



# NEBOG NEWS

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State of Nebraska  
Board of Geologists  
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**Shelly Norval**  
Administrative Assistant

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Nan Lindsley-Griffin**  
Chair  
Professor  
UNL – Geosciences  
Lincoln

**Terry Thonen**  
Vice-Chair  
Geologist  
URS Corporation  
Omaha

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Chert Exploration Inc.  
Kearney

**James Cannia**  
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North Platte NRD  
Mitchell

**Michael Felix**  
Geologist  
Nebraska Department  
of Environmental Quality  
Lincoln

## Nebraska Board Completes The Grandfather Licensing Period

### *A Message from the Board Chair* *Dr. Nan Lindsley-Griffin*

Welcome to NEBOG News! This is the first edition of the newsletter of the Nebraska Board of Geologists. I would like to thank all of you for your interest and participation in the registration process. The success of our Grandfather registration period clearly indicates our profession's support for responsible, professional-quality performance in areas that impact the public health and safety.

I would also like to personally thank the Board members and the many others who have given generously of their time and talent. Current members of the Board are listed on our masthead. Three others served on the Board for brief periods before being called to other duties: Jan McCarty, our first public member (replaced by Karen A. Jensen); Jeff Kelly, D.E.Q. (replaced by Mike Felix, G-0017); and Joni Rhiner, U.S. ACE, G-0003 (replaced by Dave Becker, G-0001).

Generous thanks and a round of applause are also due to all volunteers who have served on subcommittees or otherwise assisted us during our startup period. These individuals and organizations are listed under "Accolades". Too numerous to list are all those who attended public hearings and meetings to give us their feedback, or who called or e-mailed.

Thank you one and all!

### CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

To provide current and easily accessible information, the Board continues to update its website. Our Roster now includes names, addresses, and license numbers for all current licensees. You may check the status of any licensed person and business or see if we have your current address. The public, other licensing boards, and state agencies may view this information. Look for us at <http://www.geology.state.ne.us/board/nbg.htm>

Sample topics listed on our home page include:

- Forms, Including Application Information
- Fee Schedule
- The Geologists Regulation Act Statutes (Effective January 1, 1999)
- Nebraska Geologists (DRAFT) Rules & Regulations
- Roster
- Reciprocity Information
- Seal Information

### **Check out ASBOG on the web at**

<http://www.asbog.org>

Topics of Interest:

- Preparing for the ASBOG Exam
- Candidate Handbook
- Member Boards

## Meet Our Administrative Assistant

Hello, my name is Shelly Norval and I have worked in Nebraska State Government for more than four years. I live in Seward, Nebraska with my husband and two teenage children. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Nebraska Board of Geologists since January of this year. They work very hard and give many hours of their time to regulate their profession in the best interest of the public. My duties include: respond to applicant and registrant requests; review and process new applications for the Board to approve; provide assistance with state budget requirements; maintain the website and registrant database; prepare Board meeting agenda and minutes; and work with the Board to provide fast, efficient and innovative ideas for licensure. I also provide Administrative support to the Nebraska Board of Engineers & Architects and the Landscape Architect Board. You can contact me at 402-471-8383 or [geology@nol.org](mailto:geology@nol.org)

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## Registrants & Applicants

During the grandfather period of Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1999, 275 applications were received. The process of application review has been thorough and time consuming, but as of October 2000, we have dealt with all completed applications received during the grandfather period. A total of 230 applicants have been licensed as Professional Geologists in Nebraska; a list of these is available on our website.

Incomplete applications submitted to the Board during the grandfather phase must be completed by December 31, 2000, or they will be permanently inactivated. Applicants whose files are inactivated must re-apply for registration as well as take the ASBOG examinations.

