



**VIRTUAL/TELECONFERENCE
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS, AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
Virtual, 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison
Contact: Will Johnson (608) 266-2112
May 14, 2025**

The following agenda describes the issues that the Section plans to consider at the meeting. At the time of the meeting, items may be removed from the agenda. Please consult the meeting minutes for a record of the actions of the Section.

AGENDA

1:00 P.M.

OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

- A. Adoption of Agenda (1-3)**
- B. Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2025 (4-7)**
- C. Introductions, Announcements and Recognition
- D. Reminders: Conflicts of Interest, Scheduling Concerns
- E. Administrative Matters**
 - 1) Department, Staff and Section Updates
 - 2) Board Members – Term Expiration Dates:
 - a. Gbolo, Prosper – 7/1/2025
 - b. Nobile, Trevor W. – 7/1/2028
 - c. Williams, Stephanie – 7/1/2017
- F. Education and Examining Matters – Discussion and Consideration
- G. Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration**
 - 1) Progress Update on Final Rule Draft for GHSS 1 and 2 Relating to Professional Development for Professional Geologists **(8-23)**
 - 2) Pending or Possible Rulemaking Projects **(24)**
- H. Legislative and Policy Matters – Discussion and Consideration
- I. Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Matters – Discussion and Consideration
- J. Deliberation on Items Added After Preparation of Agenda:
 - 1) Introductions, Announcements and Recognition
 - 2) Administrative Matters

- 3) Election of Officers
- 4) Appointment of Liaisons and Alternates
- 5) Delegation of Authorities
- 6) Education and Examination Matters
- 7) Credentialing Matters
- 8) Practice Matters
- 9) Legislative and Policy Matters
- 10) Public Health Emergencies
- 11) Administrative Rule Matters
- 12) Liaison Reports
- 13) Board Liaison Training and Appointment of Mentors
- 14) Informational Items
- 15) Division of Legal Services and Compliance (DLSC) Matters
- 16) Presentations of Petitions for Summary Suspension
- 17) Petitions for Designation of Hearing Examiner
- 18) Presentation of Stipulations, Final Decisions and Orders
- 19) Presentation of Proposed Final Decisions and Orders
- 20) Presentation of Interim Orders
- 21) Petitions for Re-Hearing
- 22) Petitions for Assessments
- 23) Petitions to Vacate Orders
- 24) Requests for Disciplinary Proceeding Presentations
- 25) Motions
- 26) Petitions
- 27) Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed
- 28) Speaking Engagements, Travel, or Public Relation Requests, and Reports

K. Public Comments

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION to deliberate on cases following hearing (s. 19.85(1)(a), Stats.); to consider licensure or certification of individuals (s. 19.85(1)(b), Stats.); to consider closing disciplinary investigations with administrative warnings (ss. 19.85(1)(b), and 440.205, Stats.); to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (s. 19.85(1)(f), Stats.); and to confer with legal counsel (s. 19.85(1)(g), Stats.).

L. Division of Legal Services and Compliance (DLSC) Matters

M. Deliberation of Items Added After Preparation of the Agenda

- 1) Education and Examination Matters
- 2) Credentialing Matters
- 3) DLSC Matters
- 4) Monitoring Matters
- 5) Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Matters
- 6) Petitions for Summary Suspensions
- 7) Petitions for Designation of Hearing Examiner
- 8) Proposed Stipulations, Final Decisions and Order
- 9) Proposed Interim Orders
- 10) Administrative Warnings
- 11) Review of Administrative Warnings
- 12) Proposed Final Decisions and Orders
- 13) Matters Relating to Costs/Orders Fixing Costs
- 14) Case Closings

- 15) Board Liaison Training
- 16) Petitions for Assessments and Evaluations
- 17) Petitions to Vacate Orders
- 18) Remedial Education Cases
- 19) Motions
- 20) Petitions for Re-Hearing
- 21) Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed

N. Consulting with Legal Counsel

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

O. Vote on Items Considered or Deliberated Upon in Closed Session, if Voting is Appropriate

P. Open Session Items Noticed Above Not Completed in the Initial Open Session

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 5, 2025

MEETINGS AND HEARINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND MAY BE CANCELLED WITHOUT NOTICE.

