



**TELECONFERENCE/VIRTUAL
PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS, AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
Virtual, 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison
Contact: Will Johnson (608) 266-2112
August 6, 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

9:00 A.M.

OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

- A. Adoption of Agenda (1-3)**
- B. Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2025 (4-10)**
- C. Introductions, Announcements and Recognition**
- D. Reminders: Conflicts of Interest, Scheduling Concerns**
- E. Administrative Matters**
 - 1) Department, Staff and Section Updates
 - 2) **Election of Officers, Appointment of Liaisons and Alternates, and Delegation of Authorities**
 - 3) Board Members – Term Expiration Dates:
 - a. Freedman, Zac – 7/1/2025
 - b. Huang, Jingyi – 7/1/2028
 - c. Myers, Dennis – 7/1/2027
 - d. Popova, Inna – 7/1/2026
- F. Education and Examining Matters – Discussion and Consideration**
- G. Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration (11-21)**
 - 1) Preliminary Rule Draft for GHSS 1 to 4 relating to Licensure and Examinations **(12-20)**
 - 2) Pending or Possible Rulemaking Projects **(21)**
- H. Speaking Engagements, Travel, or Public Relation Requests, and Reports – Discussion and Consideration**
- I. Legislative and Policy 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. 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

M. Consulting with Legal Counsel

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: TBD, 2026

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://dsps.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 the 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.

**HYBRID (IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL)
PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS, AND
SOIL SCIENTISTS
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2025**

PRESENT: Zachary Freedman (*Virtual*), Jingyi Huang (*Virtual*), Dennis Myers, Inna Popova (*Virtual*)

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

Will Johnson, Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was confirmed with four (4) members present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Amendments to the Agenda:

- *Item E.5, add Board Member Dennis Myers*

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to adopt the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2011

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to approve the Minutes of December 8, 2011, upon information and belief as published. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Election of Officers

Chairperson

NOMINATION: Dennis Myers nominated Zachary Freedman for the Office of Chairperson. Zachary Freedman accepted the nomination.

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

Zachary Freedman was elected as Chairperson by unanimous voice vote.

Vice Chairperson

NOMINATION: Inna Popova nominated herself for the Office of Vice Chairperson. Inna Popova accepted the nomination.

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

Inna Popova was elected as Vice Chairperson by unanimous voice vote.

Secretary

NOMINATION: Dennis Myers nominated himself for the Office of Secretary. Dennis Myers accepted the nomination.

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

Dennis Myers was elected as Secretary by unanimous voice vote.

2025 ELECTION RESULTS	
Chairperson	Zachary Freedman
Vice Chairperson	Inna Popova
Secretary	Dennis Myers

Appointment of Liaisons and Delegation of Authorities

LIAISON APPOINTMENTS	
Credentialing Liaison(s)	
Monitoring Liaison(s)	
Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Liaison(s)	
Education and Examinations Liaison(s)	
Legislative Liaison(s)	Zachary Freedman <i>Alternate: Dennis Myers</i>
Travel Authorization Liaison(s)	Zachary Freedman <i>Alternate: Inna Popova</i>
Website Liaison(s)	
Screening Panel	

**Liaison appointments to be finalized at a future date*

Delegation of Authorities

2025 Delegations

Document Signature Delegations

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Dennis Myers, to delegate authority to the Chairperson (or in absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving Section member in that succession) to sign documents on behalf of the Section in order to carry out its duties. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, in order to carry out duties of the Section, the Chairperson (or in absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving Section member in that succession) has the ability to delegate signature authority for purposes of facilitating the completion of assignments during or between meetings. The members of the Section hereby delegate to the Executive Director, Board Counsel or DPD Division Administrator, the authority to sign on behalf of a Section member as necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegated Authority for Urgent Matters

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, that in order to facilitate the completion of urgent matters between meetings, the Section delegates its authority to the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving Section member in that succession), to appoint liaisons to the Department to act in urgent matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to Chief Legal Counsel Due to Loss of Quorum