## Accolades

### URS Corporation

Donated Reproduction & Mailings

### UNL- Department of Geosciences

Meeting Rooms & Supported Conference Calls

### Duane Mohlman, Conservation & Survey Division - UNL

Initial Database & Web Design

### UNL - Conservation & Survey Division

Meeting Rooms & Supported Conference Calls

### Ted Huscher G-0033

Seal & Logo Design

## Applications Screening Subcommittees

### Lincoln

Chair Dr. Nan Lindsley-Griffin G-0005

Mike Felix G-0017

Jeff Gottula G-0021

John Griffin G-0006

Karen Jensen

Jim Kearney G-0007

Jim Swinehart G-0022

### Omaha

Chair Terry Thonen G-0010

Dave Becker G-0001

Bob Goodwin G-0034

Denny Jorgenson G-0059

Mike Sonderman G-0038

Kevin Wunder G-0073

**Nebraska Board of Geologists  
Professional Geologist Examinations**

Plans are in progress for the March 16, 2001 Nebraska ASBOG Exam. Exams are provided by the Association for State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) at a fee established by their Board. The NEBOG reservation fee of \$35, which covers the cost of administering the exam, is required on or before **January 5, 2001**. Please remember all fees are non-refundable and not transferrable.

**The Exam Fee is due on or before January 31, 2001.**  
(See chart at right for fees)

Arrangements can be made to take the Nebraska exam in another state Board's examination site (e.g., Wyoming) if necessary, provided they are also an ASBOG member. Please inform NEBOG in writing by **January 15, 2001** if you require this option.

**Revised ASBOG Schedule**

	<b>2001</b>
Friday <b>March 16, 2001</b>	
Friday September 14, 2001	
	<b>2002</b>
Friday March 15, 2002	
Friday October 4, 2002	
	<b>2003</b>
Friday March 7, 2003	
Friday October 3, 2003	

**Exam sites will be announced at a later date.**

**Fee Schedule**

Fees for 2000	
Full Application Fee	\$50.00
Licensing Fee (payable upon approval of application)	\$240.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$290.00</b>
Geologist-in-Training Application	\$50.00
Other Fees	
Annual Renewal Fee	\$50.00
Geologist-in-Training Annual Renewal	\$25.00
Expired Registration Penalty 10% of Renewal Fee per month, not to exceed \$50	
Temporary Licensing Fee*	\$175.00
Certificate of Authorization for Organization	\$100.00
<b>Examination Fees:</b>	
Fundamentals (FG)	\$125.00
Practice (PG)	\$150.00
Both	\$275.00
Reservation Fee (For one or both tests)	\$35.00
Replacement of Certificate Fee	\$50.00

\*A Temporary license is good for one project only, for the period of one year. An individual or company may receive a temporary license only once in each 3-year period. If you do not have an active PG license in another state, you must apply for registration in Nebraska on our regular application form.

NEBRASKA BOARD OF GEOLOGISTS  
Examination Registration Form

(Please use one form per individual registrant. Copy as needed.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ PG# \_\_\_\_\_


Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT METHOD:  Check  ITD  Money Order

Mail fee & registration to: State of Nebraska Board of Geologists  
P.O. Box 94844  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4844

 For special accommodation needs, please specify and submit prior to January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

\*\*\*\*\*Reservation Fee of \$35.00 is due on or before January 5, 2001      \*\*\*Exam Fees are due on or before January 31, 2001

I will take the: (Please check all that apply)  FG Exam (8:00 – 12:00) (\$125.00)     PG Exam (1:30 – 5:30) (\$150.00)

Please direct any questions to Shelly Norval via email at [geology@nol.org](mailto:geology@nol.org) or phone at 402-471-8383

## Board Offices with Engineers/Architects

NEBOG signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Engineers and Architects, which became effective on January 1, 2000. This agreement provides support in the form of office space, and Ms. Shelly Norval, who is our part-time Administrative Assistant and contact person. Our office is physically located inside the Engineers and Architects offices on the sixth floor of the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509. Other contact information is listed on the heading of this newsletter

## Reciprocity and Comity - Defined

Your Board spent a great deal of time discussing the issues of Reciprocity and Comity before coming up with our current policy [see below]. According to Webster's New World Dictionary, *reciprocity* refers to equivalent or interchangeable things; *comity* (in law) is the principle by which courts in one jurisdiction may accept decisions made under the laws and decisions of another jurisdiction. Although the concepts are similar, they are not quite the same, and even ASBOG states have not been able to agree on a uniform application of reciprocity/comity. The main reason for the difficulty is that each state's law (or province, territory) is slightly different than the others.