Times listed for meeting items are approximate and depend on the length of discussion and voting. All meetings are held virtually unless otherwise indicated. In-person meetings are typically conducted at 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison, Wisconsin, unless an alternative location is listed on the meeting notice. In order to confirm a meeting or to request a complete copy of the board's agenda, please visit the Department website at <https://dps.wi.gov>. The board may also consider materials or items filed after the transmission of this notice. Times listed for the commencement of any agenda item may be changed by the board for the convenience of the parties. The person credentialed by the board has the right to demand that meeting at which final action may be taken against the credential be held in open session. Requests for interpreters for the hard of hearing, or other accommodations, are considered upon request by contacting the Affirmative Action Officer or reach the Meeting Staff by calling 608-267-7213.

**VIRTUAL/TELECONFERENCE
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS, AND
SOIL SCIENTISTS
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 29, 2025**

PRESENT: Prosper Gbolo, Trevor Nobile, Stephanie Williams

STAFF: Will Johnson, Executive Director; Whitney DeVoe, Legal Counsel; Jacob Pelegrin, Administrative Rule Coordinator; Ashley Sarnosky, Board Administration Specialist; and other Department staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Trevor Nobile, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was confirmed with three (3) members present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Stephanie Williams moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to adopt the Agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2024

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to approve the Minutes of August 7, 2024 as published. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Election of Officers

Slate of Officers

2024 Officers	
Chairperson	Trevor Nobile
Vice Chairperson	Prosper Gbolo
Secretary	Stephanie Williams

NOMINATION: Trevor Nobile nominated the 2024 slate of officers to continue in 2025. All officers accepted their nominations.

Will Johnson, Executive Director, called for nominations three (3) times.

The Slate of Officers was elected by unanimous voice vote.

2025 ELECTION RESULTS

Chairperson	Trevor Nobile
Vice Chairperson	Prosper Gbolo
Secretary	Stephanie Williams

Appointment of Liaisons and Alternates

LIAISON APPOINTMENTS	
Credentialing Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate: Prosper Gbolo</i>
Monitoring Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate: Stephanie Williams</i>
Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Liaison(s)	Stephanie Williams <i>Alternate:</i>
Education and Examinations Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate:</i>
Legislative Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate:</i>
Travel Authorization Liaison(s)	Trevor Nobile <i>Alternate:</i>
Website Liaison(s)	Prosper Gbolo <i>Alternate:</i>
Screening Panel	Stephanie Williams <i>Alternate: Prosper Gbolo</i>

Delegation of Authorities

2025 Delegations

Delegation to Department Monitor

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to delegate authority to the Department Monitor as outlined below.

1. to grant reinstatement of licensure if education and/or costs are the sole condition of the order and the credential holder has submitted the required proof of completion for approved courses and paid the costs.

2. to suspend the license if the credential holder has not completed Section ordered education and/or paid costs and forfeitures within the time specified by the Section order. The Department Monitor may remove the suspension and issue an order when proof of completion and/or payment has been received.
3. to suspend the license (or remove stay of suspension) if a credential holder fails to enroll and participate in an Approved Program for drug and alcohol testing within 30 days of the order, or if credential holder ceases participation in the Approved Program without Section approval. This delegated authority only pertains to respondents who must comply with drug and/or alcohol testing requirements.
4. to grant or deny approval when a credential holder proposes treatment providers, mentors, and supervisors unless the Order specifically requires full- Section or Section designee approval.
5. to grant a maximum of one 90-day extension, if warranted and requested in writing by a credential holder, to complete Section ordered continuing, disciplinary, or remedial education.
6. to grant a maximum of one 90-day extension or payment plan for proceeding costs and/or forfeitures if warranted and requested in writing by a credential holder
7. to grant a maximum of one 90-day extension, if warranted and requested in writing by a credential holder, to complete a Section ordered evaluation or exam. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Approval of 2024 Delegations including new modifications

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to reaffirm all delegation motions made in 2024, as reflected in the January 29, 2025 agenda materials, which were not otherwise modified or amended during the January 29, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE MATTERS

Discussion of Clearinghouse Report and Final Rule Draft for GHSS 1 and 2 relating to Professional Development for professional Geologists

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to recommend that the GHSS Examining Board reject Clearinghouse comment numbers 5d, 5j, and accept all remaining Clearinghouse comments for rule CR 24-078 relating to Professional Development for Professional Geologists. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Stephanie Williams moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to convene to closed session to deliberate on cases following hearing (s. 19.85(1)(a), Stats.); to consider licensure or certification of individuals (s. 19.85(1)(b), Stats.); to consider closing disciplinary investigations with administrative

warnings (ss. 19.85 (1)(b), and 440.205, Stats.); to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (s. 19.85(1)(f), Stats.); and to confer with legal counsel (s. 19.85(1)(g), Stats.). Trevor Nobile, Chairperson, read the language of the motion. The vote of each member was ascertained by voice vote. Roll Call Vote: Prosper Gbolo-yes; Trevor Nobile-yes; and Stephanie Williams-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Section convened into Closed Session at 11:29 a.m.