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Dennis Myers, to delegate the review and authority to act on disciplinary cases to the Department's Chief Legal Counsel due to lack of/loss of quorum after two consecutive meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to Chief Legal Counsel for Stipulated Resolutions

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to delegate to DSPS Chief Legal Counsel the authority to act on behalf of the Section concerning stipulated resolutions providing for a surrender, suspension, or revocation of a credential, where the underlying merits involve serious and dangerous behavior, and where the signed stipulation is received between Section meetings. The Section further requests that CLC only act on such matters when the best interests of the Section, Department and the Public are best served by acting upon the stipulated resolution at the time the signed stipulation is received versus waiting for the next Section meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Monitoring Delegations

Delegation of Authorities for Legal Counsel to Sign Monitoring Orders

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate to Legal Counsel the authority to sign Monitoring orders that result from Section meetings on behalf of the Section Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to Monitoring Liaison

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate authority to the Monitoring Liaison(s) to make any determination on Orders under monitoring and to refer to the Full Section any matter the Monitoring Liaison deems appropriate. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to Department Monitor

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, 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.

Credentialing Authority Delegations

Delegation to Department Attorneys to Approve Prior Discipline

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate authority to Department Attorneys to approve an applicant's prior professional discipline which resulted in a forfeiture/fine/other monetary penalty, remedial education, and/or reprimand, that is 10 years old or older, and the previously disciplined credential is currently in good standing. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to Department Attorneys to Approve Duplicate Legal Issue

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate authority to Department Attorneys to approve a legal matter in connection with a renewal application when that same/similar matter was already addressed by the Section and there are no new legal issues. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation of Authority to Credentialing Liaison

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate authority to the Credentialing Liaison(s) to serve as a liaison between the Department and the Section and to act on behalf of the Section in regard to credentialing applications or questions presented to them, including the signing of documents related to applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation of Authority for Predetermination Reviews

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to delegate authority to the Department Attorneys to make decisions regarding predetermination applications pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 111.335(4)(f). Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation of Authority for Conviction Reviews

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to delegate authority to the Department Attorneys to review and approve applications with convictions which are not substantially related to the practice of professional soil science. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to DSPS When Applicant's Discipline History Has Been Previously Reviewed

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate authority to Department staff to approve firms, partnerships, and corporation applications where Applicant's prior discipline has been approved for a previous soil scientist credential and there is no new discipline. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegation to DSPS When Applicant's Conviction History Has Been Previously Reviewed

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate authority to Department staff to approve firms, partnerships, and corporation applications where criminal background checks have been

approved for a previous soil scientist credential and there is no new conviction record. Motion carried unanimously.

Delegated Authority for Application Denial Reviews

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to delegate authority to the Department's Attorney Supervisors to serve as the Section's designee for purposes of reviewing and acting on requests for hearing as a result of a denial of a credential. Motion carried unanimously.

Voluntary Surrenders

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate authority to the assigned case advisor to accept or refuse a request for voluntary surrender pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.19 for a credential holder who has a pending complaint or disciplinary matter. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to delegate authority to the Department to accept the voluntary surrender of a credential when there is no pending complaint or disciplinary matter with the Department pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.19. Motion carried unanimously.

Screening Decision Delegation

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to authorize DSPS to contact the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving section member in that succession) when enforcement action is needed, and to authorize the Chairperson (their designee or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving section member in that succession) to request that a screening panel be convened. Motion carried unanimously.

Education and Examination Liaison(s) Delegation

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate authority to the Education and Examination Liaison(s) to address all issues related to education and examinations. Motion carried Motion carried unanimously.

Authorization for DSPS to Provide Section Member Contact Information to National Regulatory Related Bodies

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to authorize the Department staff to provide national regulatory related bodies with all section member contact information that the Department retains on file. Motion carried unanimously.

Optional Renewal Notice Insert Delegation

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to designate the Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the highest-ranking officer or longest serving board member in that succession) to provide a brief statement or link relating to Section-related business within the license renewal notice at the Section's or Section designee's request. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Liaison Delegation

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to delegate authority to the Legislative Liaisons to speak on behalf of the Section regarding legislative matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Travel Authorization Liaison Delegation

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to delegate authority to the Travel Authorization Liaison to approve any section member travel to and/or participation in events germane to the Section, and to designate representatives from the Section to speak and/or act on the Section's behalf at such events. Motion carried unanimously.

