

A Review and Discussion of Continuing Education for Professional Geologists: Why do we need it?

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Acknowledgement

- **Gil Cumbee, Member, KY Board of Registration for Professional Geologists**
(Composed DRAFT guidelines for implementation and requirements for Continuing Education activities)

Presentation Outline

- Purpose of Continuing Education
- Background Information about Licensure and Continuing Education
- Administration – State Board of Registration
- Recordkeeping and Reporting PDHs
- Auditing and Compliance
- Electronic Survey Results
- Audience Discussion

Purpose of Continuing Education

- To maintain or enhance knowledge base and professional skills
- To become knowledgeable of latest technical improvements
- To interact with colleagues and other professionals
- To “give back” or share part of your knowledge base to colleagues and other professionals as a guest lecturer, instructor, officer, volunteer, or mentor

Who is affected?

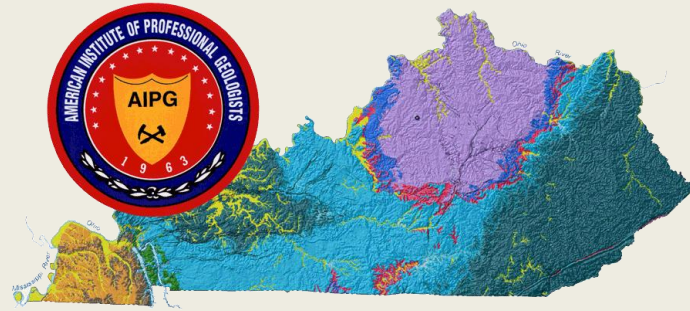
- Registered Professional Geologists (RPGs) or
- Licensed Professional Geologists (LPGs)

Who is exempt?

- First year PG
- PG who claims inactive or retired status
- PG who is > 70 yrs old and has $+35$ yrs experience
- PG in temporary or active duty in Armed Forces
- PG who is physically disabled, has illness, etc.

Background Information about Professional Geologists Licensure

- Indiana LPG Licensure – est. 1980
- Kentucky RPG Licensure – est. 1992
- Illinois LPG Licensure – est. 1995
- Tennessee LPG Licensure – est. 2007
- A total of 30 states and one US territory (Puerto Rico) have geologist registration, licensure, or certification laws
- Roots of State Licensure from CPGs of AIPG



What is AIPG? (est. 1963)

1. An organization that provides national certification for professional geologists.
2. It deals with national geological issues and provides training for professional geologists.
3. It engages in public outreach so that the public understands geology and geological issues.

KY-AIPG Professional Development Courses 2011 - 2015

- Site Assessment and Remediation
- Karst Hydrogeology and Contaminated Site Assessment and Remediation
- An Overview of Environmental Geophysics
- Residual LNAPL Impacted Sites
- Aquifer Characterization-Groundwater Behavior in the Subsurface
- Gas-Shale Exploration and Production in KY
- Modern Carbonate Depositional Environments

States Requiring Continuing Education for Professional Geologists

- Alabama
- Delaware
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- New Hampshire
- Minnesota
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Texas

Administration

Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists
(“The Board”) <http://www.bpg.ky.gov>

- Under Office of Occupations and Professions
- The Board is a self-supporting agency and receives no General Fund tax appropriation
- The Board is funded entirely through fees assessed for licensing its professionals
- Composed of one Chair, two Members, one Public-at-Large Member, and one Ex-Officio Member

Basis of Credit

- **Professional Development Hour (PDH)**
 - One (1) hour of registered attendance or contact = one (1) PDH
 - Attending = contact hour
 - Presenting = 2X contact hour
 - PDH is not the same value as a CEU (used by Professional Engineers)

Implementation and Requirements

- Biennial (two-year) CE renewal period, implemented in a two-tier system
- For the first four years of CE program, 20 PDHs are required for each biennial renewal period
- After the first four years of CE program, 30 PDHs are required for each biennial period
- A max of 15 PDHs can be carried over into the next biennial renewal period

Sources of Continuing Education

- National: GSA, AAPG, NGWA, AIPG, etc.
- State: IKGS, PGI, GSK, IGS, KOGA, IOGA, etc.
- Academic: UK, IU, USI, WKU, etc.
- Regulatory and Safety Related: OSHA, MSHA
- Employer (In-House): seminars, workshops, distinguished or invited lectures that are geology based
- Other: online course, etc.

