

Report From Agency

**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