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Message from the Executive Director

It has been a busy spring for PCPG, with educational opportunities to plan, new legislation and regulations to review, and communications to provide our members about all of this news. Have you seen the new website? It looks great and provides a wealth of information on current topics that affect our profession. I am also excited that our Communications Committee is publishing, this, our second consecutive newsletter. I hope you find it informative and interesting!

PCPG's Marcellus Shale seminar in Exton was a success and will be repeated in Scranton in July. If you are interested in learning more about the Marcellus Shale via a seminar in your region, please contact me. In August, we will also repeat our popular Rock Slope Stability short course (see Page 8). Our Central PA, Hands On Groundwater Sampling course was very well received and will be followed by a Groundwater Sampling course, focusing on emerging technologies, in Southeastern PA, in October (see Page 3). Other upcoming events to watch for include a UECA seminar and an intermediate level Hydrogeology Refresher for practicing hydrogeologists.

With lots of new legislation and proposed regulations, the Government Affairs Committee has been very active. Please read Don Wagner's article about legislative affairs on Page 2.

I imagine the BIG question on everyone's mind is "What's happening with the Continuing Education requirements?" I have tried to sort this all out for you in my continuing education article on Page 4.

PCPG is working hard to provide you with a wide variety of valuable professional development opportunities and timely notice of relevant news affecting our profession. Please feel free to [e mail](#) me with your questions, concerns, or suggestions to improve our organization.

Rhonda Hakundy-Jones

Rhonda Hakundy Jones, P.G.
Executive Director



It's Been a Busy Spring for the Government Affairs Committee

- Donald R. Wagner, P.G. (Government Affairs Committee Chairperson)

The Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) has been busy tracking, reviewing, commenting and providing testimony on pending legislation and providing members notice of newly enacted legislation. Along with the Pennsylvania Groundwater Association (PGWA), we have been actively involved in proposed revisions to water well drillers' certification requirements and have had preliminary discussions and planning sessions with State Representatives and legislative staff regarding well construction standards in Pennsylvania. At this time, the focus is on well drillers' certification. Several PCPG Board Members and our Executive Director initially met with Pennsylvania House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee analyst, Mark Brown, to discuss potential options for legislation. Subsequently, PCPG Committee Chairperson Donald Wagner took part in a meeting with the Honorable Ronald Miller of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and representatives of leading groundwater resource organizations including the PGWA, Pennsylvania Topographic and Geologic Survey, and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to discuss certification of water well drillers.

Concerning professional licensure and continuing education requirements, the GAC has reviewed the proposed regulations that will implement continuing education (CE) requirements for Professional Geologists (at 49 Pa. Code Ch. 37). The proposed regulations anticipate that licensed PGs will first be required to comply with the CE requirements for the October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2011 biennial renewal period and those affected will have the entire two year license renewal period in which to fulfill the requirements. Draft regulations were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on May 2, 2009 and allowed for a thirty day comment period. The PCPG membership was invited to comment on the draft regulations and GAC submitted these concerns on behalf of PCPG.

The GAC is also tracking two house bills, HB 587 and HB 975, which would revise the PG continuing education requirements. These revisions are discussed in greater detail on Page 4 of this newsletter in the *Latest News on Continuing Education Requirements* article. PCPG was also successful in having geologist in training ("GIT") status inserted into the most recent draft of HB 975 and our Executive Director, Rhonda Hakundy Jones, provided testimony on the two bills on behalf of PCPG.

Through email notices and website bulletins, the GAC also provided notice to the PCPG membership of proposed revisions to the storage tank regulations at 25 Pa. Code Ch. 245 and the signing into law of New Jersey's Site Remediation Reform Act requiring licensure for site remediation professionals in NJ. We have also been invited to provide comment on draft legislation concerning Pennsylvania's Geospatial Coordinating Advisory Council.

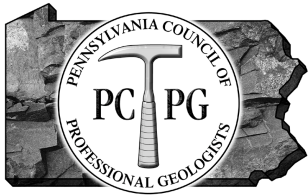
Committee Chair Don Wagner would like to thank the GAC members for their participation and encourages our membership to become active in the various PCPG Committees.

This Month's Q&A

Q: I've heard that CEUs are no longer going to be required for continued Professional Geologist licensure?

A: MAYBE. Legislation signed by Governor Rendell in 2006 requires PGs, PEs, and Land Surveyors to obtain Continuing Education during the upcoming licensure period (beginning Oct. 1st), and proposed regulations to implement this legislation were recently published for comment in the May 2, 2009 Pennsylvania Bulletin. However, pending legislation in both the House and the Senate proposes several changes to the existing legislation, not the least of which will be a requirement for professional development hours (PDHs) instead of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). To learn more about these proposed changes, read Executive Director Rhonda Hakundy-Jones' article beginning on page 4.





PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

Rock Slope Stability Analysis & Design

Two Day Short Course (16 CEUs)
Thursday-Friday, August 13-14, 2009

Synopsis

This two-day short course will focus on rock slope engineering presented from the standpoint of practitioners responsible for the design and construction aspects of excavations in rock.

This short course will cover more advanced topics as well as new technologies for characterization of rock faces. Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) surveys combined with advanced processing software can now automatically perform rock mass fracture characterization on exposed rock faces.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Geologists, Engineering Geologists, Geotechnical Engineers and other professionals seeking intermediate level instruction on methods and new technologies applicable to rock slope stability investigation, analyses and design.

Holiday Inn Harrisburg East
4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA

7:30 AM - 8:00 AM - Registration & Continental
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Seminar (Lunch Included)

Guest Faculty
Brendan Fisher, PE, CPG
Fisher & Strickler Rock Engineering
Dr. William Gates, PE
Kleinfelder, Inc.
Dr. Chester (Skip) F. Watts, CPG
Radford University, Virginia & author of ROCKPACK III
Dr. Martin Woodard, PG
Fisher & Strickler Rock Engineering

Class Size: Minimum 23 / Maximum 70
Overnight Hotel Rooms: \$105++ if before 7/22
Telephone the Hotel at (717) 939-7841

Registration Fees
Includes continental breakfast, lunch, and course materials.
\$369 PCPG Members (discounted \$90)
\$459 Nonmembers
\$150 PCPG Annual Membership

REGISTRATION FORM (deadline 8/6/09)

Mail Form with payment to:
PCPG Rock Slope Stability Seminar
116 Forest Drive
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Credit Card Registrations may be faxed to
(717) 730-6786

Registration form fields including: Add \$150 for PCPG Membership, Total Amount, payment methods (Check, Visa, Master Card, American Express), Credit Card #, Exp. Date, Address of credit card holder, and Signature.

Name (use separate form for each individual) Professional Title Nickname for Badge

Organization/Firm

Address City State Zip

Telephone Fax E-mail (Required for Confirmation)