



AEG: Meet Rick Kolb

Rick Kolb received his bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Montana in 1979 and then went to the University of Texas at Austin for his master's, which he received in 1981. At that time, the jobs were in the oil patch. A job in oil turned out not be the right fit for Rick, so at the ripe age of 40, it was time for a career change.

His wife liked the beaches, but Rick liked the mountains (preferably the Rockies, but the wife wanted to stay in the east), so he took two courses in hydrogeology at the University of New Orleans and did a job search, sending out resumes to around 20 companies in North Carolina – a couple of hours from the beach, 2 ½ hours to the mountains. He was hired by Law Engineering in Raleigh in 1990 and worked as an environmental geologist there for an amazingly long time (that is, for the late 20th and early 21st century).



Rick was introduced to the Association of Engineering Geologists and was a member for two years but dropped out after returning to the environmental department as a project manager. He observed the purchase of Law Engineering by MACTEC Engineering in 2002, which resulted in little change in the Raleigh office. Rick rejoined AEG in 2005 as vice chair of the Carolinas Section and then served as chair from 2006-2009. He went on to join the Student and Young Professional Support Committee and the K-12 Education Committee.

Eventually work got in the way of his AEG activities, and he had to leave the SYSPC, but he hopes to one day rejoin and also join the Advertising, Sponsor and Exhibitor Committee. He has made many friends by joining the committees and attending AEG's annual meetings. Through networking with AEG, Rick made his way to Duncklee & Dunham, where he works today. Rick is also the co-chair of the Advocacy Committee.