Continuing Education Activities

- (1) Formal Educational Activities
 - Completion of college or university sponsored course (for credit or audit) or short course pertaining to geology or closely related subjects. Online courses accepted.
 - Completion of one (1) college semester credit hour = 15 PDH
 - Completion of one (1) college semester audit hour = 7 PDH

Continuing Education Activities (con't)

- (2) Professional or Technical Presentations (attending or leading)
- (3) Field Trips (attending or leading)
- (4) Guest Teacher or Instructor of a Geology class at college or university level
- (5) Authorship of peer reviewed and published book, paper, abstract, article
- (6) Active as an elected officer or appointed committee member of any formal geological society or organization

Continuing Education Activities (con't)

- (7) Mentoring or tutoring a GIT or young professional who is preparing for ASBOG or licensure exam
- (8) Patents (must be relevant to geoscience and may include technical, ethical or managerial content)
- (9) Software programs published (same qualifying criteria as above)
- (10) Ethics (watching ethics videos online from AIPG or AAPG); at least one 1 PDH will be required for each biennial period

Reciprocity

- Non resident PG's continuing education requirements may be satisfied if he provides evidence that he has met the continuing education requirements of that licensee's resident jurisdiction
- There is no need to duplicate CE units for KY if you are a licensed resident of another state that requires CE

Recordkeeping

- The PG will be responsible for maintaining records of his activities used to support the PDH units to be claimed for each biennial renewal period
- The records should include:
 - a written log listing the activity title, date, location, sponsoring organization, brief description, presenter's name (if applicable), and the PDH or contact units earned or awarded
 - Attendance completion certificates or other documents supporting contact hours or PDH units

Reporting

- On the biennial reporting form, the PG shall list the activities, dates, locations, etc. and the PDH units he is claiming (obtained from his written log) for the biennial renewal period
- The PG shall certify whether or not he has met the requirements of the specified PDH units for the biennial renewal period
- The PG will submit his reporting form to The Board before October 1 of each biennium

Auditing

- Biennial renewal forms received after October 1 shall be subject to an audit process to be determined and established by the Board
- The Board will have the authority to request a PG to furnish additional or incomplete information and or attendance completion certificates or other records supporting evidence of attendance for PDH units claimed
- Approximately 5% of the biennial renewal forms will be audited in a random selection process

Auditing (con't)

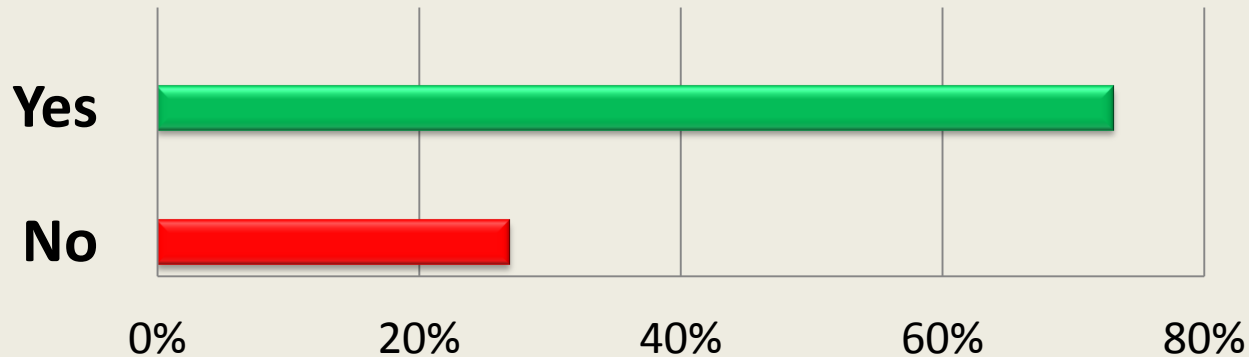
- If the Board disallows credit because an activity does not meet the requirements of CE Activities, or if the PDHs are less than 30, the PG will have 120 calendar days after notification to substantiate the original claim or earn other PDHs to meet the CE requirements
- Failure to comply with the CE requirements will be a violation of KRS 332a, subjecting the PG to disciplinary action

Opinion Poll of Continuing Education

- Gauge support for Continuing Education
- Determine affiliation of respondent
- Allow for written comments
- Used independent “Survey Monkey” polling service – anonymous responses
- Poll date Sept. 24 – Oct. 26, 2015
- 277 respondents