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES AND COMPLIANCE (DLSC) MATTERS

Administrative Warnings

24 GEO 0001 – L.M.P.

MOTION: Trevor Nobile moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to issue an administrative warning in the matter of L.M.P., DLSC Case Number 24 GEO 0001. Motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Stephanie Williams moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to reconvene into Open Session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Section reconvened into Open Session at 11:34 a.m.

VOTING ON ITEMS CONSIDERED OR DELIBERATED IN CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Stephanie Williams, to affirm all motions made and votes taken in Closed Session. Motion carried unanimously.

(Be advised that any recusals or abstentions reflected in the closed session motions stand for the purposes of the affirmation vote.)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Trevor Nobile, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1) Name and title of person submitting the request: Jake Pelegrin Administrative Rules Coordinator		2) Date when request submitted: 5/2/25 Items will be considered late if submitted after 12:00 p.m. on the deadline date which is 8 business days before the meeting																					
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: Geologists Section																							
4) Meeting Date: 5/14/25	5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration 1. Progress update on Final Rule Draft for GHSS 1 and 2 relating to Professional Development for Professional Geologists 2. Pending or possible rulemaking projects																					
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session	8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <i>(If yes, please complete Appearance Request for Non-DSPS Staff)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required: N/A																					
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: Attachments: -Final Rule Draft for GHSS 1 and 2 -Rule Projects Chart																							
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">11)</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Authorization</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Jake Pelegrin</i></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">5/2/25</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black;">Signature of person making this request</td> <td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black;">Supervisor (if required)</td> <td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black;">Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda)</td> <td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">Date</td> </tr> </table>				11)	Authorization				<i>Jake Pelegrin</i>		5/2/25	Signature of person making this request		Date		Supervisor (if required)		Date		Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda)		Date	
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Directions for including supporting documents: 1. This form should be attached to any documents submitted to the agenda. 2. Post Agenda Deadline items must be authorized by a Supervisor and the Policy Development Executive Director. 3. If necessary, provide original documents needing Board Chairperson signature to the Bureau Assistant prior to the start of a meeting.																							

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS AND
SOIL SCIENTISTS**

IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING	:	REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE	:	CR 24-078
EXAMINING BOARD OF	:	
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,	:	
HYDROLOGISTS, AND SOIL	:	
SCIENTISTS	:	

I. THE PROPOSED RULE:

The proposed rule, including the analysis and text, is attached.

II. REFERENCE TO APPLICABLE FORMS:

N/A

III. FISCAL ESTIMATE AND EIA:

The Fiscal Estimate and EIA are attached.

IV. DETAILED STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE BASIS AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULE, INCLUDING HOW THE PROPOSED RULE ADVANCES RELEVANT STATUTORY GOALS OR PURPOSES:

The objective of the proposed rule is to create continuing education requirements for license renewal for professional geologists. The board believes continuing education is important for the profession to stay current with knowledge of their field and provide the best possible service for the public. Currently, professional geologists do not have continuing education requirements.

The proposed rule adds requirements for continuing education for professional geologists. Definitions and general requirements are added in ch. GHSS 1, and new continuing education and renewal requirements are added in ch. GHSS 2. In each biennium, professional geologists will be required to complete 24 approved continuing education contact hours. The content of the courses must be substantially related to the practice of professional geology. A wide variety of courses and activities are allowed. The professional geologist section may grant exceptions to the continuing education requirements in the event of extreme hardship for a licensee.

Section 470.03 (1) (a), Stats., states that the examining board shall “[u]pon the advice of the professional geologist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional geology by a person who is licensed as a professional geologist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional geology.

Section 470.03 (2), Stats., states that “[u]pon the advice of the appropriate section of the examining board, the examining board may promulgate rules that establish continuing education requirements that a person must satisfy to be eligible to renew a license that is issued under this chapter.”

V. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE BOARD’S RESPONSES, EXPLANATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSED RULES PROMPTED BY PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The board held a public hearing on the proposed rule on February 5, 2025. No written or verbal comments were received.

VI. RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

All Legislative Council comments except comments 5d. and 5j. have been accepted and incorporated into the proposed rules.