Website Liaison(s) Delegation

MOTION: Zachary Freedman moved, seconded by Jingyi Huang, to authorize the Website Liaison(s) to act on behalf of the Section in working with Department staff to identify and execute website updates. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Zachary Freedman, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 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: 7/25/25 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: Soil Scientists Section												
4) Meeting Date: 8/6/25	5) Attachments: ☒ Yes ☐ No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration 1. Preliminary Rule Draft for GHSS 1 to 4 relating to Licensure and Examinations 2. Pending or possible rulemaking projects										
7) Place Item in: ☒ Open Session ☐ Closed Session	8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <i>(If yes, please complete Appearance Request for Non-DSPS Staff)</i> ☐ Yes ☒ No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required: N/A										
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: Attachments: -Preliminary Rule Draft for GHSS 1 to 4 -Rule Projects Chart												
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; border: none;"> 11) <i>Jake Pelegrin</i> </td> <td style="width: 40%; border: none; text-align: right;"> Authorization 7/25/25 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"> Signature of person making this request </td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;"> Date </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"> Supervisor (if required) </td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;"> Date </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border: none;"> Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda) </td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;"> Date </td> </tr> </table>				11) <i>Jake Pelegrin</i>	Authorization 7/25/25	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
11) <i>Jake Pelegrin</i>	Authorization 7/25/25											
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										
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	:	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)

PROPOSED ORDER

An order of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists to **repeal** ; to **amend** GHSS ; and to **create** GHSS relating to Licensure and Examinations.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted:

Section 440.071 (1), Stats.

Statutory authority:

Sections 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) (a), and 470.03 (1) (a) to (c), 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) to (c), Stats., state that the examining board shall: (a) “[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.

(b) Upon the advice of the professional hydrologist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional hydrology by a person who is licensed as a professional hydrologist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional hydrology.

(c) Upon the advice of the professional soil scientist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional soil science by a person who is licensed as a professional soil scientist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional soil science.”

Related statute or rule:

Section 440.071 (1), Stats.

Plain language analysis:

The objective of the proposed rule is to bring the GHSS administrative code into compliance with s. 440.071 (1), Stats., which prohibits credentialing boards from requiring a person to complete postsecondary education before the person is eligible to take an examination for a credential. The proposed rule will revise the GHSS administrative code to bring it into compliance with the Act. The proposed rule will update and clarify the examination requirements including the removal of outdated and obsolete provisions.

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

None.

Summary of public comments received on statement of scope and a description of how and to what extent those comments and feedback were taken into account in drafting the proposed rule:

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. It does require that to take the geologists’ licensing exam, an applicant must complete a bachelor’s or graduate degree in a geology educational program [Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Chapter VII Subchapter b Part 1252 Section 1252.20]. Illinois does not require licensure for professional hydrologists or professional soil scientists.

Iowa:

Iowa does not require licensure of professional geologists, hydrologists, or soil scientists. However, they do require certification as a “certified groundwater professional” for any person who provides subsurface soil contamination and groundwater consulting services, or who contracts to perform or who supervises remediation or corrective action services at leaking underground storage tank sites [567 Iowa Administrative Code 134.1 to 134.5]. There are many different pathways to acquiring this certification, with some that do require post-secondary education before taking an examination, and some that do not.

Michigan:

Michigan does not require licensure of professional geologists, hydrologists, or soil scientists.

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. The Minnesota Board currently recognizes geology and soil science as geoscience disciplines [Minnesota Administrative Rules Part 1800.3900]. The Minnesota Board does require completion of postsecondary education before an applicant is eligible to take a licensing exam [Minnesota Administrative Rules Part 1800.3910].

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

The proposed rule was developed by the GHSS Examining Board reviewing 2013 WI Act 114 and determining where changes in the GHSS code are needed to bring compliance.

