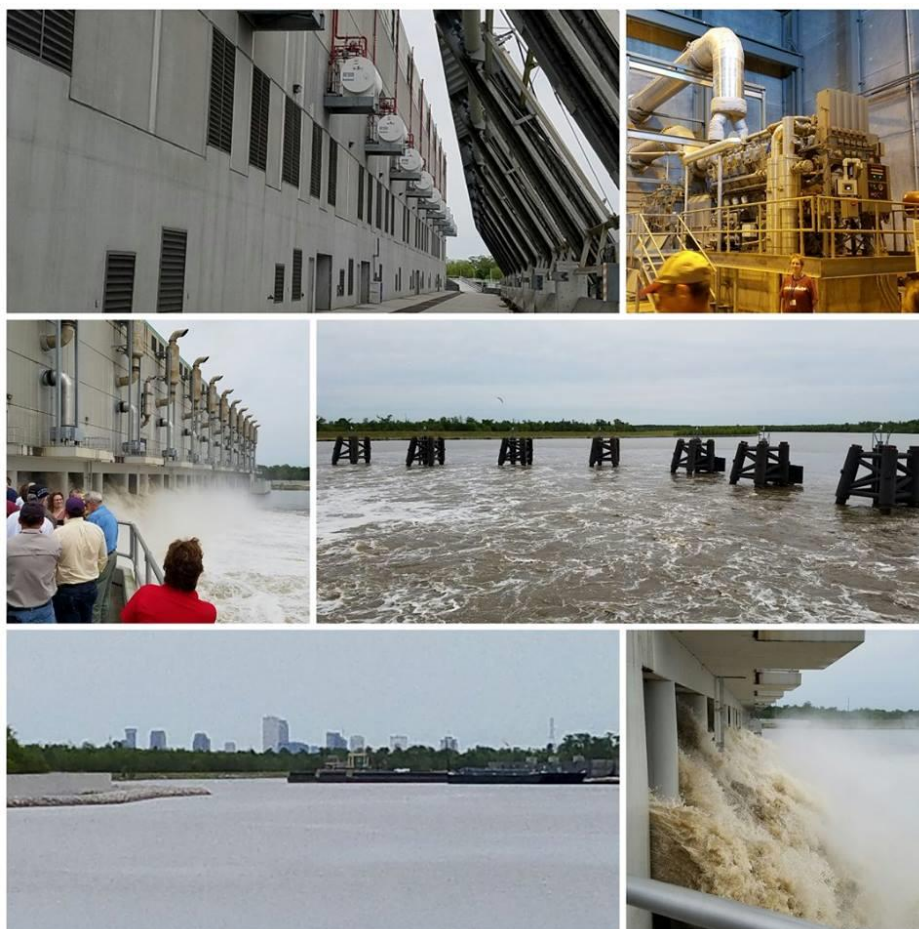


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ASBOG held its spring 2016 Council of Examiners (COE) meeting in Baton Rouge on April 7 – 9. The group took a field trip to the local Mississippi River flood protection system.

News from the Bayou State

ASBOG Spring COE Meeting in Baton Rouge

On April 7 and 8, 2016, the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) held its spring Council of Examiners (COE) workshop in Baton Rouge. The Council, composed of licensed professional geologists who are subject matter experts from the different member states, convenes after each testing session to evaluate the materials that are used for the examinations and to give examiners opportunities to refine and improve the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) examinations and the testing process. During the spring 2016 workshop, the group reviewed the upcoming October 2016 examination and then reviewed the March 2016 examination that had just been

administered to 766 FG candidates and 319 PG candidates. The Louisiana Board of Professional Geologists (LBOPG) is the newest member to ASBOG® and brought six subject matter experts, two of which are current members of the LBOPG.

The Honorable Michael Merritt, a commissioner on the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority West (SLFPA-W) and also a licensed Louisiana Professional Geoscientist, led a field trip for the subject matter experts on Saturday, April 9, 2016. The field trip focused on understanding the geology and geologic hazards associated with a major delta system, with particular emphasis on the flood protection measures implemented following Hurricane Katrina.

Policy for Using the Professional Geoscientist Seal

LBOPG members have been working with representatives from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines for using the Professional Geoscientist seal. This working group created guidelines that are now available on the LBOPG website, www.lbopg.org, under “Resources,” then “Professional Seal.” In short, all geologic analytical work submitted to the state for approval must be sealed. In reports in which only portions of the work are geologic, those portions must be sealed.

Check out the Website

The LBOPG website provides professional geoscientists with the latest information on Louisiana licensure requirements, applying for either Geologist-In-Training (GIT) certification or Professional Geoscientist licensure, and official testing—including detailed instructions for applying for the examinations, testing sites, and deadlines. Details on what constitutes continuing education and ways to satisfy the state requirement for professional development—the possibilities are nearly limitless—are also on the website, as are a number of other valuable resources.

The site also includes information on all official board meetings, including meeting times and dates, agendas, and minutes. Take time to check out the website and discover all that it has to offer. If you have suggestions for additions or improvements, please let us know at apply@lbopg.org.

Licensing Progress

Since its inception in January 2011 when the Louisiana Professional Geoscience Practice Act was passed, LBOPG has developed and implemented a licensure process for individual geoscientists who perform geological work in the state. Of the nearly 2,000 grandfathered applicants, more than 50% have completed the licensing application process. Today, nearly 1,100 professional geoscientists are licensed in Louisiana. This number is expected

to continue to grow. As a reminder, the State of Louisiana requires that all geologic analytical work in the state be performed by licensed geoscientists.

If you know someone who grandfathered but who has not yet completed the licensing process, please encourage that person to do so as soon as possible.

Reciprocal Licensing

The Louisiana Professional Geoscience Practice Act authorizes LBOPG to issue licenses to applicants who provide proof of licensure or registration under requirements that the LBOPG determines to be substantially similar to those established by the Act. Currently, LBOPG has reciprocity agreements with Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas.

ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam and Professional Geoscientists Exam

LBOPG is a member of ASBOG and offers certification through examination using ASBOG materials. LBOPG administered both the Fundamentals of Geology exam and the Professional Geoscientist exam for the first time on March 18, 2016. These exams will be administered again on September 30, 2016, and the application process for that testing date is now closed. The next testing date will be March 17, 2017. The deadline for completing the LBOPG Proctoring/Verification form for either or both exams is December 31, 2016 and, once approved by LBOPG, the ASBOG Geology Examination Candidate Request Form deadline is January 31, 2017. Please pass this information to unlicensed colleagues and suggest that they go to the “Resources” tab at www.lbogp.org and click on “ASBOG” for more information and the Proctoring/Verification form to apply to take either exam.

Newest LBOPG Board Member

LBOPG welcomes Thomas C. Klekamp, who joined the board on June 8, 2016. He was appointed by the governor and nominated by the New Orleans Geological Society to represent the 1st Congressional District.