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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.



PCPG Holds First Hands-on Groundwater Sampling Course

-- Rhonda Hakundy-Jones, P.G. (on behalf of the PCPG Communications Committee)

PCPG held the first of its hands-on training courses in March 2009. Our Groundwater Sampling Course for novice geologists, environmental scientists, and sampling technicians was held near Carlisle, Pennsylvania at an organic farm owned by Dickinson College. The Dickinson College Geology Department operates a well field, for educational purposes at the Farm, which turned out to be an excellent location for a groundwater sampling course.

We had an ideal instructor to student ratio with five instructors from the environmental industry to 30 students, including eight Dickinson College Geology/Environmental Science majors. Instructors included a Professional Geologist (P.G.) - hydrogeologist, two laboratory representatives, and two sampling/environmental equipment technicians.

"I definitely thought it was very worthwhile and would recommend it to any environmental professional involved in the Act 2 Program."

Rick Caranfa
Akens Engineering Associates
Shiremanstown, PA

PGWA Endorses... Ground Source Heat Pump Training Course

The Pennsylvania Ground Water Association has announced endorsement of a Ground Source Heat Pump Training Course to be held on June 8, 9, and 10, 2009. The course is offered by the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA), will take place at the Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA.

Participants completing this training course and passing the open-book exam will become IGSHPA Accredited Vertical Loop Installers. [PDF brochure](#). Full course details, schedule, location map, and registration found at www.pgwa.org

Morning hours were spent in traditional classroom instruction with plenty of opportunity for questions and answers, as well as discussions about sampling experiences and problems. In the afternoon, three sampling stations were set-up for participants to watch demonstrations on proper use of equipment and sampling techniques, and to practice the techniques.



For many of the participants the basic techniques and equipment demonstrated were not new, but seeing them applied in different ways and sharing problems and solutions with others was the most helpful part of the course. PCPG also received comments indicating that information from the laboratory instructors was very useful.

They stated that the laboratory discussion helped them to see the reasons for collecting and handling samples in specific ways. There was also emphasis on the importance of particular communications between consultant and laboratory in obtaining truly representative analytical results.

Most of our participants commented that they appreciated the information and demonstrations of low flow sampling techniques. PCPG will be hosting another Groundwater Sampling Course this October.

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Hands-On Groundwater Sampling Course

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

The fall course will discuss low flow sampling, the use of passive diffusion bags, and other emerging sampling techniques. The course is being held at the Stroud Water Research Center in Chester County, Pennsylvania on Thursday October 15, 2009.

"The course was very good for keeping on top of the low flow and latest sampling techniques. It was good to see all of the latest pumps and new equipment out there."

Pierre MaCoy
CMX
Mechanicsburg, PA



Additional information is available on the "Schedule" page of the PCPG website at:

www.pcp.org/schedule.asp

Latest News on Continuing Education Requirements

-- Rhonda Hakundy-Jones, P.G. (PCPG Executive Director)

As the 2007 – 2009 biennial license renewal cycle draws to a close, most of you have realized that you were not required to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) during this licensing cycle. That is not to say that you understand why. In this article you will learn why you have not been required to earn CEUs and what MIGHT occur in the future. First, just to clarify, the new 2009-2011 licensing cycle begins on October 1, 2009.

In November 2006, Governor Rendell signed the existing continuing education law, which required the Licensing Board to write regulations specifying how the law would be implemented. After one complete re-write, the Licensing Board completed a set of proposed regulations that were approved by the "executive branch" and published for public comment in the May 2, 2009 edition of the PA Bulletin. The regulations should be revised, based on public comment, and potentially promulgated in the near future.

However, in the meantime, members of both the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (the House) and the Senate have introduced legislation to modify the existing law. The legislative bills in both the House and the Senate seek to make the law conform to a model law that engineers and land surveyors have adopted nearly nationwide. Theoretically, this will allow engineers and land surveyors to apply continuing education obtained in other states more easily to their Pennsylvania requirements or vice versa, and will help them to get reciprocity more readily.

The new legislation adopts terminology that is a bit different than verbiage in the existing law. First, continuing education is referred to as continuing professional competency and rather than earning continuing education units (CEUs) we will earn Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Typically a PDH is equal to 50 minutes of instruction. One CEU is currently 60 minutes of instruction.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4, 2009
2nd Quarter

PCPG Board Meeting

Carbon Sequestration
Luncheon Seminar
Pittsburgh, PA

June 8 - 10, 2009

PGWA Geothermal Training Course

Grantville, PA

POSTPONED!

