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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY *eBulletin*



missgeo.com

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~
Tony Stuart



Greetings,

We had a good January meeting and heard an excellent talk by the guys from Greystone Oil & Gas on Sligo Field. Thanks to all who braved the bad weather to attend.

This month, Larry Hall from Baker Hughes will tell us about optimizing core quality.

Our January 28th field trip to Stennis Space Center turned out to be a success after all. They do a lot of things there other than testing rocket engines. We had short presentations from the National Data Bouy Center, NOAA, and the EPA. They all do some pretty nifty things and we can go look at their stuff on the internet. We're going to try to post some links to them on our website. We are also going to recruit some of them as members. Maybe we can get some of them to speak at one of our meetings someday. Thanks to Lisa for making the arrangements.

As a special treat after the field trip, Bob took me for a ride in his plane - I'm still smiling about it.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our fellow MGS members Gail and Winston Russell. On short notice, those of us that stayed in Bay St. Louis presented ourselves to be fed at their lovely home overlooking the Jourdan River and the Bay. As always, they were gracious hosts and we all enjoyed the visit and the delicious meal. Being a regular visitor there, I owe Gail more meals than I can count. Their hospitality was greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

There's some buzz about extending Mississippi's Registered Professional Geologist law to include the practice of Petroleum Geology. The RPG Board has provided us with an explanation of this proposed action which we are publishing in this Bulletin. **PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE STATEMENT FROM THE MGS OFFICERS FIRST.**

In This Issue:

Meetings Schedule

Our Speaker – Larry M. Hall

PTTC Workshop Notice

Online Access to MSOGB

MGS Disclaimer

MSBRPG Board Response

MGS Boland Scholarship Fund

Membership in good standing.

MGS Membership Application

MGS Advertising Notice

Until next month,
Tony

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 20, 2007	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club
October 11, 2007	Jim Mulligan & Bob Schellhorn Denbury Resources – Introduction to Lower Tuscaloosa Geology, Why Seismic Matters, “Or does it”?	River Hills
November 8, 2007	Rick Taylor – Inconvenient Evidence, Global Warming Goes On Ice	River Hills
December 8, 2007	MAPL / MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club
January 10, 2008	Michael Geffert, Greystone Oil & Gas The Revitalization of Sligo Field	River Hills
February 14, 2008	Larry Hall, Baker Hughes Optimization of Core Quality	River Hills
March 13, 2008	TBA	River Hills
April 10, 2008	Honors Meeting: Boland Scholarship, Honorary Membership, and Awards	River Hills
May 12, 2008	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club

"Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our
wishes, our inclination, or the dictates of our passions,
they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence." —
John Adams

*Here's my strategy on the Cold War:
We win, they lose.'*
- Ronald Reagan

*"If you don't read the newspaper you are
uninformed, if you do read the newspaper
you are misinformed."
Mark Twain

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2007

October 3, 2007

November 7, 2007

December 4, 2007

January 8, 2008

February 6, 2008

March 4, 2008

April 1, 2008

May 6, 2008

Our speaker for Febuary

Larry M. Hall

Product Line Manager - Coring

INTEQ, a division of Baker Hughes, Inc.

Larry Hall is the global Product Line Manager for INTEQ's Coring group in Houston, Texas. He has held this position since 2005. Mr. Hall graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Master's Degree in Chemistry and spent several years working in medical research. He joined the oil industry in 1980 with Core Laboratories, spending a total of 17 years with this company in a variety of positions. Mr. Hall worked for Saudi ARAMCO as Supervisor of the Core Services / Petrophysics Unit in Dhahran. Upon leaving ARAMCO, he joined INTEQ as a Technical Advisor in Coring. Mr. Hall is a member of the SPE, SPWLA, and SCA, and is a technical editor for the *SPE Reservoir Evaluation and Engineering* journal.

Abstract

Optimization of Core Quality

An overview of current coring technologies and practices to optimize core recovery and quality will be presented. Wellsite core handling and processing will be reviewed. The presentation will close by asking the audience "what new coring technologies would you like to see developed in the next 2-5 years?"

