

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

1. Type of Estimate and Analysis

Original    Updated    Corrected

2. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number

Chs. GHSS 1 to 6, General Requirements and Procedures, and Continuing Education Requirements (Professional Geologists, Professional Hydrologists and Professional Soil Scientists)

3. Subject

Continuing Education Requirements for Professional Geologists, Professional Hydrologists and Professional Soil Scientists

4. Fund Sources Affected

GPR    FED    PRO    PRS    SEG    SEG-S

5. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected

20.165(1)(g)

6. Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule

No Fiscal Effect    Increase Existing Revenues    Increase Costs  
 Indeterminate    Decrease Existing Revenues    Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget  
 Decrease Cost

7. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply)

State's Economy    Specific Businesses/Sectors  
 Local Government Units    Public Utility Rate Payers  
 Small Businesses **(if checked, complete Attachment A)**

8. Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Be Greater Than \$20 million?

Yes    No

9. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule

Develop and maintain continued competency of licensed Professional Geologists, Professional Hydrologists and Professional Soil Scientists.

10. Summary of the businesses, business sectors, associations representing business, local governmental units, and individuals that may be affected by the proposed rule that were contacted for comments.

Licensed Professional Geologists, Professional Hydrologists and Professional Soil Scientists as well as those who benefit from or contract for their professional expertise.

11. Identify the local governmental units that participated in the development of this EIA.

None known.

12. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State's Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

There is no direct impact on specific businesses, business sectors, public utility ratepayers or local governmental utilities or the state's economy as a whole.

Staff researched fees for various continuing education offerings applicable to the sections, primarily provided or sponsored by UW Madison, School of Engineering Professional Development [SOURCE: <http://epdweb.engr.wisc.edu/index.lasso>] and determined the following:

Course offerings fees\*

Offering	Min. Hours/Cost	Max. Hours/Cost
Classroom:	1 Hr./\$49	21 Hrs./\$1195
Online:	2 Hrs./\$149	20 Hrs./\$225

\*Note: (local, no travel or lodging included)

Other professional development activities\*

Offering	Min. Hours/Cost	Max. Hours/Cost
Professional Meetings**	4 Hrs/\$100	40 Hrs/\$1000

\*Note: (local, no travel or lodging included)

\*\* Examples given include Geological Society of America (GSA) national or regional meeting, American Geophysical Union annual meeting, Wisconsin Section of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) annual meeting, or associated professional organizations involving section-related topics.

Research was conducted regarding the availability of continuing education credits offered via online courses, trade association sponsored seminars and other means, as well as the costs associated therewith. That data was then compared with the requirements

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outlined in the proposed rules and based thereon, appears that these rules will have no significant impact on a substantial number of small businesses.

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### 13. Benefits of Implementing the Rule and Alternative(s) to Implementing the Rule

Develop and maintain continued competency of licensed Professional Geologists, Professional Hydrologists and Professional Soil Scientists. The status quo may negatively influence the creditability of maintaining a professional license.

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### 14. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

Industry is constantly changing and new technologies and methodologies are being introduced, as are the professional skills of the workforce. Continuing education for licensed professionals ensures the public the professional competence of the licensees.

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### 15. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

The Federal government does not license or mandate continuing education for Professional Geologists, Professional Hydrologists or Professional Soil Scientists.

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### 16. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Neighboring States (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota)

Licensing for professional geologists-- The state of Minnesota licenses and requires 24 (professional development) hours every two years for renewal. Illinois licenses professional geologists, but has no continuing education requirements.

Licensing for professional hydrologists—none of the four adjacent states license this profession. The state of Iowa licenses groundwater professionals (much like hydrologists), but does not require any continuing education.

Licensing for professional soil scientists—Of the four adjacent states, only the state of Minnesota licenses and requires 24 (professional development) hours every two years for renewal.

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<h3>17. Contact Name</h3>	<h3>18. Contact Phone Number</h3>
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**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
**Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis**

**ATTACHMENT A**

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1. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Small Businesses (Separately for each Small Business Sector, Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

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2. Summary of the data sources used to measure the Rule's impact on Small Businesses

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3. Did the agency consider the following methods to reduce the impact of the Rule on Small Businesses?

- Less Stringent Compliance or Reporting Requirements
  - Less Stringent Schedules or Deadlines for Compliance or Reporting
  - Consolidation or Simplification of Reporting Requirements
  - Establishment of performance standards in lieu of Design or Operational Standards
  - Exemption of Small Businesses from some or all requirements
  - Other, describe:
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4. Describe the methods incorporated into the Rule that will reduce its impact on Small Businesses

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5. Describe the Rule's Enforcement Provisions

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6. Did the Agency prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis (if Yes, attach to form)

- Yes    No
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