PCPG Field Conference

Watch the PCPG website for
more information

July 14 or 15, 2009 (TBD)

The Marcellus Shale Rocks 'n Rules

Scranton, PA

July 22, 2009

UECA Seminar

Answers to Questions
Exton, PA

August 13 & 14, 2009

Rock Slope Stability Analysis & Design

Back by Popular Demand!
Harrisburg, PA

September 10, 2009

3rd Quarter

PCPG Board Meeting

Lancaster, PA

October 15, 2009

Hands-On

Groundwater Sampling

Stroud Water Research Center
Chester County, PA

December 3, 2009

4th Quarter

PCPG Board Meeting

Exton, PA

Watch For:

**Hydrogeology Refresher
For the Practicing
Hydrogeologist**

Coming In November!

THE COST OF QUALITY:

PART II – DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS & IMPLEMENTATION

-Frank E. Stossel, President – American Westech, Inc

With increased scrutiny by regulatory agencies, both consultants and laboratories are required to provide an increased level of QA/QC documentation. While it is easy to expect a laboratory to produce quality data solely on the basis of its certification or accreditation, all parties must maintain a level of professional competency to ensure the quality of the data generated, regardless of the fact that all interested parties may not have the same tangible level of QC accountability. For example, a good laboratory begins the quality process upon sample receipt. Once samples have been accepted, the laboratory is obligated to perform many tasks to ensure the quality of the data, including analysis of blanks, matrix spikes, matrix spike duplicates, internal standards, continuing calibration standards to name a few. However, the final results are only as good as the quality of the sample itself. The consultant's sampling quality process must be equivalent to the laboratory's analytical quality process for the project to yield results representative of actual site conditions.

The first step to improving your sampling quality process is to ensure that field staff know the appropriate sample containers, preservatives, and holding times required for the targeted analytical parameters, and communicate to the laboratory the detection limits required for all analyses prior to requesting sample containers. This will insure that the correct preservatives are used and sample amount is collected to meet those detection limits. Also make sure that all field equipment (i.e. meters, measuring devices, pumps, etc.) are pre- and post-calibrated, that the calibration is documented and that all equipment is properly decontaminated prior to re-use. In addition, be sure to plan the sampling event thoroughly and check that appropriate equipment is available to gather all necessary field data. Developing internal standard operating procedures (SOPs) can help to guarantee that all sampling is performed in an appropriate manner, in accordance with industry standards.

It is also important to understand the various QC sample options and to know the required field QC procedures that will ensure the integrity and quality of samples collected. Trip blanks are used to determine if samples have been contaminated during transport. Field blanks indicate whether samples have been contaminated by field conditions during collection. Equipment blanks can confirm that thorough equipment decontamination has occurred and that cross-contamination of samples has not occurred. Duplicate samples document that the sampling process was uniform and consistent throughout the sampling event.

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THE COST OF QUALITY:

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Budgetary constraints should not justify inadequate QA/QC measures. If cost is an issue, discuss project quality objectives with your laboratory and negotiate the analytical costs for QA/QC samples. Most reputable laboratories analyze trip blanks, field blanks and equipment blanks at a reduced cost or even free of charge if you discuss the importance of the samples to the overall project.

A case in point involves a consultant that submitted samples from two groundwater wells with no historical detections of VOCs. The laboratory reported elevated benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX) in both well samples. Unfortunately, trip blanks were the only quality process used and the trip blank analyses indicated no BTEX. The laboratory was immediately blamed and the consultant re-sampled the wells at the laboratory's cost. Apparently, the same sampling equipment was used for the re-sampling, and the samples again contained BTEX (albeit at lower concentrations...but detectable nevertheless). This time, however, the consultant collected a duplicate sample and equipment blank. Not surprisingly, the duplicate sample showed BTEX levels similar to those in the matching sample and also to those in the equipment blank. The consultant disposed of all tubing and consumable components of the sampling equipment, then re-sampled the site a third time. The analyses showed no detectable levels of BTEX in the well samples, trip blank, field blanks, equipment blanks or duplicate sample.

If you have ever worked on a Superfund/CLP project or project for the Army Corps of Engineers, you are familiar with the requirements of a full environmental quality process. The level of quality required in those types of projects may be viewed by some as "over kill," but in reality, it is often the level needed by our clients (even though they don't always realize it). Embracing the concept of total quality and implementing good quality SOPs in your day to day operations provides little added cost to a project, and in the long run will pay for itself by an enhanced company reputation, or if you ever need to defend yourself and/or your company in a legal case.

Were you able to guess the image on Page 1 of the newsletter? It's an anticlinal structure in a slate unit at the Penn Big Bed Slate Quarry near Slatington, PA.



The PCPG Newsletter Needs You!!!

Are you interested in contributing an interesting article to our newsletter?

Do you have an electronic image of an interesting outcrop, landform, or mineral?