**CENTRAL AND EASTERN GULF REGION
PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER COUNCIL**

**MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY and
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS**

Announce a Technology Workshop

“DEEP GAS RESERVOIR PLAY, CENTRAL AND EASTERN GULF”

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

9:00 AM–3:00 PM

River Hills Club, 3600 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Mississippi, 601-987-4450

Workshop Description

The purpose of this workshop is to report the results and to review the methodologies used in a recently completed NETL/DOE funded project on the assessment of deeply buried facies with gas potential in the central and eastern Gulf Coastal Plain. The major findings of this 3-year research project are as follows: The Mesozoic (Upper Jurassic-Lower Cretaceous) deeply buried gas reservoir play in the central and eastern Gulf Coastal Plain of the United States has high potential for significant gas resources. Sequence stratigraphic study, petroleum system analysis, and resource assessment were used to characterize this developing play and to identify areas in the North Louisiana and Mississippi Interior Salt Basins with potential for deeply buried gas reservoirs. Areas of the Mississippi Interior Salt Basin, especially central to southern Mississippi, have potential for deeply buried Mesozoic gas reservoirs. The potential reservoirs include Upper Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous facies of the Norphlet, Smackover, Haynesville, Cotton Valley, Hosston, and Sligo stratigraphic units at depths greater than 7620 m (25,000 ft). With some 13 TCF of gas being produced from the Mississippi Interior Salt Basin, the remaining thermogenic in-place gas potentially available for recovery exceeds 11 TCF in this basin. The workshop will be conducted by Ernest A. Mancini of the University of Alabama.

It is essential that we have an accurate accounting of those who plan to attend the workshop. Therefore, we request a reply no later than Wednesday, February 20, 2008. **Please send in the attached form with payment, or email Karl Kaufmann at the address below confirming your intent to attend.**

Mississippi Geological Society, P.O. Box 422, Jackson, MS 39205-0422, **E-mail: valioso@bellsouth.net**

Workshop Registration Form— February 27, 2008

(Please type or print requested information and provide complete mailing address.)

Name

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

Affiliation

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone

Fax

E-mail

Preferred Name on Badge

There is a **\$50.00** registration fee to attend the workshop. Please make your check payable to: **Mississippi Geological Society**. We look forward to your participation.

To MGS members interested in online access to Mississippi Oil and Gas Board information

On February 19, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. representatives of RBDMS Group will make a presentation at the Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board Room on the data mining web site they are developing for the MSOGB (Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board).

They will talk and answer questions relating to various reports which will be available on the new web site such as:

Active operators

Completions

Corrections

Permit and plug list

Permit information

Production summary

Scout card search

Authorization to transport oil or gas

Well information

Well logs

They will also answer any question you may have and listen to your suggestions.

"It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he
already knows"

--Epictetus

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

READ THIS FIRST

Those of us who are Registered Professional Geologists in Mississippi received a survey in our last renewal notices regarding a change in the existing RPG law to require registration for the practice of petroleum geology in Mississippi.

At the request of some of our members, your MGS officers contacted the Mississippi Board of Registered Professional Geologists for clarification of this issue. We felt that some of our members who are not registered may not find out about this issue in a timely fashion without our help.

The following article is the RPG Board's response to our inquiry.

Here's where things get kind of sticky. The MGS is not a political organization. We recognize that we have members on both sides of this issue. The MGS officers have agreed that, as a service to our members, we should publish the following article. We have also agreed that the MGS, as an organization, will not take a position on this issue, nor do we feel that it is within our purview to provide an opinion forum for further discussion.

This article is not an opinion or an editorial. It is a statement from an official state Board. The contact information for the RPG Board is included in the article. Do with it as you wish.

Sincerely,
Your MGS officers

***MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS RESPONSE:
REVIEW AND UPDATE ON DEMOGRAPHIC FORM SURVEY QUESTION***

Provided by the MSBRPG Board: Everett "Jay" Ferris, President; Dr. Darrel W. Schmitz, Vice President; W. Les Aultman, Board Member; Dr. Maureen K. Corcoran, Board Member; and John W. Green, Board Member

The MSBRPG received inquiries referencing one of two questions that were posed on an information update sheet that we recently sent to our registrants. MGS requested us to provide additional information and discussion of the matters of the question. The MSBRPG would like to thank MGS for allowing us the opportunity to respond to the feedback via the MGS Bulletin.

The second of the two questions asked "Would you be in favor of changing the RPG law to remove the exemption of petroleum geologists who are publicly practicing petroleum geology? (Note: Those working for companies would still be exempt provided that they do not sell oil and gas prospects directly to the public)."

Those who have contacted us have asked — Why was the question being asked? Our responses will first be the easy read version titled "Nothing But the Facts" and for those of you who want all of the details and background information we are also providing an addendum titled "Detailed Response."

