

# Wisconsin Section of American Institute of Professional Geologists



June 20, 2018

Wisconsin Senators & Representatives

**Subject:** Success Story for Wisconsin

- Keep Geologists Licensed in the Future

Dear Legislators:

Wisconsin American Institute of Professional Geologists will be once again holding **Geology Day at the Capitol** in **Spring 2019**. Geology companies and organizations will have display tables in the Rotunda on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor show casing our many successful projects throughout Wisconsin. Until then, *we wanted to let you know we appreciate the continued support of our legislators* and provide you with the history of Professional Geologist licensing in our State.

The State of Wisconsin saw a need for professional geologist licensing in the late 1980s; specifically, in mine siting, solid waste facility siting, operation of solid waste landfills, and remediation clean-up activities. Wisconsin understood that licensed professional geologists help grow the economy and keep us safe at the same time.

New mining, construction and remediation efforts need the licensed professional geologists more than ever before.

## Past Successes

In 1997, Wisconsin's Governor signed into law the State Statute Wis. Stats. Chapter 470 "EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS "; which was just updated in **2015-2016**. See <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/470.pdf> for more details.

This law requires that all professional geologists, professional hydrologists, and professional soil scientists be licensed by the Wisconsin Board.

Since 1997, Wisconsin AIPG Chapter members have heard proposals by various legislative members that licensing geologists may not be needed in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and the Wisconsin Department of Natural

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Resources explained the need for the continued use of licensed geologists, hydrologists and soil scientists in Wisconsin, and helped detail that need into State Statute and Code requirements.

### Current Successes

The following list of required licensed geologist statutes and codes established by the Wisconsin Legislators and Governors are making a **positive economic** difference in Wisconsin:

#### Wis. Statutes 295 - Preservation of marketable nonmetallic mineral deposits

Beginning on October 14, 1997, a landowner may register land owned by that person under this section if all the following apply:

The land has a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit, as evidenced by the certification of a **professional geologist** licensed under ch. 470 or a professional engineer registered under s. 443.04 and by any other information required under sub. (4).295.20(1)(a)1.1.

#### Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 135 – Non-metallic Mineral Deposits

The registration documents for a marketable nonmetallic mineral deposit shall include the licensed **professional geologist's** or registered professional engineer's seal.

#### Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 500.05(4) - Solid Waste Facilities

Initial site reports, feasibility reports, plans of operation, site investigation, remedial action options reports and any other reports where interpretation of geology or hydrogeology is necessary shall be under the seal of a licensed **professional geologist**.

#### Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 512.09 (3) – Field Direction of Well Drilling and Installations

A **professional geologist** or qualified technician who is **directly supervised by a professional geologist** shall observe and direct the drilling of all borings and the installation, development and abandonment of all wells. A **professional geologist** or qualified technician who is **directly supervised by a professional geologist** shall also conduct all in-field hydraulic conductivity tests and visually describe and classify all geologic samples.

#### Wisconsin Administrative Code (NR 700) – Personnel Qualifications for Conducting Environmental Response Actions

General. All sampling, field work and development of plans for field activities for response actions being taken to satisfy the requirements of ss. NR 708.09 to 708.15 or chs. NR 716 to 754 shall be conducted by or under the supervision of a professional engineer, **hydrogeologist** or scientist, unless sub. (2) or an exemption in s. NR 712.11 is applicable. Submittals that are prepared to satisfy the requirements of this section shall be prepared by or under the supervision of a professional engineer, **hydrogeologist**, or scientist. The Case Closure GIS-Registry Report form (<http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/4400/4400-202.pdf>) requires the signature of a **professional hydrogeologist**.

#### Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 820 - Environmental Review of High Capacity Well Applications

A determination by a registered professional engineer, registered **professional geologist** or registered **professional hydrologist** of the 80% exceedance flow for the stream and associated water level at the location closest to the proposed well location.

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### Future Successes

Our newest addition to Wisconsin requirements (September 2017) is our **Storm Water Infiltration – Technical Standard 1002 Soil Evaluation Requirement**. The documents must be completed and signed in the future by a licensed professional soil scientist, or licensed **professional geologist** as licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

Wisconsin AIPG Section is working with several Wisconsin engineering organizations to reach out to new staff in the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and we plan on sharing additional information with our Wisconsin legislative members.

In the past, we've held **Geology Day** at the Wisconsin State Capitol for geoscience education of representatives and their aides and will do this again **Spring 2019**. It's an on-going job; providing geoscience expertise and educating others on the importance of our professional licensure here in Wisconsin.

**We appreciate your support in getting the message out to everyone:**

**“Wisconsin licensed professional geologists grow the economy and keep us safe!”**

Please contact us for additional information at any time.

Sincerely,

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