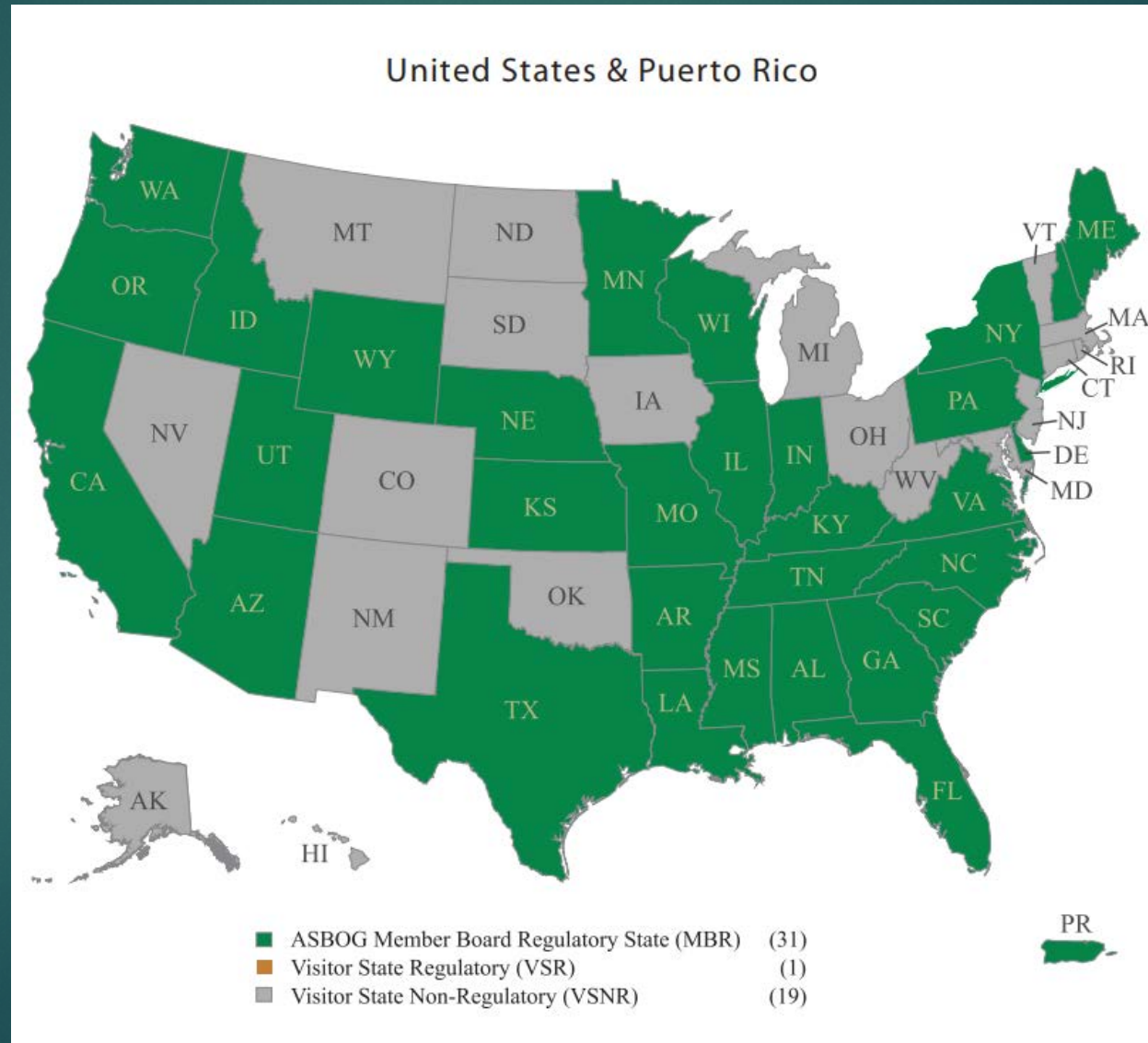


# N.C. Board for Licensing of Geologists

## Continuing Education Requirements



North Carolina is an member state in ASBOG – the Association of State Boards of Geology. There are **32 Member Boards** and **19 Visitor State Non-Regulatory** for the 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.



The NCBLG formed an Investigations Committee composed of the Board Chair, the Board Vice-Chair, and the State Geologist (ex officio).

The committee, in coordination with the Board Counsel and Board Executive Director, drafted proposed rule changes and additions.

A final set of draft proposed rules changes was sent to all Board members prior to the quarterly Board meeting, and they were discussed at the board meeting on November 15, 2016.



At the meeting, Board Counsel reported that the proposed rule revisions included:

- adoption of gender-neutral language,
- a requirement for continuing education for licensees (EPA's letter re coal ash sites),
- an inactive licensee status, and
- revision of the complaint/investigative process.

The Board voted to forward the proposed rules as revised during the Board's review to the Rules Review Commission for publication in the North Carolina Register.



The proposed rule revisions were published on December 15, 2016 in the Register.

The 60-day public comment period was from December 12, 2016 to February 13, 2017.

A Public Hearing was held on January 1, 2017 in which three speakers and a total of six attendees were present.

Public comments received by the Board (e-mail and letters), or forwarded from the Board Chair or Hearing Officer (e-mail), were include in the Hearing Officer Report.



We received 110 comment, by week

December 12-17: 4 comments

December 18-24: 6 comments

December 25-31: 5 comments

January 1-7: 12 comments

January 8-14: 2 comments

January 15-21: zero comments

January 22-28: zero comments

January 29-February 4: 17 comments

February 5-11: 18 comments

February 12 to February 14: 46 comments



# Hearing Officer Recommendations

1. Include all gender-neutral corrections identified by commenters as non-substantive changes.
2. Approve the draft rules along with any non-substantive changes identified during the comment period and forward the proposed rules to the RRC.
3. Determine if any substantive changes suggested in the comments merit a second comment period.
4. Following adoption of the rules, the Board should work with interested licensees to identify low-cost or no-cost continuing education opportunities in-state and nation-wide. This could include monthly free lectures at geoscience department at universities; lectures at science museums; and/or in-house training including that provided by state and local government agencies.



As of June 1, 2017, the NCBLG has a continuing education (CE) requirement. Licensees must obtain 12 Professional Development Hours (PDHs) of geologic education each license year in order to renew their license.

Licensees may earn up to 12 additional hours to be carried over into the next license year.

New licensees by way of examination are exempt from the CE requirement for their first license renewal. New licensees by comity are required to report 12 PDHs with their first renewal.

**There are 101 Pre-Approved Providers and 26 Approved Providers for HAZWOPER Annual 8-Hour Refresher Course (for 2 PDH Approved).**





The NCBLG CE Committee has reviewed more than 300 CE activities from across the country and has approved 298 of the submitted activities. Each request was reviewed for relevance to geology and the number of education hours.

Some applications were approved as submitted, some were approved with a reduced number of CE hours, and others were rejected due to lack of relevance to the practice of geology.

101 providers have been pre-approved (35 of 298 courses approved)



# Statistics as of 6/25/18:

- 1,359 licensees – 665 in-state, 694 out-of-state
- 37 new licensees in 2017-18, 17 more on 7/1/18
- 695 renewals received (cf. 1078 renewals last year on this date)
- 113 licensees going inactive (cf. 23 - 7/1/17)



# QUESTIONS/ COMPLAINTS ?