Comment: 5d. In s. GHSS 2.08 (1) (b) (intro.), after “minimum of 4”, add “of the total 24”. Also, as written, a professional geologist must complete a minimum of four hours in programs in which the licensee practices and an additional four hours in professional conduct and ethics. Is it intended that a licensee complete four hours of continuing education in “each” of those categories? Also, that minimum totals only eight out of the 24 total hours that must be completed in those topics; is that intended?

Response: The board agrees with the first sentence of the comment, and that change has been accepted and incorporated into the rule. Under the new numbering of the rule, this provision is now s. GHSS 2.08 (4). However, for the questions raised by the remainder of the comment, all the applicable rule language is written as the board intended. The board intends for the licensee to complete at least four hours in each of those categories, even though that minimum only comes out to eight of the total 24 hours.

Comment: 5j. In SECTION 6, s. GHSS 2.08 (2) (g), in order to stay consistent with the use of the term “renewal period” throughout the proposed rule, consider adding “period” after “renewal”. Also, consider specifying how much credit authoring is worth.

Response: The board agrees with the first sentence of the comment, and that change has been accepted and incorporated into the rule. Under the new numbering of the rule, this provision is now s. GHSS 2.08 (5) (g). However, to the second sentence of the comment, the board would like to rely on the definition of contact hour in s. GHSS 1.02 (4) for the calculation of how much credit is earned for authoring.

VII. REPORT FROM THE SBRRB AND FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS:

N/A

STATE OF WISCONSIN
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS AND
SOIL SCIENTISTS

IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING	:	PROPOSED ORDER OF THE
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE	:	EXAMINING BOARD OF
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL	:	PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS AND	:	HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL
SOIL SCIENTISTS	:	SCIENTISTS
	:	(CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 24-078)

PROPOSED ORDER

An order of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists to **amend** GHSS 1.01, 1.05 (1), Chapter GHSS 2 (title), 2.01, 2.02 Note, and 2.03 (10) Note; to **repeal and recreate** GHSS 1.02; and to **create** GHSS 1.045, 1.05 (2) (c), and 2.08 to 2.14 relating to Professional Development for Professional Geologists.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted:

Sections 470.03 (2) and 470.07, Stats.

Statutory authority:

Sections 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) (a), 470.03 (1) (a), and 470.03 (2), Stats.

Explanation of agency authority:

Section 15.08 (5) (b), Stats., provides that each examining board “[s]hall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains, and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession.”

Section 227.11 (2) (a), Stats., provides that “[e]ach agency may promulgate rules interpreting the provisions of any statute enforced or administered by the agency, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute, but a rule is not valid if the rule exceeds the bounds of correct interpretation.”

Section 470.03 (1) (a), Stats., states that the examining board shall “[u]pon the advice of the professional geologist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional geology by a person who is licensed as a

professional geologist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional geology.

Section 470.03 (2), Stats., states that “[u]pon the advice of the appropriate section of the examining board, the examining board may promulgate rules that establish continuing education requirements that a person must satisfy to be eligible to renew a license that is issued under this chapter.”

Related statute or rule:

Rule in progress GHSS 1 and 3, relating to Professional Development for Professional Hydrologists (Clearinghouse Rule 24-079).

Plain language analysis:

The proposed rule creates requirements for continuing education for professional geologists. Definitions and general requirements are added in ch. GHSS 1, and specifics of new continuing education and renewal requirements are added in ch. GHSS 2. In each biennium, professional geologists will be required to complete 24 approved continuing education contact hours. The content of the courses must be substantially related to the practice of professional geology. A wide variety of courses and activities are allowed. The professional geologist section may grant exceptions to the continuing education requirements in the event of extreme hardship for a licensee.

Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation:

None.

Comparison with rules in adjacent states:

Illinois:

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is responsible for the licensure and regulation of professional geologists. The expiration date and renewal period are set by administrative rule [225 Illinois Combined Statutes 745]. The Illinois Administrative Code states that professional geologist licenses shall expire on March 31 of odd-numbered years and renewal may occur prior to the expiration date by payment of a fee [Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Chapter VII Subchapter b Part 1252 Section 1252.70]. Continuing Education requirements are not included in the Illinois statutes or administrative code for professional geologists.

Iowa:

Iowa does not require licensure or registration of professional geologists.

Michigan:

Michigan does not require licensure or registration of professional geologists.

Minnesota:

The Minnesota Board of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Landscape Architects, Geoscientists, and Interior Designers is responsible for the licensure and regulation of geoscientists, among other professions. Geoscientists are required to complete at least 24 professional development hours, 2 of which must be on the topic of professional ethics per biennial renewal period [Minnesota Statutes 2022, Section 326.02 and 336.107]. The Minnesota Board currently recognizes geology and soil science as geoscience disciplines [Minnesota Administrative Rules Part 1800.3900].