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

The proposed rules will be posted for a period of 14 days to solicit public comment on economic impact, including how the proposed rules may affect businesses, local government units, and individuals.

Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis will be attached upon completion.

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.

Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

Comments may be submitted to 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, or by email to DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov. Comments must be received on or before the public hearing to be included in the record of rule-making proceedings.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. GHSS 2.06 (2) (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 2.06 (2) FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of geology. To be eligible to take the fundamentals examination, an applicant shall have ~~done one of the following:~~ **completed at least 4 years of experience** which is determined by the professional geologist section to be equivalent to the requirements of s. **GHSS 2.04 (1) or 2.05.**

SECTION 2. GHSS 2.06 (2) (a) and (b) are repealed.

This is the biggest question I have on the rule draft: what is the current practice the board and department are doing for the requirements in current 2.06 (2)? And the equivalent provisions for hydrologists and soil scientists? The statute says that no board can require postsecondary education to be eligible to take the exam, so is the 4 year experience requirement still required? Or are both options just ignored now?

I'm guessing we should write the rule in line with whatever the current practice is, unless it doesn't follow the statute.

SECTION 3. **GHSS 2.06 (3) (a) 2. is repealed.**

The above can be added in to SECTION 2. of the rule, but for now I am keeping it separate because it is a separate topic and to write notes on it. Consider repealing the whole thing, because it is a requirement that to be eligible to take the principles and

practice exam, you need a bachelor's degree or 5 years of additional experience to the 3 or 4 years required under subd. 3.

SECTION 4. GHSS 2.06 (3) (a) 3. (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 2.06 (3) (a) 3. Completed at least 4 years of professional experience in geologic work of a character satisfactory to the professional geologist section, ~~or completed at least 3 years of professional experience in geologic work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional geology,~~ demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of geologic work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this subdivision must have been performed under the supervision of one or more of the following:

SECTION 5. **GHSS 2.06 (3) (b) 2.** is repealed.

Same comment as on SECTION 3. of the rule: Consider repealing the whole thing, because it is a requirement that to be eligible to take the principles and practice exam, you need a bachelor's degree or 5 years of additional experience to the 5 or 6 years required under subd. 3.

SECTION 6. GHSS 2.06 (3) (b) 3. is amended to read:

GHSS 2.06 (3) (b) 3. Completed at least 6 years of professional experience in geologic work of a character satisfactory to the professional geologist section, ~~or completed at least 5 years of professional experience in geologic work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional geology,~~ demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of geologic work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this subdivision must have been performed under a peer review system approved by the professional geologist section.

SECTION 7. GHSS 3.05 (2) (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 3.05 (2) FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of hydrology. To be eligible to take the fundamentals examination, an applicant shall have ~~done one of the following:~~ completed at least 4 years of experience which is determined by the professional hydrologist section to be equivalent to the requirements of s. **GHSS 3.03 (1) or 3.04.**

SECTION 8. GHSS 3.05 (2) (a) and (b) are repealed.

SECTION 9. GHSS 3.05 (3) (a) (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 3.05 (3) (a) To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant under s. 470.04 (3) (c) 1., Stats., shall have done all of the following:

SECTION 10. **GHSS 3.05 (3) (a) 2. is repealed.**

SECTION 11. GHSS 3.05 (3) (a) 3. (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 3.05 (3) (a) 3. Completed at least 4 years of professional experience in hydrologic work of a character satisfactory to the professional hydrologist section, ~~or completed at least 3 years of professional experience in hydrologic work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional hydrology,~~ demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of hydrologic work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this subdivision must have been performed under the supervision of one or more of the following:

SECTION 12. GHSS 3.05 (3) (b) (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 3.05 (3) (b) To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant under s. 470.04 (3) (c) 2., Stats., shall have done all of the following:

SECTION 13. GHSS 3.05 (3) (b) 2. is repealed.

SECTION 14. GHSS 3.05 (3) (b) 3. is amended to read:

GHSS 3.05 (3) (b) 3. Completed at least 6 years of professional experience in hydrologic work of a character satisfactory to the professional hydrologist section, ~~or completed at least 5 years of professional experience in hydrologic work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional hydrology,~~ demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of hydrologic work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this subdivision must have been performed under a peer review system approved by the professional hydrologist section.