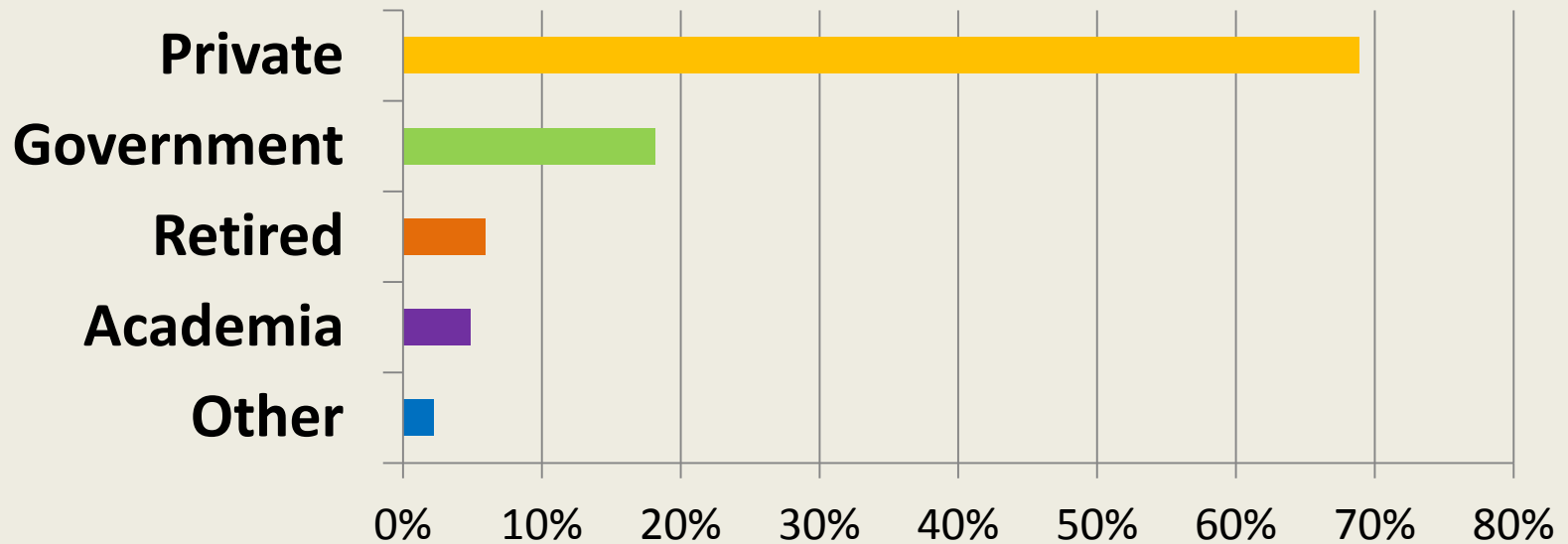
Do you support revising KRS 322A.060 to include continuing education credits for the renewal of a professional geologist license?

Survey Response



Answer Choices	Response (%)	Response (n)
Yes	73.09	201
No	26.91	74
Total	100.00	275

Respondent Affiliation



Answer Choices	Response (%)	Response (n)
Private	68.89	186
Government	18.15	49
Retired	5.93	16
Academia	4.81	13
Other	2.22	6
Total	100.00	270

Please consider leaving a comment explaining your position, especially if you voted “no.”

- “Too much cost associated with maintaining licenses and certifications.”
- “It is very hard to get support from my employer...would cost me time and money and be too hard to keep up.”
- “Maintaining a certification and/or license has become quite expensive. My company is less and less supportive of paying for C.E....”

Please consider leaving a comment explaining your position, especially if you voted “no.”

- “I would only be in favor... if the courses were at no cost to the Geologist.”
- “Difficult to implement with the diverse backgrounds, disciplines, employers, and geographic spread... also would be a cost associated with tracking this.”
- “My employer does not support (\$) continuing education unless it is required.”

Please consider leaving a comment explaining your position, especially if you voted “no.”

- “I am within a few years of retirement and... I really don’t have an interest in going back to school.”
- “I live out of state and the time and expense of continuing education would be prohibitive.”
- “Geologists already have a degree saying they have met the requirements.”
- “I am disabled.”

Please consider leaving a comment explaining your position, especially if you voted “no.”

- “I would support the requirement... only if the credits can be obtained with online courses.”
- “I might support it but it would depend on the hours required and what type are acceptable.”
- “I would consider changing my vote if I knew what kind of CE you are talking about.”
- “I am required to take 16 PDH a year for my land surveying licenses and I have no desire to spend any more time taking classes...”

Please consider leaving a comment explaining your position, especially if you voted “no.”

- “I think it is a huge mistake trying to say we need to be equal to the professional engineers.”
- “This action would just be creating more bureaucracy that cripples folks livelihood...I am distrustful of the true intensions of this...as this a gain of power over the individual.”
- “I am only interested in oil and gas exploration in Kentucky.”

So why do we need C.E.?

- To maintain/enhance knowledge base and skills
- To keep up with changing technology
- To learn what other geologists are learning
- To contribute some of your knowledge base to younger and other professionals as a participant, speaker, mentor, leader, officer, or volunteer to a professional organization of your choosing
- Because its fun and not a time/cost burden

What's next?

- Continue “Open Discussion” period for Continuing Education
- Review, complete, and circulate written DRAFT of Continuing Education Guidelines
- Establish criteria for written formal response period and timeline
- Select elected legislator to sponsor and write bill for Continuing Education
- Introduce Bill in General Assembly

Questions and Discussion

