part will be experiencing what geoscience really looks like away from the classroom. It is one thing to learn a concept from a textbook and another to be out in the field, collecting data, piecing it all together, and working through the problems that may come with it.

What are your hopes for the Geoscience industry in Texas? What would you like to see somewhere in the future?

My hope is that we continue moving toward a more long-term, proactive mindset as the demands for resources grow. Groundwater availability, aquifer sustainability, waste management, and contamination are all much harder to address after a problem has already developed. I hope the geoscience industry continues to anticipate those challenges, respond to them early, and prioritize prevention alongside remediation.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I live in Dallas with my husband and daughter, who will be turning one in September. In my free time, I love practicing yoga, vintage shopping, and visiting every mineral and fossil show that comes into town.



If you are a licensed P.G. or G.I.T. in Texas and would like to be featured for Geoscientist in the Spotlight, please contact TBPG at licensing@tbpg.texas.gov for

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW P.G.'S WHO
RECEIVED LICENSES BETWEEN 06/01/2026-
08/31/2026!!!**



Licensees are listed in the order in which the licenses were issued*

GEOLOGY - 15851 **CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON** LEANDER, TX
GEOLOGY - 15852 **SEAN WALSH** HOUSTON, TX
GEOLOGY - 15853 **JOHN FAUGHT** MIDLAND, TX
GEOLOGY - 15854 **KELSEY GANGI** GEORGETOWN, TX
GEOLOGY - 15855 **ABDULMUTALIB AMINU** MIDLAND, TX
GEOLOGY - 15856 **MANASIJ SANTRA** KATY, TX
GEOLOGY - 15857 **MICHAEL WICKER** BARODA, MI
GEOLOGY - 15858 **JOSEPH BURAWA** BEAVER FALLS, PA
GEOLOGY - 15859 **DAVID KERSCHNER** EXPORT, PA
GEOLOGY - 15860 **LANCE MEAUX** FLOWERMOUND, TX
GEOLOGY - 15861 **PAUL NAMAN** MOBILE, AL
GEOLOGY - 15862 **KATHERINE ZANOTTI** CASTLE ROCK, CO
GEOLOGY - 15863 **JOSHUA KIRBY** OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
GEOLOGY - 15864 **KIRSTEN BENDIK** ST. PETERSBER, FL
GEOLOGY - 15865 **JIHWAN PARK** IRVINE, CA
GEOLOGY - 15866 **KATHERINE LYNN HALL ALLEN** MORRISON, CO
GEOLOGY - 15867 **STEPHANIE WILLIAMS** KINGWOOD, TX
GEOLOGY - 15868 **ALEXANDRA MANDYBUR** ALBUQUERQUE, NM
GEOLOGY - 15869 **JONATHAN RODGER** RUSTON, LA
GEOLOGY - 15870 **KALEB CASH MCCLAIN** TYLER, TX
GEOLOGY - 15871 **CRYSTAL DEROCHE** PRAIRIEVILLE, LA
GEOLOGY - 15872 **CARLOS COTA-WERTZ** SCHERTZ, TX
GEOLOGY - 15873 **THOMAS GOLDEN** GEORGETOWN, TX
GEOLOGY - 15874 **THOMAS J. SCHICKLE** HOUSTON, TX
GEOLOGY - 15875 **KENNETH DEAN EHMAN** HOUSTON, TX
GEOLOGY - 15876 **JORGE CHAVES GALAN** FORT WORTH, TX
GEOLOGY - 15877 **ALEXANDRA WEBSTER** BALLAIREF, TX
GEOLOGY - 15878 **CHRIS DENNEN** PLANO, TX
GEOLOGY - 15879 **RUSS MCCORMICK** NORTH EASTON, TX

GEOPHYSICS - 13044 **STEPHEN HUSSENOEDER** SUGAR LAND, TX

SOIL SCIENCE - 12922 **JEREMIAH PARSLEY** SALADO, TX

Showcasing a TBPG Geoscience Firm!



Rockfish Aquifer Imaging Texas Firm # 50710 - Tulsa, OK

Texas began requiring the registration of geoscience Firms in 2003 following the establishment of the TBPG under the Texas Geoscience Practice Act.

