

SO YOU'RE GETTING AUDITED.... BIG DEAL

It certainly isn't the end of the world!

Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists

WHY ME?

- RS 37:711.21

Professional geoscientists may, by rule of the board, adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, be required to earn annually up to fifteen hours of board-approved continuing professional development. (Acts 2010, No. 974, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2011).

- Title 46, Part LXII, §1301. Requirements

A. Each license holder shall meet the continuing education program (CEP) requirements for professional development by earning professional development credit hours (PDH) as a condition for license renewal.

WHY ME?

- **Ok, so why does the legislature think I need Continuing Education (CE)?**
- It's not just the Legislature. Most, if not, all professional occupations encourage CE as a way to stay current in your field of practice. Doctors, lawyers, engineers, surveyors, geologists, teachers and many more occupations that serve the public want their practitioners to be as up to date as possible to protect and provide the best services to their clients.
- As a practicing professional, your moral and ethical goals should include being the “best you can be.”
- Continuing Education Benefits:
 - allows individuals to continuously improve their skills and knowledge within their field
 - presents new ideas, techniques, technologies and ways of thinking
 - affords opportunities to network
 - helps advance your career – higher pay – more promotions
 - improves marketability
 - encourages mentorship
 - And, of course, the self edification that comes with knowledge

SO WHAT QUALIFIES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION ?

- There are many ways to accumulate CEUs: **all must have geology content**
 - Professional Conferences, Seminars, Webinars, Courses - (Code G)
 - Geological Society Meetings (“lunch and learn”) – (Code M)
 - Engineering/Environmental meetings (must have geology content) – (Code N)
 - Geology Field Trips – (Code F)
 - Self-directed Study (professional journals, museum visits, video courses) – (Code S)
 - Volunteerism (geological society boards, scouting talks, school demos) – (Code V)
 - Authorship of published articles, papers, books, videos, webinars – (Code A)
 - Completed College course work – (Code U)
 - Presenting – (Code I)
 - The Board is also open to other ideas – just call us first at 225-505-3766

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS SUFFICIENT?

- **§1301.E. Record Keeping**
- 1. The license holder is responsible for maintaining records to be used to support credits claimed. CEU records for each license holder must be maintained for a period of three years by the license holder. Records required include, but are not limited to:
 - a. a log, on a form provided by the board, showing the type of activity claimed, the sponsoring organization, location, duration, instructor's or speaker's name, and PDH credits claimed; and
 - b. attendance verification records in the form of completion certificates, receipts, emails, attendance rosters, screen shots, or other documents supporting evidence of attendance.

WHAT DO THE CODES COVER?

G: Any presentation that provides information on state of the art topics in geology and related subjects (geophysics, geohydrology, hydrology, mining, exploration, geoengineering, etc.)	14cr/yr
M: Any meeting/presentation by recognized geological organizations	12cr/yr
N: Any presentation with geology content in the engineering and environmental fields (risk, chemistry, biology, vapor, soil, etc.)	5cr max
F: Field trips (do not count travel hours)	5cr max
S: Self directed studies (reading journals, videos, museums)	5cr max
V: Volunteering with professional geological organizations	5cr max
E: Mandatory geoscience ethics	1cr max
I: Instructor (you may claim 3x the hours per each new presentation)	14cr max
Note: PDHs can be carried over for 3 years. You can claim all that apply, but these are the yearly maximums applied for any calendar year.	

SO HOW DOES THE BOARD DECIDE?

§1301.D. Determination of Credit

1. The board shall be the final authority with respect to whether a course or activity meets the requirements of this Chapter. [We use the documentation provided to see if the content is geology related. We may do a computer search for sources, references, agendas, program schedules, etc., to verify, but it is your responsibility to provide this information! We use the PDH Matrix to certify the code and number of credits claimed are correct (note the limitations on number of certain codes)]
2. It is the responsibility of each license holder to use his/her best professional judgment by reading and utilizing the rules and regulations to determine whether all PDH credits claimed and activities being considered meet the continuing education requirement. However, we suggest that a course provider or licensee contact the board for an opinion for whether or not a course or technical presentation would meet the CEU requirements before hand.

WHAT DOESN'T COUNT, WHY NOT?

- In-house training for employees [Tricky, must have geology content by knowledgeable presenter and good documentation](should be available to public and peer reviewed)
- Business/Corporate/Government Ethics [Isn't geology related]
- Safety training [No geology content]
- HAZWOPER training [No geology content]
- Seminars or training courses on sexual harassment, substance abuse, suicide prevention, active shooter, defensive driving, preventing violence in the workplace, etc. [No geology content]
- Business operations [Must have geology content, check first]
- Management [Must have geology content, check first]
- Regulatory or legal seminars or courses [Must have geology content, check first]
- Other states' PDH requirements may differ from those of Louisiana -- please follow Louisiana's guidelines.