

# Illinois Chapter of the AIPG

American Institute of Professional Geologists

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March 31, 2000

Mr. Mike Bruen  
Harza Engineering Company  
233 S. Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606-6392

Dear Mr. Bruen:

As you may be aware from your attendance at the October 23, 1999 organizational meeting, Licensed Professional Geologists (LPGs) in Illinois have organized as an advocacy group as the Illinois Chapter of the Illinois-Indiana Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (IL Chapter). Since then, we have accumulated a great deal of participation by LPGs in Illinois as we have approximately one-half of all the Illinois LPGs residing in Illinois participating in our e-mailing list and providing us feedback. We have concentrated our efforts in representing LPGs in those areas that result in the application of geologic practice in the public arena.

As a result of our work, a number of issues have been raised with respect to The Professional Geologist Licensing Act of 1997, 225 ILCS 745 (Act), and have been a source of some debate. The Executive Committee of the IL Chapter has decided that it would be in the best interest of LPGs practicing in Illinois to seek clarification and comment from the Board of Registration for Illinois Professional Geologists (Board) on these issues of debate. The purpose of this letter is to initiate this dialog which we expect to be an ongoing process. Once the Board has had a chance to respond to issues that the IL Chapter raises we will distribute the responses to the IL Chapter membership. This distribution will likely be in the form of posting on an IL Chapter web site.

Assuming that the board will welcome an opportunity to advance the knowledge and practice of geology in Illinois, we have formulated the first set of questions and requests for clarification. They are attached to this letter. The members of the IL Chapter appreciate your consideration and guidance. If you need any clarification on any issue or if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Ronald B. St. John, PG  
President-IL Chapter of AIPG  
Phone: 630-795-3208

## ISSUE #1 - LPG DOCUMENT SIGN-OFF

To date, the Act has identified the types of work that require sealing and signature and dating (sign-off). However, the Act does not specifically identify the manner in which sign-off should occur on geologic work product. The two sections of the Act that provide definition in this area are found under Section 60. Seals; and read:

(b) All preliminary, draft, and final geologic reports, documents, permits, affidavits, maps, boring logs, sections or other records offered to the public and prepared or issued by or under the supervision of a licensed professional geologist shall include the full name, signature, and licensed number of the licensee, and date of license expiration of the person who prepared the document or under whose supervision it was prepared, and an impression of the licensee's seal, in accordance with rules issued by the Department.

(c) The licensed professional geologist who has contract responsibility shall seal a cover sheet of the professional work products and those individual portions of the professional work products for which the licensed professional geologist is legally and professionally responsible. A licensed professional geologist practicing as the support professional shall seal those individual portions of professional work products for which that licensed professional geologist is legally and professionally responsible.

A review of these articles from the Act indicates that a wide variety of geologic work requires sign-off. The IL Chapter requests answers to the following questions to clarify the Boards intent regarding sign-off:

**Is it sufficient for the LPG that has contract responsibility for the work (i.e., a work product that contains more than one of the items listed in Section 60 (b) of the Act), to sign-off on the work by sealing, signing and providing the date of license expiration on the first page of the document?**

If not, then:

**Is it sufficient for the LPG that has contract responsibility for the work (i.e., a work product that contains more than one of the items listed in Section 60 (b) of the Act), to sign-off on the work by sealing, signing, providing the date of license expiration on the first page of the document, and a general statement regarding the content of the work product contained therein (in lieu of multiple seals) that reads similar to:**

*The geological work product contained in this document has been prepared under my personal supervision and has been prepared and administered in accordance with the standards of reasonable professional skill and diligence.*

If not, then:

**Is it sufficient for the LPG that has contract responsibility for the work (i.e., a work product that contains more than one of the items listed in Section 60 (b) of the Act), to sign-off on the work by sealing, signing, providing the date of license expiration**

**on the first page of the document, and a general statement regarding the content of the work product contained therein (in lieu of multiple seals) that reads similar to:**

*The geological work product contained in this document has been prepared under my personal supervision and has been prepared and administered in accordance with the standards of reasonable professional skill and diligence.*

**and seal each specific work product within the document that requires geologic interpretation such as maps and cross-sections?**

## **ISSUE #2 - APPLICATION OF LPG SEAL**

The question here is: **Are Illinois LPGs required to seal and sign-off on geologic work product in situations that are not specifically required by a governmental agency?**

## **ISSUE #3 - DEFINITIONS**

Please provide definition of the following terms included in the Act:

- 1. Public**
- 2. offered to the Public**
- 3. contract responsibility**