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

The proposed rule was developed by the GHSS Examining Board reviewing Wisconsin Administrative Code chapters GHSS 1 and 2 and making amendments and additions based on current professional geology practice.

Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:

The proposed rules were posted for a period of 30 days to solicit public comment on economic impact, including how the proposed rules may affect businesses, local government units, and individuals. No comments were received.

Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis are attached.

Effect on small business:

These proposed rules will not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department’s Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted at Jennifer.Garrett@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-2112.

Agency contact person:

Jake Pelegrin, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 8366, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8366; telephone 608-267-0989; email at DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. GHSS 1.01 is amended to read:

GHSS 1.01 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to specify general requirements and procedures which apply to all 3 sections of the board. Requirements specific to professional geologists, professional hydrologists and professional soil scientists, including continuing education requirements, are specified in chs. GHSS 2, 3 and 4. Rules of professional conduct for all licensees are specified in ch. GHSS 5.

SECTION 2. GHSS 1.02 is repealed and recreated to read:

GHSS 1.02 Definitions. In chs. GHSS 1 to 5: **(1)** “Asynchronous” means a process of learning where instructor-student interaction is delayed over time allowing the learners to participate intermittently according to their schedule, and be geographically separate from the instructor, and includes correspondence courses, e-learning, instructional television, or online courses.

(2) “Biennium” means a 2-year period beginning August 1 of each even-numbered year.

(3) “Board” or “joint board” means the examining board of professional geologists, hydrologists, and soil scientists.

(4) “Contact hour” means 50 minutes of instruction or participation spent by the registrant in actual attendance or completion of an approved educational activity.

(5) “Continuing education” means professional educational courses, programs, or activities on topics related to the practice or theories of practice of a professional geologist, hydrologist, or soil scientist which foster the enhancement of general or specialized knowledge, values, and practice of a professional geologist, hydrologist, or soil scientist.

(6) “Course” or “activity” means any qualifying course, program, or activity with a clear purpose and objective that will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee’s practice of professional geology, hydrology, or soil science.

(7) “Department” means the department of safety and professional services.

(8) “Extreme hardship” means an inability to devote sufficient hours to fulfilling the continuing education requirements during the applicable renewal period because of one of the following:

(a) Full-time or temporary active duty in the uniformed services of the United States of America for a period of time exceeding 120 consecutive days during a biennium, where the duty restricts participation in a continuing education program.

(b) An incapacitating medical illness or disability documented by a statement from a licensed health care provider which shows that participation in the active practice of

professional geology, hydrology, or soil science and a continuing education program is not possible.

(c) A physical inability to travel to the sites of approved programs documented by a licensed physician.

(d) Retirement from the occupation of professional geology, hydrology, or soil science whereby the renewal applicant no longer receives remuneration from providing professional geologic, hydrologic, or soil science services.

(e) Any other extenuating circumstances approved by the board or section of the board.

(9) “Licensee” means a person licensed as a professional geologist, professional hydrologist, or professional soil scientist.

(10) “Professional organization or society” means an organization or society that seeks to further the practice of professional geology, hydrology, or soil science, and the interests of licensees engaged in that profession.

(11) “Section of the board” means either the professional geologist section, the professional hydrologist section, or the professional soil scientist section.

(12) “Synchronous” means a process of learning where the student and instructor interact simultaneously in real-time, including traditional classroom events, computer conferencing, interactive video conferences, or online communications where participants are logged on at the same time and communicate directly with each other.

SECTION 3. GHSS 1.045 is created to read:

GHSS 1.045 Continuing education for professional geologists. Professional geologists shall comply with the continuing education requirements specified in ch. GHSS 2.

SECTION 4. GHSS 1.05 (1) is amended to read:

GHSS 1.05 Failure to renew a license. (1) If a licensee who fails to renew his or her license by the established renewal date applies for renewal of the license less than 5 years after its expiration, the license shall be renewed upon approval of the renewal application and payment of the renewal fee specified in s. 440.08 (3), Stats.

SECTION 5. GHSS 1.05 (2) (c) is created to read:

GHSS 1.05 (2) (c) For late renewal or reinstatement of a professional geologist license, further requirements for continuing education are listed in s. GHSS 2.14.

