



## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Utah Professional Geologist Licensing Board  
Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing  
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Dear Dr. Bowman,

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) is developing a new membership category, tentatively titled "Nationally Accredited Professional Geologist" (NAPG). This category will strengthen its current Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) program. A NAPG will meet requirements consistent with state licensure. These include passing the Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology Exams as administered by the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG), and meeting additional requirements for continuing professional development. AIPG believes this new membership category is necessary for geologists that may practice in states that do not have licensing or for international geologists needing a stronger credential than that provided by the current CPG program. A more complete description of AIPG's proposed program is provided in the attached white paper on this subject along with a listing of AIPG's recent activities in support of state licensure.

We recognize that it could be construed that AIPG is competing with state licensure for geologists. This is not our intention and under the state statutes establishing licensure, not possible. We view the new category as a geological analog to the Board Certifications that are ubiquitous in Medicine. AIPG respectfully requests that your Board provide suggestions or comments to our Proposed NAPG Category in the form of a formal response to this letter. Your feedback will allow AIPG to responsibly move forward with our Proposed NAPG Category while addressing any potential concerns from the regulatory community.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you would like to discuss this further or have questions about AIPG's new membership category.

Sincerely yours,

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## **AIPG WHITE PAPER**

### **AIPG'S HISTORY OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION FOR GEOLOGISTS**

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) was formed more than 50 years ago to support the profession of geology. Over this long period of time our profession, like many others, has undergone changes as a result of the evolving needs of society. Historically, locating and extracting non-renewable resources for private companies dominated professional geology. Now, geologic practice is equally divided between resource extraction and the fields of hydrogeology, engineering and environmental geology, all of which impact the public welfare. As a result, thirty-one states and Puerto Rico have introduced licensing programs for geologists to ensure that this work is carried out by ethical and technically competent people.

In the early 1960's, AIPG developed the Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) program to provide geologists a mechanism to obtain recognition as experienced professionals with high ethical standards. The international community also recognizes that the CPG conveys high standards of ethics and professionalism outside of the United States. For example, Canada's laws require Qualified Persons (QP) to review and approve new mining projects as a way to protect the investment community from fraudulent practices. AIPG's CPG program is recognized by Canada as a key qualification for QP status. State licensure in itself is not acceptable to Canada as a QP qualification. Additionally, the CPG program is recognized by the European Federation of Geologists, the Australian Institute of Geologists, the Geological Society of London, and is acceptable to JORC, CRIRSCO, and SAMREC for geoscientists applying for QP/CP status for review of mining projects.

AIPG believes that a new membership category is needed to meet the increase in professional and technical responsibilities that have resulted in the proliferation of state licensure and the ongoing international view that certification and licensure are important to protect the public worldwide. Our new membership category, tentatively titled "Nationally Accredited Professional Geologist" (NAPG), will have requirements consistent with state licensure including the passage of the Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology Exams administered by the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) and the meeting of annual requirements for continuing professional development. AIPG has been and will continue working closely with ASBOG regarding examination requirements.

We realize that it could be construed that AIPG is offering an alternative to state licensure and that the new member category may therefore undermine state licensure. This is actually not possible under the state statutes establishing licensure. AIPG strongly supports state licensure. In recent years, there has been an effort by state legislatures to revoke state licensure for geologists and other professionals. When legislation is introduced, AIPG member sections are the first to support licensed geologists by contributing to the hiring of lobbyists, initiating letter and email campaigns against the legislation, attending meetings with legislators, and participating in public hearings so that legislative committees understand what geologists in their states do to protect public health and safety.

Some recent examples of AIPG actions are included in the following list.

## AIPG RECENT ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF STATE LICENSURE

- 2018:  
Arizona: HB 2410 introduced to deregulate geologists. AIPG representatives met with Rep. Mosley, the author of the legislation. The bill, although still active, is not expected to make it to committee for consideration.  
  
Florida: The Florida Association of Professional Geologists (FAPG – AIPG affiliate) initiated a fundraising campaign to oppose House Bill 15, which would deregulate geologic businesses.
- 2017:  
Florida: The FAPG opposed HB 7047, which would have deregulated landscape architects and geologists. The bill died in committee.  
  
Illinois: AIPG fought HB 1969/SB 1821 that proposed to eliminate geologic registration and due to their success, preserved geologic registration in Illinois.
- 2016:  
Arizona: AIPG led the effort to fight HB 2613 that would have eliminated state licensure for geologists. AIPG and others retained a lobbyist and mobilized members to contact their state representatives. No other bill introduced in 2016 received as much public outcry. Geology registration was retained.  
  
Florida: SB 1050/HB1187 attempted to remove licensure from a broad variety of professions. FAPG, working with a lobbyist, succeeded in preserving licensure for Geologists.  
  