The Geologists Registration Act (Nebraska Statutes 81-3501 to 81-3541) lists four requirements for professional registration: 1) character; 2) B.S. degree in Geology; 3) 5 years of post-baccalaureate experience working in geology; and 4) passing scores on examinations covering the Fundamentals of Geology and the Practice of Geology. Although the Act does not specifically define either reciprocity or comity, it does state that the first three criteria...

"may be considered by the board to be fulfilled if the applicant maintains a current certificate of licensure to practice geology issued pursuant to the authority of any state or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia based on requirements that do not conflict with the Geologists Regulation Act and were of a standard not lower than that specified in the applicable licensure in effect in this state at the time the certification was issued."

In other words, we are authorized to offer reciprocity (but not comity) provided the applicant has been licensed elsewhere on the same basis as Nebraska registrants, AND HAS TAKEN THE ASBOG EXAMS OR THEIR EQUIVALENT.

## Reciprocity Policy

The Nebraska Geology Board has established a Policy on Reciprocity. The Board's position is that reciprocity will be granted if the applicant for reciprocity:

1. Has passed the ASBOG examination Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology, or their equivalent.
2. Meets the Nebraska statutory education requirement. "A minimum of thirty semester hours or forty-five quarter hours of course work in geology and has received a baccalaureate or advanced degree in geology or a geologic specialty."
3. Meets the Nebraska statutory requirements for experience. "A documented record of a minimum of five years progressive experience, obtained subsequent to completion of the education requirements, in geologic work of a grade and character which indicated to the Board that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of such work upon licensure as a geologist".
4. Holds a current geologist registration or license in good standing in another state.

If the applicant for reciprocity has continuously held geologist registration or licensure in good standing since December 31, 1991, the Board may waive the requirement for passing the ASBOG examination or equivalent.

The applicant for reciprocity will not be required to submit transcripts and references.

Applicants applying for Reciprocity must contact their local state board and ask them to send NEBOG a verification of their registration and good standing.

## E-mail Address Request

In order to disseminate information more efficiently, we would like to add your e-mail address to our database. Please send your e-mail address to Shelly Norval at [geology@nol.org](mailto:geology@nol.org).

Thank you for your help and cooperation!

## Content of ASBOG Exams

Subject Area	FG Exam	PG Exam
Field Methods and Remote Sensing	29.1 %	35.0 %
Mineralogy, Petrology, Petrography, Geochemistry	13.6 %	2.5 %
Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, Paleontology	10.0 %	3.8 %
Geomorphology	6.4 %	6.3 %
Structural Geology and Tectonics	9.1 %	2.5 %
Geophysics and Seismology	3.6 %	5.0 %
Hydrogeology	24.5 %	25.0 %
Engineering Geology	2.7 %	11.3 %
Mineral, Petroleum, and Energy Resources	0.9%	8.8 %

FG Exam = Fundamentals of Geology. Requires completion of undergraduate core courses for the B.S. degree.

PG Exam = Practice of Geology. Most states allow this to be taken only after 5 years of post-baccalaureate experience.

### Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)

We were admitted to Associate Membership at the Annual Meeting in October 1999, and became Full Members in June 2000. We have sent delegates to the 1999 and 2000 examination workshops/annual meetings, and have paid the examination access fee entitling us to use the national exams. We will be offering ASBOG examinations twice a year from now on, in the spring (usually March) and the fall (September or October).