The act mandates that Firms such as corporations, partnerships, or limited liability companies that offer professional geoscience services (geology, geophysics, or soil science) to the public in Texas are required to register.

Additional information on Firm registration requirements is available at this TBPG website link: (<https://tbpg.state.tx.us/firm-registration-requirements/>).

Questions:

When did your Firm become a TBPG Registered Geoscience Firm?

In April 2024.

How many employees does your Firm have? How many geoscientists?

2 employees - 1 geoscientist + 1 admin.

Describe the geoscience work your Firm performs.

Rockfish provides geoscience investigations specializing in groundwater and aquifer characterization. We provide hydrogeologic services to support well siting, construction, development, aquifer testing, and evaluation.

What opportunities or changes in geoscience practice have you seen or do you anticipate? What have been (or may be) the impacts to Firms/PGs in Texas?

Technical groundwater investigations are becoming a growing necessity due to greater emphasis placed on groundwater quality and quantity. It is more important than ever to consider and evaluate groundwater impacts during planning and development of water supply. There is a growing need for firms and PGs in Texas to

provide technical well design and geoscience to safely provide vital resources for generations to come.

Tell us more about your Firm's PG in Responsible Charge?

T. Alise Taylor, P.G.

Alise is a hydrogeologist with over 15 years of experience, specializing in groundwater exploration and geophysical investigations using Electromagnetics (EM) and Magnetotellurics (MT). Alise brings her multi-disciplinary experience in geophysics, hydrogeology, geology, and environmental industries to provide comprehensive solutions to hydrogeologic problems. Alise holds a Master of Science in Hydrology from the Colorado School of Mines and is a Professional Geoscientist in several states, including but not limited to Texas and Utah. Alise has assisted with the design and construction, aquifer tests, and well sampling for many water wells from monitoring to municipal supply. She is passionate about providing valuable scientific tools to all people and facilitating informed decision-making around groundwater.

How has Geoscience Firm registration benefited your Firm?

Geoscience firm registration has allowed our firm, Rockfish, to perform public geoscience services in Texas by creating a mechanism and the credibility to work with municipalities, water utilities, government agencies, engineering firms, and other clients.

Anything else you would like us to know?

Rockfish has provided professional well services to support municipalities and public water supply throughout Texas – supplying growing communities with crucial new wells and more resilient water systems.

Rockfish is proud to support Texas farmers, ranchers, landowners, and agricultural operations by characterizing and developing groundwater resources, a critical aspect to their industry. The insights provided by our groundwater investigations have resulted in multiple new successful wells, in addition to other groundwater insights provided to aid in decision-making.

Our hydrogeologic expertise has helped turn subsurface information into practical insights – supporting resilient groundwater development for Texas farms, ranches, and communities that depend on them.



TBPG Emeritus Status



In February 2026, the **Emeritus status** rule was adopted by the Board and on April 1st it went into effect. Emeritus is a permanent non-practicing status that allows a PG to retain their Texas PG number and identify themselves as Texas PG Emeritus. This status also shows up on the Public License search and has no renewal fee or CE requirements. One time application fees for Emeritus status are between \$25 and \$75.

All applications for Emeritus status are reviewed by TBPG Staff to see if they meet the requirements for the status, then a summary is created and read into the record at a Board meeting. By Rule, Emeritus status must be voted on and approved by the Board. Following approval by the Board, the application is processed and approved in our system and a packet with a new Emeritus certificate sent out.

If an applicant is currently licensed, their Emeritus status will be processed at their expiration date.

Congratulations to all **13** of the individuals who were granted **Emeritus status** at the August 2026 Board meeting!

GEOLOGY - 595 **JOHN M. SNYDER** AZLE, TX
GEOLOGY - 668 **G. CHRISTOPHER VEEDER** FORT WORTH, TX
GEOLOGY - 1202 **MICHAEL J. WISNIOWIECKI** SPRING, TX
GEOLOGY - 568 **WILLIAM J. ROBINSON** SAN ANTONIO, TX
GEOLOGY - 601 **DOUG VALLEAU** SPRING, TX
GEOLOGY - 1112 **MARK S. LACH** LEWISVILLE, TX
GEOLOGY - 5532 **JACK H. CHRISTIANSEN** HOUSTON, TX
GEOLOGY - 3454 **MARSHA F. BOURQUE** HOUSTON, TX
GEOLOGY - 3382 **G. DWIGHT FLOWERS** HOUSTON, TX
GEOLOGY - 550 **ROBERT D. SHIELS** KAUFMAN, TX
GEOLOGY - 2081 **ROBERT F. COUCH** CORRALES, NM
GEOLOGY - 6668 **KEITH MAHON** AUSTIN, TX