SECTION 15. GHSS 4.02 Note is amended to read:

Note: ~~Applications Instructions for applications are available upon request to the Professional Soil Scientist 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 16. GHSS 4.05 (2) (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 4.05 (2) FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals

of soil science. To be eligible to take the fundamentals examination, an applicant shall have ~~done one of the following:~~ **completed at least 4 years of experience** which is determined by the professional soil scientist section to be equivalent to the requirements of s. GHSS 4.03 (1) or 4.04.

SECTION 17. GHSS 4.05 (2) (a) to (c) are repealed.

SECTION 18. GHSS 4.05 (3) (a) (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 4.05 (3) (a) To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant under s. 470.04 (4) (c) 1., Stats., shall have done all of the following:

SECTION 19. **GHSS 4.05 (3) (a) 2. is repealed.**

SECTION 20. GHSS 4.05 (3) (a) 3. (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 4.05 (3) (a) 3. Completed at least 4 years of professional experience in soil science work of a character satisfactory to the professional soil scientist section, ~~or completed at least 3 years of professional experience in soil science work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional soil science,~~ demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of soil science work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this subdivision must have been performed under the supervision of one or more of the following:

SECTION 21. GHSS 4.05 (3) (b) (intro.) is amended to read:

GHSS 4.05 (3) (b) To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant under s. 470.04 (4) (c) 2., Stats., shall have done all of the following:

SECTION 22. GHSS 4.05 (3) (b) 2. is repealed.

SECTION 23. GHSS 4.05 (3) (b) 3. is amended to read:

GHSS 4.05 (3) (b) 3. Completed at least 6 years of professional experience in soil science work of a character satisfactory to the professional soil scientist section, ~~or completed at least 5 years of professional experience in soil science work of a character satisfactory to the section if the applicant has one or more advanced degrees relevant to the practice of professional soil science,~~ demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of soil science work. At least one year of the qualifying professional experience under this subdivision must have been performed under a peer review system approved by the professional soil scientist section.

SECTION 24. GHSS 4.06 (10) Note is amended to read:

Note: Application forms are available ~~upon request to the Professional Soil Scientist 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 25. 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 _____

Chair

GHSS 2.06 Examinations.

- (1) REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS.** An applicant for initial licensure as a professional geologist shall pass examinations for the professional practice of geology approved by the professional geologist section. Required examinations shall include a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice of geology examination.
- GHSS 2.06(2)** **(2) FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION.** The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of geology. To be eligible to take the fundamentals examination, an applicant shall have done one of the following:
- (a)** Completed at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours of course credits in geology and be of not less than second semester senior standing in a bachelor program meeting the requirements of s. GHSS 2.05.
 - (b)** Completed at least 4 years of experience, which is determined by the professional geologist section to be equivalent to the requirements of s. GHSS 2.04 (1).
- (3) PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE EXAMINATION.** The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply geologic principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional geology. To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant shall have done one of the following:
- (a)** To be eligible to take the principles and practice examination, an applicant under s. 470.04 (2) (c) 1., Stats., shall have done all of the following:
- 1. Met the requirements under s. 470.04 (2) (a), Stats.
- GHSS 2.06(3)(a)2.** 2. Met the requirement under s. 470.04 (2)(b), Stats., or have at least 5 years of professional experience in addition to the qualifying experience under subd. 3., which is determined by the professional geologist section to be substantially equivalent to the requirement under s. 470.04 (2) (b), Stats.
- 470.04(2)(b)** **(b)** Subject to sub. (7), that he or she has a bachelor's degree with course credits in geology of a variety and nature sufficient to constitute a geology major from a college or university approved by the examining board.

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.	Adoption Order is submitted and under review by the LRB.	Rule effective 9/1/2025.
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.	Adoption Order is submitted and under review by the LRB.	Rule effective 9/1/2025.
	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.	Rule drafting.	Board approval of preliminary rule draft.