SECTION 6. Chapter GHSS 2 (title) is amended to read:

Chapter GHSS 2

PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST ~~LICENSE~~ LICENSURE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

SECTION 7. GHSS 2.01 is amended to read:

GHSS 2.01 Authority and purpose. This chapter is adopted under authority in ss. 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2), 470.03 (1) (a), 470.03 (2), and 470.04, and 470.07, Stats. The purpose of this chapter is to interpret basic education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure as a professional geologist as specified in ss. 470.04 and 470.05, Stats., and to govern biennial continuing education of professional geologists.

SECTION 8. GHSS 2.02 Note is amended to read:

Note: ~~Applications~~ Instructions for applications are available ~~upon request to the Professional Geologist Section of the board at 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708~~ on the department's website at <http://dsps.wi.gov>.

SECTION 9. GHSS 2.03 (10) Note is amended to read:

Note: Application forms, including the "Supervised Geologic Experience" form and the "Peer Evaluation" form are available ~~upon request to the Professional Geologist Section of the board at 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935; phone (608) 266-2112 or available for download from the department webpage;~~ on the department's website at <http://dsps.wi.gov>.

SECTION 10. GHSS 2.08 to 2.14 are created to read:

GHSS 2.08 Continuing education requirements. (1) INITIAL APPLICABILITY.

Continuing education requirements will begin in the renewal period that starts on August 1, 2026 and ends on August 1, 2028, as specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a) 63u., Stats. Renewal applications due on August 1, 2028 will require continuing education.

(2) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS. Except as outlined in sub. (3) or (6), or if granted a waiver under s. GHSS 2.13, every licensee shall complete at least 24 hours of approved contact hours each biennium. The contact hours shall be pertinent to the practice of professional geology, which may include scientific, technical, ethical, or relevant managerial content. A minimum of 1 of the total 24 continuing education contact hours shall be for recordkeeping, under s. GHSS 2.12.

(3) NEW LICENSEES. Between the date of initial licensure and the following renewal date specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a) 63u., Stats., a new licensee shall not be required to comply with the continuing education requirements. A new licensee is required to comply with continuing education requirements beginning in the licensee's first full biennium.

(4) CONTENT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION. During each biennial renewal period, each licensee shall complete a minimum of 4 of the total 24 continuing education contact hours in each of the following categories:

(a) Courses or activities in which the licensee practices.

(b) Courses or activities in the area of professional conduct and ethics, which may include the area of Wisconsin statutes and rules that regulate professional geologists.

(5) TYPES OF COURSES AND ACTIVITIES. Continuing education credit may be obtained from any of the following courses or activities that are offered by acceptable sponsors or providers under s. GHSS 2.10 (2):

(a) Successful completion of geology-related courses, presented by correspondence, internet, television, or video, and ending with examination or other verification processes. These may earn a varying number of contact hours depending on the course duration and course content.

(b) Successful completion of a college or university course in the area of geology or ethics.

(c) Successful completion of professional geology courses or activities offering contact hours on geologic topics.

(d) Active participation and successful completion of professional geology programs, seminars, tutorials, workshops, short courses, or in-house courses.

(e) Attending presentations at related technical or professional meetings at which at least 50 minutes is spent discussing professional geology issues, or attending a lecture on geology related issues, or both.

(f) Teaching courses, activities, or programs on a professional geology topic. Teaching credit is counted for teaching a course or seminar for the first time only and does not apply to faculty in the performance of their regularly assigned duties. Two contact hours will be awarded for every 50 minutes of teaching.

(g) Authoring professional geology related papers, articles, or geographical maps that appear in circulated journals, trade magazines, or in published geology textbooks. Credit is earned in the biennium of publication. A maximum of 16 contact hours per renewal period shall be awarded for this activity.

(h) Field trips organized and run by professional or technical societies or in conjunction with meetings, conventions, or conferences. These shall be awarded one contact hour for every 50 minutes of duration, up to 8 contact hours per day.

(6) CARRYOVER ALLOWED. Continuing education hours earned in excess of the minimum requirements for renewal of a license may be carried forward to the next renewal period but are limited to a maximum of 12 contact hours.

GHSS 2.09 Compliance. A licensee who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by the renewal date, as specified in s. 470.07, Stats., may not engage in the practice of professional geology until the license is renewed based upon verification of compliance with the continuing education requirements.