GEOPHYSICS - 3229 **STEVEN H. VOSS** HOUSTON, TX

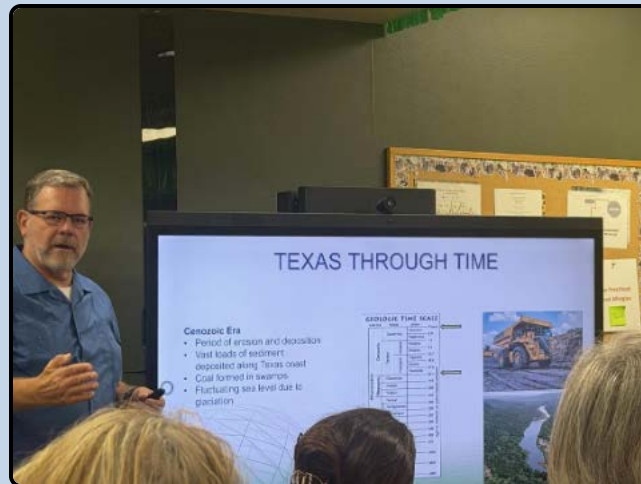
TBPG Board and Staff Outreach Activities



TBPG Compliance and Outreach Manager **Gordon Magenheim** delivered presentations on professional geoscience ethics at the Industry Council on the Environment's summer meeting on August 20th in Austin. Gordon also presented to

the Texas Section of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists' summer meeting on August 22nd in Marble Falls.

TBPG's Secretary **Rusty Branch** presented geoscience information about Texas as part of a 2026 Master Naturalist training session for the Cross Timbers Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists program. This training module was presented at the Fort Worth Zoo Education Center to an audience of 40 attendees (see photo below).



TBPG Board Member **Danielle Kingham** participated in a Houston Geological Society Student Expo Poster Judging Session on September 14th.

TBPG Program Specialist **Jaylee Williams**, a recent UT Austin graduate in geosciences, was invited to participate on September 10th as part of a four-person panel of recent alumni from the Jackson School of Geosciences. Approximately 20 undergraduates attended the panel discussion addressing navigating a career path after graduation. Jaylee discussed her work at TBPG, encouraged students to consider licensure through the GIT program, and offered general advice on navigating a post-graduation career search.

Highlights of the August 14th, 2026 Board Meeting

Requests For Waivers

The Board reviewed fifteen requests for waivers. The Board approved fifteen of them unanimously.

Discussion

Board Chair, Mark Varhaug, P.G., C.P.G., presented the minutes from the May 8th, 2026 Board Meeting. They were approved by the Board as presented.

Executive Director Rene Truan introduced Anthony Sanchez and Jaylee Williams as the TBPG's newest administrative team members. Mr. Truan also provided a report on Operations, Staff Updates, Program updates, and ongoing TBPG staff activities.