New York: The most recent state to institute licensure for geologists. AIPG played a prominent role in supporting the effort to win licensure.
- 2013:  
Missouri: AIPG joined the Missouri Geologists Consortium and fought HB 659, which proposed to remove licensing and registration for registered geologists. The Consortium was successful in retaining geologic registration in Missouri.
- 2011:  
Florida: FAPG mobilized to oppose HB 4133 which sought to repeal provisions relating to regulation, licensure, and discipline of professional geologists, the state Board of Professional Geologists, and practice of professional geology by firms, corporations, and partnerships. The bill was withdrawn from consideration.



State of Utah  
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS  
LICENSING BOARD

March 14, 2018

R. Douglas Bartlett, President  
American Institute of Professional Geologists  
1333 West 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 211  
Westminster, Colorado 80234-2710

**Re: American Institute of Professional Geologists Proposed Membership Category Comments**

Mr. Bartlett,

Thank you for providing the Utah Professional Geologists Licensing Board the opportunity to provide comment on the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) proposed *Nationally Accredited Professional Geologist* membership category. While we appreciate the efforts AIPG has put forth in defending state Professional Geologist licensure in other states and in helping to promote the geological profession, we have a few concerns with the new membership category as described below.

1. Current State of Utah code 58-76-501 (<https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title58/Chapter76/58-76-5501.html>) defines unlawful conduct as using the title of "Professional Geologist".

*58-76-501. Unlawful conduct.*

*In addition to the definition in Subsection 58-1-501(1), "unlawful conduct" includes:*

*(1) using the title "Professional Geologist" or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or designations, which represent recognized professional geological disciplines indicating that the person using them is a professional geologist, unless the person holds a valid license issued under this chapter; or*

*(2) as a corporation, proprietorship, partnership, or limited liability company, engaging in or representing that the entity is engaging in the practice of geology before the public, unless at least one individual employee of the entity holds a valid license issued under this chapter.*

As the Utah statutorily-defined title of "Professional Geologist" is used in the proposed AIPG membership category, it appears the use of the AIPG name by a person in Utah could be a violation of State of Utah law. It could easily be construed that a geologist using the proposed *Nationally Accredited Professional Geologist* membership category as a title (such as on a business card, letter, etc.) would violate State of Utah law, which is similar to many other states that license Professional Geologists. This violation would then result in a disciplinary action by the Utah Division of Professional & Occupational Licensing. An official opinion by the Utah Attorney General's office would help to clarify this issue.

2. A complete definition and description of the *Nationally Accredited Professional Geologist* proposed membership category in one document would be helpful for the Utah board to provide additional comments. The *AIPG's History of Professional Certification for Geologists* white paper attached to your undated letter emailed on March 8, 2018, only contains general requirements for the new membership category:

*...requirements consistent with state licensure including the passage of the Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology Exams administered by the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) and the meeting of annual requirements for continuing professional development.*

Information provided on the AIPG website (<http://aipg.org/cpd>) indicates a minimum of 16 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours are required for *Nationally Licensed Geologists* (which we understand to be the initial name of the proposed membership category that is now referred to as a *Nationally Accredited Professional Geologist*). The acceptance of unverifiable “private reading of professional publications” is unusual and concerning.

While the State of Utah does not require licensed Professional Geologists to obtain yearly professional development time, the state does require professional development for licensed Professional Engineers as detailed in Utah Administrative Rule R156-22-304 (<http://dopl.utah.gov/laws/R156-22.pdf>). The rule limits the number of hours in specific types of defined professional development activities. Without these limits, a professional could obtain all their professional development time in one category. As an example, it would unlikely be appropriate to claim someone is advancing their professional development by solely obtaining all of the required time in the AIPG CPD “industry engagement” category.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed AIPG *Nationally Accredited Professional Geologist* membership category. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact us at [doplureau5@utah.gov](mailto:doplureau5@utah.gov).

RICHARD G. ALLIS, P.G.

STEVE D. BOWMAN, PH.D., P.G, P.E.

DAVID R. FRIZ, P.G.

DAVID R. FRIZ, P.G.

JUSTIN ANDREW ANDERSEN, PM



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF GEOLOGY**  
**ASBOG® 2018 ADMINISTRATOR'S WORKSHOP,**  
**ANNUAL MEETING AND FALL COE WORKSHOP**

**MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA**  
**OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 3, 2018**



**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**LOCATION:** Monterey Marriott  
350 Calle Principal  
Monterey, California 93940

**SCHEDULE:**

<b>OCT 30, 2018</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATOR'S WORKSHOP</b>
<b>OCT 31, 2018</b>	<b>ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING</b>
<b>NOV 1, 2018</b>	<b>FIELD TRIP</b>
<b>NOV 2, 2018</b>	<b>COE WORKSHOP</b>
<b>NOV 3, 2018</b>	<b>COE WORKSHOP</b>

**GROUP RATE:** **\$209 Standard Suites**  
Hotel occupancy tax is currently 14.25%

The room block rate is available from: **Sunday October 28, 2018 through Sunday November 4, 2018**

Check-in time: 4:00 p.m.  
Check-out time: 12:00 p.m.