Nothing But The Facts

The MSBRPG asked the second question to seek information because:

1) When the RPG law was created in 1997 through the efforts of a diverse panel of geologists (the Geologic Task Force) and other representatives, some professional petroleum geologists wanted (and were granted) exemption from the RPG requirement as they felt that their work was solely for industry and did not impact the public. However, during the 2006 Legislative Session the MSBRPG members and director were asked by legislators why an exemption for petroleum geologists in public practice existed, and what was the opinion of our registrants regarding the issue. We had no feedback from our registrants and could not respond as to the opinion(s) of our registrants. That is why the question was asked. The MSBRPG is not attempting to change the law at this time, but we have seen conflicts emerge recently concerning petroleum geologists and the issues of "private industry vs. public practice."

The MSBRPG has no issue with geologic work related to oil and gas exploration and development performed exclusively for private industry. However, a potential conflict may arise for petroleum geologists using geologic information as the basis to offer petroleum (oil and gas) prospects to individual (unsophisticated) investors. By definition, the RPG law regulates the profession in matters that affect the public health, safety, and "welfare", including their financial welfare. In addition, petroleum geologists that become engaged in ancillary activities such as evaluation of environmental conditions prior to returning leased property to owners are, by definition, regulated under the conditions of the RPG law.

2) Pertinent to the question posed by the legislators regarding the exemption are the laws governing the professional practice of geology for other states. Several other states in the southeastern U.S. do not exempt geologists who are publicly practicing in the petroleum sector, including Texas. Arkansas and Tennessee also require licensure-registration of those in both the public and private sectors of the professional practice of petroleum geology.

3) The Mississippi Registered Professional Geologist Practice Act is not consistent with either of the two (2) model laws for geologic licensure-registration concerning the practice of petroleum geology. Specifically, the COPGO bill that was adopted in 1993 by the AIPG, AAPG, AEG, and SIPES requires that all geologists shall be registered-licensed and that the board, once formed, develops regulations governing the sector of petroleum geology practice, and the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG[®]) adopted "The Professional Geologist Model Licensure Law," the most up-to-date model law, that requires that all geologists, including petroleum geologists, in the public sector be licensed-registered (Note: ASBOG[®] represents 28 U.S. states and one (1) U.S. territory that have practice regulation acts governing the professional practice of geology).

4) Lastly, the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) theoretically provides oversight in investment transactions dealing with publicly offered oil and gas prospects, and some may claim that oversight is adequate to regulate the geologic information presented in the transaction. However, in general practice, the SEC is not involved in all publicly offered oil and gas prospect sales. To begin with, the SEC does not have staff to review the vast number of oil and gas prospects being offered to the general public, i.e. "unsophisticated investors."

Additionally, although threshold requirements exist concerning the number of investors required before such offerings are subject to the SEC, these threshold numbers are somewhat arbitrary. For instance, it is possible that an oil and gas offering made to, for example, 60-70 unsophisticated investors and whose total cost was \$1,000,000 or less may not even be on the SEC's "radar scope". As a result, the SEC has been increasingly dependent on the states and their state agencies to be involved in these and similar investments/issues. Based on that factual observation, one of the agencies of the state of Mississippi that should necessarily have oversight of such offerings includes the MSBRPG.

So what could all this mean in the future? As previously stated the MSBRPG is not considering changing the RPG law at this time. The need for change will be driven by complaints within the industry, or obvious violations that are prosecuted. To date, neither of these situations has occurred. The MSBRPG has a responsibility to regulate our profession and ensure the letter of the RPG law is met, and that our registrants and non-registered geologists are informed of potential issues. With that said, if legislation was introduced to require those in the public practice sector of petroleum geology here in Mississippi, a "grandfathering" period (generally a year in length) would be implemented to allow those who are in that category of practice to become registered without taking competency (ASBOG) examinations. This "grandfathering" period would be similar to the initial grandfathering that occurred when the RPG law first took effect in 1997.

Detailed Response

As previously mentioned, the MSBRPG posed the question regarding the public practice of petroleum geology in order to receive feedback from its registrants as to their opinion concerning that matter. Secondly, as also noted, this same question was asked of the MSBRPG when it revised its law during the 2006 Legislative Session. When asked we were unable to respond because we lacked feedback on the issue from our registrants. The following discussion includes an in-depth analysis of other pertinent information and facts that should be considered. It is important to point out that in order to answer the question that was posed one should necessarily also consider other pertinent issues including whether or not it is ethical to allow such a focused exemption from a sector of professional practice that impacts the public's welfare and also one must also consider that by allowing such an exemption does it then not become a discriminatory practice? That is to say, by implementing the exemption does it unduly discriminate against other geologists who also publicly practice geology and are required to be registered? As the Mississippi RPG law currently exists it appears to not meet the standards of fairness and ethical considerations and further, is discriminatory.

