



## Update on Licensure and Legislative Activities

**Ken Neal, Co-Chair, Licensure Committee**

Listed below are updates on recent and upcoming licensure and legislative activities:

- The State of California and the States of Oregon and Washington have agreed to recognize each other's engineering geology specialty exam. In the future, Licensed Engineering Geologists from either Washington or Oregon wishing to obtain an engineering geology certification in California can, if they meet California's minimum experience and education qualifications and take the California-specific examination, be licensed as an engineering geologist. Likewise, a Certified Engineering Geologist from California may, if they meet Oregon or Washington's minimum and experience qualifications, be licensed in Washington or Certified in Oregon as an engineering geologist without further examination. Washington and California have a similar agreement for Licensed (Washington) or Certified (California) Hydrogeologists.
- Washington geologists are again initiating legislation for an exemption to RCW 18.104.180 and .193 that requires a water well operator's license to construct and abandon wells. An exemption was granted for engineers, architects, and surveyors when the act was originally passed in the early 1990s, prior to the licensing of geologists. The proposed amendment would extend the exemption to licensed geologists. This bill is somewhat contentious because the drilling industry views this as a threat to their livelihood. Last session, the bill stalled in the House.
- Washington Congresswoman Suzan DelBene is drafting a bill entitled the "Landslide Hazard Mitigation Act." Ken Neal and Mark Molinari reviewed the bill on behalf of AEG and submitted review comments to Ben Barasky, Ms. DelBene's Legislative Assistant. The last word we have received is that Mr. Barasky was working with the USGS in drafting language.
- The Licensure Committee recommended, as a service to licensed AEG members and as a membership attraction to those licensed geologists who are not currently members, that AEG establish an on-line system to list the names of licensed members by states (and, perhaps cities), and types of license(s). We expect this service to be available soon.
- Finally, as part of the governance restructuring process, we have been updating the policy that outlines the Professional Legislative Support Fund and how it needs to operate in the new organization. This will be a topic of discussion for the Board of Directors in their Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh.

We are continuing to look for opportunities to assist our members in initiating new licensure programs. If you are interested in licensure for your state, contact one of our Co-Chairs, Ken Neal at [kengneal@aol.com](mailto:kengneal@aol.com) or Charles Nestle at [ctnestle@socal.rr.com](mailto:ctnestle@socal.rr.com).