Would you like to announce your member organization's unique accomplishment or milestone?

Then contact our PCPG Newsletter editor and Communications` Committee Chairperson, Kelly Lee Kinkaid by [E-mail](#) or by telephone at 610-375-9301.

DEADLINE FOR 3rd QUARTER 2009 NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 20, 2009!



Latest News on Continuing Education Requirements

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

On May 12, 2009, Executive Director Hakundy-Jones testified before the House Professional Licensure Committee (HPLC) to speak in favor of House Bill 975 (modification to the continuing education law) for several reasons:

1. This bill allows several different mechanisms for obtaining continuing professional competency including: a) authoring of professional papers, articles, and books; b) participation in courses, conferences, and conventions; c) teaching continuing education courses; d) obtaining a professional patent; and e) completing college courses or college-based continuing education courses. NOTE: The only mechanisms to earn CEUs through the current law is by attending or instructing educational courses and seminars.
2. In addition to the continuing professional competency modifications in the legislation, House Bill 975 introduces the definition of Geologist in Training (GIT).
3. House Bill 975 provides for membership in the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) for geologists, seated on the licensing board. (ASBOG is the organization that administers Professional Geologist (PG) testing.) The existing law provides membership for engineers and land surveyors in their national testing organization. This membership will help geologists on the licensing board to defray the costs associated with travel to national ASBOG meetings (when the out-of-state travel moratorium is lifted for official state programs).
4. As of May 12, 2009, and after numerous revisions, House Bill 975 states that continued professional competency will be required beginning in 2009. It does not require the promulgation of regulations prior to earning PDHs.

Please note that as of May 31, 2009, House Bill 975 had not been voted on by the HPLC or any of the other committees that must review it before it goes to the House floor. This bill has a long way to go before it can be voted on by the House and there is a different continuing education bill in the Senate.

In an ideal world, the House and Senate would agree on a continuing education bill and it would be signed into law before the beginning of the next license renewal cycle. In this case, geologists would know that they are required to comply with the new law, and earning continuing professional competency hours, PDHs, would be relatively straight forward. However, it is more likely that another scenario will play out...one where the current set of regulations, based on the existing law, would be promulgated before October 1, 2009 and geologists would start earning their CEUs. Then, in the middle of the licensing cycle, the new law would pass requiring geologists to begin earning PDHs.

While the second scenario could be confusing, converting CEUs to PDHs should not be a difficult transition, and in reality, getting a few continuing education courses under our belts would be prudent. Then, if someone wishes to patent an amazing remediation system or publish a paper after the new law is signed, that person could apply those PDHs to his/her requirements.

Executive Director Hakundy-Jones and the PCPG Government Affairs Committee will strive to update our members on the continuing education situation as it progresses. Please watch for PCPG e-mails on the subject and check our website frequently (www.pcp.org).



Back by Popular Demand...

Rock Slope Stability Analysis and Design

This two-day short course, offered in Harrisburg on August 13 & 14, 2009, is a repeat of the popular course offered in 2008. The course will offer 16 CEUs and is geared toward practitioners tasked with the design and construction aspects of construction excavations in rock. Although a brief refresher will be provided, participants are assumed to have a working knowledge of rock slope stability techniques. The course will focus on more advanced topics and new technologies for characterization of rock faces.

For more information and/or registration information, review the enclosed registration form or check out our website: www.pcpog.org/schedule.asp

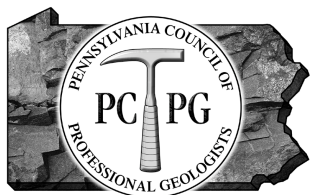
UECA!

PCPG will host a Uniform Environmental Covenant Act (UECA) Networking Seminar at The Inn at Chester Springs in Exton, PA on July 22, 2009. This unique event will be conducted as a panel discussion that will provide participants with information and insight from experts on the implementation of environmental covenants, as well as an interactive format in which to ask questions. Expected panel members include representatives from Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox LLP, PADEP, PCPG, and the Chester County and PA Bar Associations. Stay tuned to www.pcpog.org/schedule.asp for more details and upcoming registration information!



Pennsylvania Council Professional Geologists

116 Forest Drive
Camp Hill, PA 17011
www.pcpog.org



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. Although a basic knowledge of rock slope stability investigation, data analysis, and design are assumed, the first half-day of the course will provide refresher on techniques.

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. This eliminates some of the safety hazards, access problems, and human biases associated with current data collection techniques. It also allows for the rapid analysis of data and significantly larger data sets.

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

☐ Add \$150 for PCPG Membership

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Professional Title

Nickname for Badge

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E-mail (Required for Confirmation)