**RESERVATIONS**

<b>Group Name:</b>	<b>National Association of State of Geology</b>
<b>Group Code:</b>	<b>SBG</b>
<b>Phone Reservations:</b>	<b>1-877-901-6632</b>
<b>Web Page Reservations:</b>	<b><a href="https://aws.passkey.com/go/2018asbog">https://aws.passkey.com/go/2018asbog</a></b>

**Deadline for Reservations: October 8, 2018**

**AMENITIES:** Complimentary high-speed wireless Internet is provided in each guest room.

**PARKING:** Valet: \$25/night; Off-site parking: \$7.00/night.



**TRANSPORTATION:** This area is serviced by the Monterey Regional Airport - MRY (American Airlines, Alaska Airlines and United) and the San Jose International Airport – SJC

Commercial shuttle service to hotel from San Jose International Airport:  
Monterey Airbus <https://www.montereyairbus.com/>

*The hotel does not offer complimentary airport shuttle service*

**LOCATION:** Monterey is a scenic California coastal city with a population of nearly 28,000, increasing to 70,000 during the tourist season. The city, located about 115 miles south of San Francisco and 350 miles north of Los Angeles, overlooks the pristine Monterey Bay.

**WEATHER:** The climate of Monterey is regulated by its proximity to the Pacific Ocean resulting in a cool Mediterranean climate that can be quite variable. Participants may want to bring a light jacket, as Monterey's average high/low temperature in the fall is 66 °F / 50 °F. Average annual precipitation is 19.5 inches, with most rainfall occurring between October and April.



**ATTRACTIONS:** This year's location is a spectacular tourist destination with a huge variety of activities. Notable attractions include the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Cannery Row, Fisherman's Wharf and the annual Monterey Jazz Festival. For anyone wishing to plan an extension of their trip, here are just a few of the many resources available to help you.

General Tourist Information: <https://www.seemonterey.com/>.

**Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail:** <https://www.seemonterey.com/things-to-do/parks/coastal-trail/>. This paved trail is perfect for locals and tourists alike. At the closest point, it is a few hundred yards from the Marriott.

**Big Sur Food and Wine Festival:** <https://www.seemonterey.com/events/food-wine/big-sur-food-wine/>. This event will be held the weekend of the COE.

**Golf Activities:** <https://www.seemonterey.com/things-to-do/golf/>. While avid golfers may think exclusively of Pebble Beach, there are several very affordable courses with ocean views. The **Pacific Grove** public course is a local secret located adjacent to the ocean <https://www.playpacificgrove.com/>. **Bayonet and Black Horse** are two public courses located on the former Ft. Ord with beautiful ocean views and rates that are significantly less than Pebble Beach <http://www.bayonetblackhorse.com/club/scripts/public/public.asp?NS=PUBLIC>. Many courses in Monterey County offer Veteran Discounts.

**Hiking and Mt. Biking:** <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/california/fort-ord-national-monument>. Fort Ord National Monument has 86 miles of public trails in an area that until recently was off limits to the public.

**Adventures by the Sea:** <http://adventuresbythesea.com/>. If you want to rent a kayak, bicycle, paddle board, or surrey, Adventures by the Sea is the place to go. The closest location is within a five minute walk of the Marriott.

**Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca:** The Pirelli World Challenge is held at Laguna Seca the weekend before the COE. <http://www.mazdaraceway.com/calendar/2018-10> For those with the NEED for SPEED, check out the **Skip Barber Racing School** <http://skipbarber.com/>.

**Carmel by the Sea** <https://www.carmelcalifornia.com/>. World class shopping, wine tasting, restaurants and art galleries.

**National Steinbeck Center** in Salinas <http://www.steinbeck.org>

**Cannery Row** <https://canneryrow.com/experience-cannery-row/>

**J&M Sport Fishing** <https://jmsportfishing.com/> or do a simple google search to shop around for other charters!

**Monterey Bay Whale Watch** <http://www.qowhales.com/>

**Monterey Bay Aquarium** <http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/>

**Aquarius Dive Shop** <http://aquariusdivers.com/> **Breakwater Scuba** <http://breakwaterscuba.com/> or **Bamboo Reef Scuba Center** <https://www.bambooreef.com/cms/>

**Pfeiffer Big Sur and Ft. Ord Dunes State Parks:** <https://www.parks.ca.gov/>

**Point Sur Lighthouse** is a popular Big Sur attraction. <https://www.seemonterey.com/things-to-do/parks/point-sur-lightstation/> as is the **Point Pinos lighthouse** <http://www.pointpinoslighthouse.org/visit.html>