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May 29, 2009

Regulatory Unit Counsel
Department of State
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RE: 49 PA. Code CH. 37
Continuing Education for Geologists,
Engineers & Land Surveyors

State Registration Board:

The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists (PCPG) has carefully reviewed the Continuing Education Regulations for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin Volume 39, Number 18 on May 2, 2009. We have the following comments and recommendations regarding those regulations:

1. On Page 2218, Effective Date, states that continuing education will be required beginning during the September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2011 biennial renewal period. Those dates should be modified to correctly indicate that the renewal period is from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2011.
2. Based on the Continuing Education Law, in §37.111(b) . . . AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD continuing education may satisfy the requirement of subsection (a) only for the biennium during which it was completed. No hour of continuing education may be used to satisfy the requirement of subsection (a) for more than one biennium. It appears that the BOARD MAY DIRECT licensees to carry excess CEU's over from one biennium to the next, if those carryovers are credited only to one of the renewal cycles, not both. Therefore, we recommend that a licensee be allowed to apply excess CEUs from one period to the next. This might be limited to 12 excess CEUs. However, it has been called to our attention that Pennsylvania attorneys are permitted to carry 24 Continuing Legal Education units (100% of the required credits) over to the subsequent licensing period.
3. Similarly, we recommend that for the unique situation pertaining to the first renewal cycle requiring CEUs (October 2009 through September 2011), the Board allow CEUs earned for a period of 60 days or possibly 90 days prior to October 1, 2009 be accepted for the 2009 to 2011 renewal cycle.

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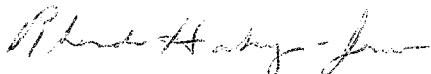
4. The regulations do not provide specific guidance for determining the number of CEUs a course instructor may be credited for preparation of a continuing education course. We recommend that the regulations state that an instructor may be credited with two times the course CEUs for both preparing and instructing a given course. In other words, course preparation credits would be equal to the value of course instruction/presentation credits.

We also suggest that the instructor be given CEUs for instruction of the same course at each location where it is taught, as different nuances of the course are experienced and require the instructor's input at each location. However, credit for course preparation would only be given once for a course presented multiple times.

5. The regulations are unclear whether distance learning is permitted (i.e., correspondence courses or internet courses). While it makes sense to allow distance learning to obtain CEUs, it seems that, other than distance learning courses provided by accredited educational institutions, there should be some limit on the number of distance learning credits obtained in a given biennial review period.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of our comments. PCPG hopes that these regulations can be promulgated in advance of the upcoming renewal cycle, thus giving professionals the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the regulations before October 1, 2009. If PCPG can be of any assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact me, at 717-889-1408 or exdir@pcpg.org.

Very truly yours,



Rhonda Hakundy-Jones, P.G.
Executive Director