Having failed those standards then what is the basis for allowing such an exemption? Do petroleum geologists in public practice receive any more geologic education? Is their overall training significantly different than other geologists other than in area of practice? What sets them apart from others who also publicly practice geology? And if differences exist, specifically what are the quantifiable differences that distinguish them from their fellow practitioners? Remember the public practice of geology is defined to apply to those who may impact the public's health, safety, and welfare including the public's financial welfare.

In order to further understand the basis of the question, the following is from the Mississippi RPG Law in its current form regarding the exemption of petroleum geologists which states the following activity shall not require registration "...Geological work performed exclusively in the exploration for and development (proving out) of petroleum resources, including the giving of testimony, or preparation and presentation of exhibits or documents regarding petroleum resources for the sole purpose of consideration by, or being placed into evidence before, any administrative agency, judicial tribunal or public hearing, if the testimony, exhibits or documents do not imply that the person is registered under this chapter...'

When Mississippi looked at initiating legislation for the registration of geologists during 1995-96 the Geologic Task Force that was formed reviewed the matter of exemptions. Points were raised to consider the exemption of petroleum geologists in the law and not the rules and regulations of the board once formed and also that any potential impact of the general public was under the oversight of the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission (SEC). The only model law in existence at the time of the drafting of the Mississippi legislation was developed by the Council of Professional Geologist Organizations (COPGO). As previously noted, the COPGO Model Law was officially adopted by the AAPG, AIPG, AEG, and SIPES in 1993 and provides for the exemption of petroleum geologists via the regulations of the board once formed. As stated in an excerpt from the COPGO bill, the following is the basis for the exemption of work activities of petroleum geologists and when read, keep in mind that the COPGO bill does not exempt petroleum geologists per se from registration — it only exempts the following activities and then only under certain conditions, "...Exploration and Geological work performed exclusively in the exploration for and development (proving out) of energy resources ... and neither having a substantial impact upon the public health and safety as determined pursuant to regulations issued by the Board, nor requiring the submission of reports or documents to public agencies as provided in Sections 1.4 and 6.8..." (underlined for emphasis and cited sections of COPGO bill follow).

And as noted in the preceding with reference to Sections 1.4 and 6.8 are as follows:

"...Section 1.4 Use of Terms. Only those persons who are registered pursuant to this Chapter may make use of the term "Registered Geologist" or claim any specialty in geology, as a professional, business or commercial identification, title, name, representation or claim or otherwise hold themselves out to the public, as provided in Section 2.7, as being qualified to practice geology or any of its specialties..."and,

"...Section 6.8 Use of Seal and Signature Required. Geologic reports, documents, chain-of-custody records, manifests, permits, affidavits, maps, plans, logs, sections or other public records offered to the public and prepared or issued by or under the supervision of a registered geologist, or by a subordinate under the supervision of a registered geologist, shall include the full name, signature and registration number of the registrant who prepared such document or under whose supervision it was prepared, and an impression of the registrant's seal, in accordance with regulations issued by the Board. Documents which are required to have been prepared or issued by or under the direction of a geologist registered in a specialty shall be similarly signed and sealed..."

Therefore it should be clear that as stated in the COPGO bill regarding the matters and extent of the question posed, no exemption exists for any sector of the practice of geology — all geologists in public practice are required to be registered and once registered the board is then to develop regulations governing professional practice matters. The new standard for geologic licensure law is the ASBOG® Professional Geologist Model Licensure Law. That model law simply states that anyone practicing in the public sector that may impact the public's health, safety, and welfare (including financial welfare) must be licensed.

Also related to this question and of general information for those who may be unfamiliar or not up to date on licensure-registration matters, the Mississippi RPG law is inconsistent with the geologic licensure-registration laws of several states in the U.S. During the course of the past six (6) years several states that have significant oil and gas production have adopted geologic licensure-registration laws that include provisions requiring those in the public practice arena of petroleum geology to be licensed or registered. An example of this type of requirement in a nearby state is found in the legislation adopted by the state of Texas — one of the most significant oil and gas producing states in the U.S. Of further interest, several states closer to home do not exempt practicing geologists in any sector of professional practice, per the scope of the question asked, from licensure-registration. Those states, bordering Mississippi, include both Arkansas and now Tennessee. And for further consideration, several states currently have

legislation pending that do not include any provision for the exemption of petroleum geologists. One of those states, that also has a significant amount of oil and gas production, is the state of Michigan.