GHSS 2.10 Standards for approval. (1) To be approved for credit, a continuing education course or activity shall meet all of the following criteria:

- (a)** The course or activity includes instruction in an organized method of learning contributing directly to the professional competency of the licensee and pertains to subject matters which integrally relate to the practice of the profession.
 - (b)** The course or activity is conducted by individuals who have specialized education, training, or experience and are considered qualified concerning the subject matter of the course or activity.
 - (c)** The course or activity provides proof of attendance or certificate of completion.
- (2)** The professional geologist section may approve sponsors or providers for continuing education courses and activities, including the following:
- (a)** Technical or professional societies or similar organizations devoted to geologic sciences and education.
 - (b)** Accredited colleges, universities, or other educational institutions and schools of higher education.
 - (c)** Governmental units.
 - (d)** Any other provider approved by the professional geologist section or its designee.
- (3)** The professional geologist section or its designee may approve courses, credits, contact hour value for courses, and other methods of earning credit.
- (4)** Contact hour credit for college or technical school courses approved by the professional geologist section shall be based on the definition of contact hour in s. GHSS 1.02 (4).

GHSS 2.11 Certification of completion, proof of attendance. (1) Each licensee shall certify on the renewal application their full compliance with the continuing education requirements in this chapter.

(2) The professional geologist section may require additional evidence demonstrating compliance with the continuing education requirements, including a certificate of completion, proof of attendance, or documentation of completion or credit for the courses or activities completed.

(3) A licensee may be subject to discipline by the board for failure to comply with sub. (2).

GHSS 2.12 Recordkeeping. It shall be the responsibility of the licensee to maintain records of continuing education hours for at least 2 biennia from the date on which the course or activity is completed. A minimum of at least one contact hour per biennium is required for recordkeeping purposes, with increments of one-quarter contact hour allowed thereafter. The recordkeeping may include any of the following:

(1) The name and address of the sponsor or provider.

(2) The title of the course or activity and a brief statement of the subject matter.

(3) Printed program schedules, registration confirmations or receipts, certificates of completion, proof of attendance, examination scores, or other proof of participation.

(4) The number of contact hours attended for each course or activity and the date and place of the course or activity.

GHSS 2.13 Waiver of continuing education. (1) A licensee may apply to the professional geologist section for a postponement or waiver of the continuing education requirements of this chapter on grounds of prolonged illness or disability, or on other grounds constituting extreme hardship. The professional geologist section shall consider each application individually on its merits, and the section may grant a postponement, partial waiver, or total waiver as deemed appropriate in the circumstances.

(2) A renewal applicant seeking renewal of a license without having fully complied with the continuing education requirements shall file a renewal application, the required fee, a statement setting forth the facts concerning noncompliance, any supporting documentation, and a request for a waiver of the requirements. These materials shall be submitted prior to the renewal date. If the professional geologist section finds from the statement or any other evidence submitted that extreme hardship has been shown, the section may grant a postponement, partial waiver, or total waiver of the continuing education requirements for the applicable renewal period.

(3) A licensee who receives a waiver for continuing education may be required to complete continuing education upon or before the licensee's return to the active practice of professional geology as determined necessary by the professional geologist section to ensure the ability of the licensee to practice professional geology in a safe and competent manner.

GHSS 2.14 Late renewal. (1) A licensee who applies for renewal after the renewal date specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a) 63u., Stats., shall verify to the professional geologist section that the licensee has completed continuing education that meets the requirements of this chapter and shall meet the requirements for late renewal specified in s. 440.08 (3), Stats.

(2) Continuing education hours submitted to satisfy this requirement for late renewal shall not be used to satisfy continuing education requirements for a subsequent renewal.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) pertain to a licensee applying for renewal of their license less than 5 years after its expiration, as stated in s. GHSS 1.05 (1). A licensee who applies for renewal more than 5 years after the expiration date shall still comply with subs. (1) and (2) and meet the requirements for reinstatement as described in s. 440.08 (3), Stats., and ss. GHSS 1.05 (2) (a) and (b).

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro), Stats.

(END OF TEXT OF RULE)

This Proposed Order of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists is approved for submission to the Governor and Legislature.