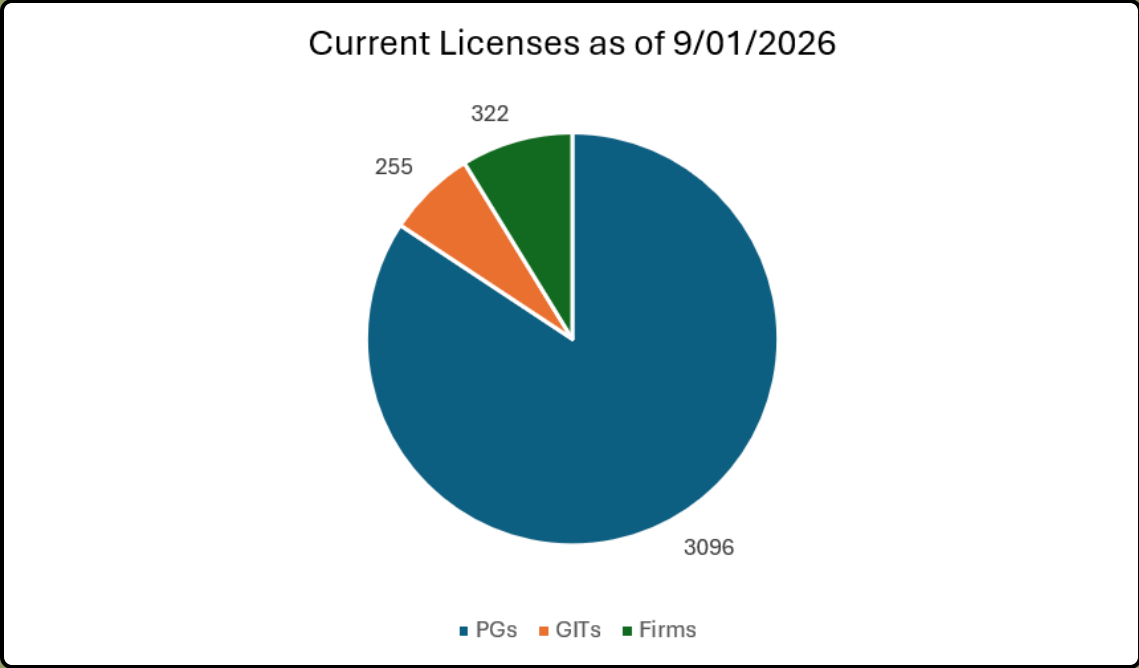


Compliance Manager Gordon Magenheim provided the quarterly Compliance report.

Licensing Specialist Katie Colby provided the licensing report.

Committee Chair Danielle Kingham, P.G., reported on the General Issues Committee’s research and discussions regarding the ongoing review of TBPG rules, the advancement of AI in the practice of geoscience, and updates from the working group on the Texas geophysics examination.

The first round of Emeritus requests were presented by Licensing Specialist Katie Colby, all thirteen were approved as presented.



Total Licenses Managed: 4559 (Current and Eligible to Renew)			
Status	PGs	GITs	Firms
Current	3096	255	322
Expired	615	241	30



A Message from the TBPG Staff:

Fall is here, bringing cooler temperatures, changing leaves, and a welcome shift in the season. We hope our licensees are able to enjoy the change of pace and take some time to recharge, whether you're working in the field, in the office, or taking a well-deserved break. We appreciate your continued work and commitment to supporting the geoscience profession in Texas.

As we move toward the end of the year, now is a good time to review your license status and make sure your contact information is up to date!

Staying on top of your renewal and continuing education requirements can help ensure a smooth renewal process and keep your license in good standing.

Thank you for being part of the Texas geoscience community. We look forward to keeping you informed through the remainder of the year!

Upcoming Quarterly TBPG Meetings

Austin, Texas

November 12, 2026

Application Review and Continuing Education Committee
Financial Review Committee
Compliance and Enforcement Committee
General Issues Committee

November 13, 2026

TBPG Board Meeting

*These meetings may be available for public comment or participation via Zoom.

Meeting agendas including Zoom links will be available on the TBPG website at least one week prior to the meetings.



If you have an interesting photograph from the field highlighting Texas geology, please feel free to submit your photos to the licensing@tbpg.texas.gov for future inclusion in a Newsletter or on our website!



Agency Contact Information:

SUBJECT	INFORMATION	PHONE/EMAIL
GENERAL	General questions and inquires, Token Numbers	512-936-4408 LICENSING@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
COMPLAINTS	File a Complaint, Complaint inquiries	512-936-4410 COMPLIANCE@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
CONTINUING EDUCATION	CE Program, CE Audits, CE Requirements	512-936-4410 COMPLIANCE@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
OUTREACH	Outreach Opportunities	512-936-4410 GORDON.MAGENHEIM@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
FINANCE	Accounts Payable, Receivables, Purchasing, ITVs	512-936-4404 ntolpeeva@tbpg.texas.gov
LICENSING	New license inquires, Applications, Examinations, Waivers and Qualifications	512-936-4408 LICENSING@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
OPEN RECORDS	Open Records of Public Information Requests	512-936-4401 RTRUAN@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV
ONLINE ASSISTANCE	Assistance with the online licensing portal	LICENSINGHELP@HPC.STATE.TX.US

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