In Summary

- 1) The MSBRPG requested feedback from its registrants that was lacking on the matter and now we are getting that needed information;
- 1) The Mississippi RPG law as currently written is in disagreement and non-conformance with both of the accepted model laws concerning the exemption of petroleum geologists — specifically, the COPGO bill states that all geologists are to be registered and that the board is responsible for developing regulations related to the professional practice of petroleum geologists, and the ASBOG[®] Professional Geologist Model Licensure Law simply does not allow for the exemption of petroleum geologists who are engaged in public practice (Note: ASBOG[®] represents 28 U.S. states and one (1) U.S. territory that have practice regulation acts governing the professional practice of geology);
- 3) Lastly, the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission (SEC), in general practice, is not involved in all publicly offered oil and gas prospect sales. To begin with, it does not have staff to review the vast number of oil and gas prospects being offered to the general public, i.e. "unsophisticated investors." Additionally, although threshold requirements exist concerning the number of investors required before such offerings are subject to the SEC, these threshold numbers are somewhat arbitrary. For instance, it is possible that an oil and gas offering made to, for example, 60-70 unsophisticated investors and whose total cost was \$1,000,000 or less may not even be on the SEC's "radar scope". As a result, the SEC has been increasingly dependent on the states and their state agencies to be involved in these and similar investments/issues. Based on that factual observation, one of the agencies of the state of Mississippi that should necessarily have oversight of such offerings includes the MSBRPG.
- 4) Thorough consideration of both ethics and discriminatory perspectives indicate that the provision for the exemption of petroleum geologists in public practice violates both these parameters;

and,

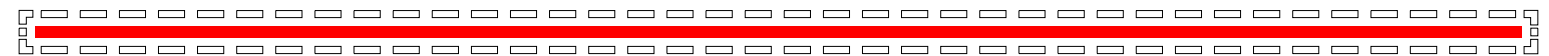
5) No basis for the differentiation of those that are currently exempted in the public practice of petroleum geology from those in other sectors of the public practice of geology as based on education appears to exist. If significant differences exist in training and/or experience they are currently not documented and are thus lacking.

Conclusions

If a modification of the existing registration law were proposed to include those petroleum geologists who publicly practice it would be required that a "grandfathering" period would be instituted. Those geologists that were interested could be "grandfathered" without taking competency examinations. As with the initial "grandfathering" period that began after the RPG law was adopted in 1997 those who publicly practice petroleum geology would be able to register provided they possess 30 semester (45 quarter) hours of geologic course work, have a degree in geology or equivalent, have three (3) references submitted, and demonstrate four (4) or more years of work experience as a petroleum geologist — with no requirement of examinations.

Since the MSBRPG is far from receiving all of the requested responses to the question it asked it would be premature and inappropriate to publish percentages as to those who answered yes or no (and those who failed to respond) at this time. The Board will make the results of this polling question available first on its web site (www.msbrpg.state.ms.us), through its Winter RPG News and also to the Mississippi Geological Society when they become available.

As always, if anyone has any questions concerning this or other matters of professional geologic practice please feel free to contact Rick Ericksen, Executive Director at 601/354-6370 or via e-mail at: geology@msbrpg.state.ms.us and he will gladly make arrangements for you to appear before the Board to address those questions or concerns.



Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.

-Frederic Bastiat, French Economist (1801-1850)

Lord, keep Your arm around my shoulder and Your hand over my mouth.

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Charles H. Williams

Jerry Zoble

MGS BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Society's L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund is open to donations (tax deductible) year round. Your contribution will help the Society recognize and reward outstanding earth science students at its annual Honors Day meeting in April, 2008. Since inception in 1980, the Society has honored 108 students with the Boland Award.

If you would like to contribute, please contact Dave Cate at 601-718-9397 or mail your check (L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund) to him at 217 W. Capitol St., Jackson, MS 39201.

The MGS gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund for the 2007-2008 year:

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Jim Michael

Bob Schneeflock

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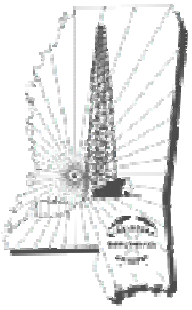
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