ASBOG is the national organization that develops and administers national competency examinations for licensing professional geologists. ASBOG was organized by a group of boards in southeastern states, five of whom began meeting in March 1988 to discuss issues of common interest. Interest in the group evolved rapidly and over the next two years, a charter and bylaws were drawn up. The charter was executed on July 21, 1990. The first official meeting of ASBOG after the charter was signed was in November 1990, with delegates from 7 of the 10 Member Boards [AZ, AR, GA, NC, OR, SC, VA present; TN, DE, IN not present]. Work began immediately on developing testbanks and examinations under the leadership of the Arizona Board, and the first national examinations were offered under Arizona's sponsorship by 1992. ASBOG assumed full control of the examinations in 1994.

Members have continued to join ASBOG as states with existing registration laws signed on, and as registration laws were passed in other states. In the past six months, ASBOG has signed an agreement to cooperate with the Canadian Council of Professional Geologists, and has begun a discussion with other international professional groups. By the end of 2002, ASBOG expects to grow from its present 24 members to include nearly 40 states, territories, and provinces in the United States and Canada. This growth will result from states that already require registration joining ASBOG, new legislation introduced or planned, and the cooperative agreement with Canada.



## ASBOG EXAMINATIONS

We gave our first ASBOG examinations on September 15, 2000, to four Nebraska Professional Geologists and one applicant for licensing in Nebraska. The next ASBOG examinations will be given in Lincoln on Friday March 16, 2001. Note that you must either be registered (under grandfather provision) or must be approved by the Board as qualifying to take the exams before taking them. A registration form for the examinations can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Additional information, including sample questions, can be found on the ASBOG web site at <http://www.asbog.org/>.

The ASBOG exams consist of two four-hour parts, given almost simultaneously on the same day in all member states. The "Fundamentals of Geology" (FG) exam covers the basics that you would expect a geologist with a B.S. or B.A. in Geology to have covered, and admittance to this exam is granted in Nebraska if you have the baccalaureate degree or are within one semester of graduating. The "Practice of Geology" (PG) exam focuses on skills and knowledge that are normally obtained only after five years of post-baccalaureate professional work, and admittance to the PG exam in Nebraska is granted only after your five years of experience have been evaluated by the Board.

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## Complaints

The Board has designed a form on which any citizen can file a complaint of improper practice or practicing without a license. This Complaint Form will soon be available from our website, or you may contact Ms. Norval for a paper copy.

We encourage all licensed professionals as well as any concerned citizen to notify the Board should they become aware of persons practicing in violation of the Geologists Regulation Act. Although anonymous complaints cannot be accepted, your information can be handled confidentially if necessary.

## WHO SHOULD BE REGISTERED IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA?

### THE GEOLOGISTS REGULATION ACT [81-3501 through 81-3541]

**Purpose:** to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare through the regulation of the profession of geology.

**Board of Geologists:** established to oversee the registration and licensing of professional geologists for the state of Nebraska, and to enforce the Geologist Regulation Act.

In general, if you are a geologist whose work is in areas affecting public health and safety, you should be registered. Examples include, but are not limited to, geologists working in environmental geology, engineering geology, and hydrogeology.

**A Geologist** is a person who is qualified to practice geology by reason of special knowledge and use of the earth sciences and the principles of geology and geologic data collection and analysis acquired by geologic education and geologic experience.

**Geology** means the science which includes treatment of the earth and its origin and history, in general: investigation of the earth's constituent rocks, soils, minerals, solids, fluids including underground waters, gases, and other materials; the study of the natural agents, forces, and processes which cause changes in the earth or on its surface; and the application of this knowledge of the earth.

**The Practice of Geology** means "any service or creative work if the adequate performance of the service or work requires geologic education, training, and experience to include such services or creative work as geological consultation, investigation, planning, surveying, mapping, and inspection of geological work, and the responsible supervision thereof, the performance of which is related to public welfare or the safeguarding of life, health, property, and the environment and teaching, including research and service, of advanced geological subjects." [81-3515]