Dated 2/18/2025



Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

1. Type of Estimate and Analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Updated <input type="checkbox"/> Corrected	2. Date September 20, 2024
3. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number (and Clearinghouse Number if applicable) GHSS 1 and 2	
4. Subject Professional Development for Professional Geologists	
5. Fund Sources Affected <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEG-S	6. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected 20.165(1)(g)
7. Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule <input type="checkbox"/> No Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget	
8. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply) <input type="checkbox"/> State's Economy <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Businesses/Sectors <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Units <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility Rate Payers <input type="checkbox"/> Small Businesses (if checked, complete Attachment A)	
9. Estimate of Implementation and Compliance to Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(1). \$0	
10. Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals Be \$10 Million or more Over Any 2-year Period, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(2)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
11. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule The Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists would like to create continuing education requirements for license renewal for professional geologists. The board believes continuing education is important for the profession to stay current with knowledge of their field and provide the best possible service for the public. Currently, professional geologists do not have continuing education requirements. The proposed rule adds requirements for continuing education for professional geologists. Definitions and general requirements are added in ch. GHSS 1, and new continuing education and renewal requirements are added in ch. GHSS 2.	
12. Summary of the Businesses, Business Sectors, Associations Representing Business, Local Governmental Units, and Individuals that may be Affected by the Proposed Rule that were Contacted for Comments. The rule was posted to the public for Economic Impact Analysis comments as required, and will be subject to an official public hearing, along with other steps of the rule process.	
13. Identify the Local Governmental Units that Participated in the Development of this EIA. None.	
14. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State's Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred) DSPS estimates a total of \$6,000 in one-time costs for implementing this rule. The one-time staff costs support 0.1 limited term employee to undertake such tasks as legal review, rule drafting, amending renewal application forms, updating website, create training materials, training staff, creating new requirements in License, and revising operating procedures.	
15. Benefits of Implementing the Rule and Alternative(s) to Implementing the Rule The benefit of the rule is that professional geologists will continuously improve their knowledge of the field and industry practices through continuing education. This is in line with the many other professions that require continuing education to practice in Wisconsin. It upholds the high standard of professional service and public safety we have in Wisconsin. If the rule does not go forward, geologists will continue not to need continuing education for license renewal.	

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

16. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

The long range implication of implementing the rule is the field of licensed professional geology will maintain a high standard in the state of Wisconsin.

17. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

None.

18. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Neighboring States (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota)

Illinois:

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is responsible for the licensure and regulation of professional geologists. The expiration date and renewal period are set by administrative rule [225 Illinois Combined Statutes 745]. The Illinois Administrative Code states that professional geologist licenses shall expire on March 31 of odd-numbered years and renewal may occur prior to the expiration date by payment of a fee [Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Chapter VII Subchapter b Part 1252 Section 1252.70]. Continuing Education requirements are not included in the Illinois statutes or administrative code for professional geologists.

Iowa:

Iowa does not require licensure or registration of professional geologists.

Michigan:

Michigan does not require licensure or registration of professional geologists.

Minnesota:

The Minnesota Board of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Landscape Architects, Geoscientists, and Interior Designers is responsible for the licensure and regulation of geoscientists, among other professions. Geoscientists are required to complete at least 24 professional development hours, 2 of which must be on the topic of professional ethics per biennial renewal period [Minnesota Statutes 2022, Section 326.02 and 336.107]. The Minnesota Board currently recognizes geology and soil science as geoscience disciplines [Minnesota Administrative Rules Part 1800.3900].

19. Contact Name

Jake Pelegrin, Administrative Rules Coordinator

20. Contact Phone Number

(608) 267-0989

This document can be made available in alternate formats to individuals with disabilities upon request.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

ATTACHMENT A

1. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Small Businesses (Separately for each Small Business Sector, Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

2. Summary of the data sources used to measure the Rule's impact on Small Businesses

3. Did the agency consider the following methods to reduce the impact of the Rule on Small Businesses?

- Less Stringent Compliance or Reporting Requirements
 - Less Stringent Schedules or Deadlines for Compliance or Reporting
 - Consolidation or Simplification of Reporting Requirements
 - Establishment of performance standards in lieu of Design or Operational Standards
 - Exemption of Small Businesses from some or all requirements
 - Other, describe:
-

4. Describe the methods incorporated into the Rule that will reduce its impact on Small Businesses

5. Describe the Rule's Enforcement Provisions

6. Did the Agency prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis (if Yes, attach to form)

- Yes No
-

Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists and Soil Scientists

Clearinghouse Rule Number	Scope #	Scope Expiration	Code Chapter Affected	Relating clause/ Summary	Current Stage	Next Step
24-078	043-23	12/26/25	GHSS 1 and 2	Professional Development - Geologists. Review and update rules for continuing education and professional development for geologists.	Legislative review.	Board approval of rule Adoption Order.
24-079	063-23	2/28/2026	GHSS 1 and 3	Professional Development - Hydrologists. Review and update rules for continuing education and professional development for hydrologists.	Legislative review.	Board approval of rule Adoption Order.
	012-25	9/10/2027	GHSS 1 to 4	Licensure and Examinations. The objective is to bring the GHSS code into compliance with 2013 Act 114, which prohibits credentialing boards from requiring a person to complete postsecondary education before the person can take an examination for a credential.	Hold preliminary public hearing on the scope statement at next board meeting.	Scope implementation and rule drafting.