Geologic licensure in Alabama

D.T. King, Jr., PG
Geosciences, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849

Disclaimer: Viewing this presentation is not a substitute for your reading and studying all ABLPG and ASBOG materials.
Status of states regarding geologic licensure as of October 2020.

http://asbog.org/
Why geologic licensure?

‘Public Protection Through Licensure’

Much of today’s geological practice affects the health, safety, and welfare of the public, the environment, and the economy and feasibility of engineered works.

Unqualified geologists, who are employed in jobs that affect the public, place an undue risk on the health, safety, and welfare of that public. The risks include:

1. The possibility of an error that will cause a loss of life or property
2. The higher costs of supervision and project completion
3. The costs of repeating incorrect and incomplete work
4. Lower cost/benefit ratios brought about by an inability to do efficient work

http://asbog.org/
Registration assures that qualified reputable individuals provide accurate geologic information to the public in such areas as the following:

- geologic mapping
- groundwater resource and development protection
- mineral-resource evaluation
- oil and gas development
- safe oil, gas, water, or mineral drilling
- accurate and reliable information to government agencies for public use
- environmental geology issues
- land surface stability
- sanitary landfill site selection
- toxic, nuclear, and hazardous waste disposal site selection
- contaminated soil and groundwater investigations
- mined-land reclamation
- acid mine drainage
- dam and impoundment construction
- highway construction

http://asbog.org/
Why not hire engineers to certify geologists' work or to do geologic work?

For public protection, persons can only certify work for which they were trained in the fundamental geologic principles and have the necessary experience. Geologists are trained and have experience in geologic interpretation of Earth materials; engineers are trained and have experience in designing and building. These are two distinctly different professions. However, because of the close relations between those who interpret and those who design and build, geologists and engineers must work together and in a supportive fashion.

http://asbog.org/
Typical path to licensure for a geologist ...

1. BS degree
2. FG exam (pass); G.I.T.
3. 5 years work under a PG or PE
4. PG exam (pass)
   - Apply for & obtain LPG license

5. BS degree
6. FG exam (pass); G.I.T.
7. MS degree
8. 4 years work under a PG or PE*

* True in Alabama; some states vary.
ASBOG® Contact Information:
ASBOG®, P.O. Box 11591,
Columbia, SC 29211-1591
Voice: 803/739-5676
Fax: 803/739-8874

http://asbog.org/
Candidate Resources
Examination Application Process
Institutional Codes
• Examination Schedule
• Candidate Handbook
2010 Task Analysis
Examination Blueprint
Examination Score Request
Tasks of a Geologist
Academic Assessment
CPAT Application Video

Member Resources
State Matrix
• Member Map
• Member Boards
Affiliate Members
International Members
Model Law
Model Rules and Regulations
News

Important Resources
Charter
By-Laws
Honor Roll
Code of Ethics
ASBOG Foundation

ASBOG® Contact Information:

ASBOG®
P.O. Box 11591
Columbia, SC 29211-1591
Voice: 803/739-5676
Fax: 803/739-8874

http://asbog.org/
## Examination Schedule

<table>
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<td>Fall Examination Date</td>
<td>October</td>
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**NOTE** – Reconfirm dates with ABLPG before making plans for any examination.

Can also be found on state board web pages, e.g. ABLPG (algeobd.alabama.gov).

*Disclaimer: Viewing this presentation is not a substitute for your reading and studying all ABLPG and ASBOG materials.*
ASBOG® is not affiliated with, nor does it provide information for/to, or endorse, any examination preparation course(s), study guide/manuals/aid (e.g., flash cards), or publication other than its own "Professional Geologists Candidate Handbook". This Candidate Handbook is designed to help you prepare for the ASBOG® National Geology Examinations. ASBOG® has not authorized use of its name by any commercial enterprise.
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**Candidate Handbook**

**Fundamentals Exam**

**Professional Exam**

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**APPENDIX 2**

**FG and PG TEST BLUEPRINTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Domains</th>
<th>FG %</th>
<th>PG %</th>
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<tr>
<td>A. General and Field Geology</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, and Paleontology</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Geomorphology, Surficial Processes, and Quaternary Geology</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Structure, Tectonics, and Seismology</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Hydrogeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Engineering Geology</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
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<td>H. Economic Geology and Energy Resources</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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Disclaimer: Viewing this presentation is not a substitute for your reading and studying all ABLPG and ASBOG materials.
Figure 1 - ASBOG® Task Analysis 2010
FG Test Blueprint - Domain Percentages

A. General and Field Geology, 20%
B. Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry, 11%
C. Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, and Paleontology, 12%
D. Geomorphology, Surficial Processes, and Quaternary Geology, 13%
E. Structure, Tectonics, and Seismology, 11%
F. Hydrogeology, 11%
G. Engineering Geology, Energy Resources, 11%
H. Economic Geology and Energy Resources, 11%
Figure 2 - ASBOG® Task Analysis 2010
PG Test Blueprint - Domain Percentages

- A. General and Field Geology, 21%
- B. Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry, 5%
- C. Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, and Paleontology, 5%
- D. Geomorphology, Surficial Processes, and Quaternary Geology, 8%
- E. Structure, Tectonics, and Seismology, 9%
- F. Hydrogeology, 19%
- G. Engineering Geology, 17%
- H. Economic Geology and Energy Resources, 16%
APPENDIX 3
FG SAMPLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. When water contacts pyrite at the earth's surface, the soil is commonly:
   A) acidic
   B) basic
   C) oxygenated
   D) nitrogen-rich

![Map View](image)

**Figure 1.3**

2. What is the correct order of the ages of the units from the oldest to the youngest on the geologic map in Figure 1.2?
   A) Aa, Fo, Mo, Di, Prm
   B) Di, Mo, Fo, Aa, Prm
   C) Prm, Di, Mo, Fo, Aa
   D) Prm, Aa, Fo, Mo, Di

5. Borehole geophysics, also known as "electric logging", has been selected to help in the evaluation of a potential strippable coal area containing many seams of thin to moderate thickness. The sample log (Figure 2) illustrates a typical association of coals and related sediments. Anomalous radioactivity occurs in a sandstone at:
   A) 10 feet
   B) 24-30 feet
   C) 65-70 feet
   D) 94-100 feet

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Member Map

Member Boards

United States & Puerto Rico

- ASBOG Member Board Regulatory State (MBR) (32)
- FG Testing Only State (FGTO) (2)
- Non-Regulatory State (NRS) (17)
Definitions.

(1) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists.

(2) GEOLOGIST. A person who holds a degree in the geological sciences from an accredited college or university.

(3) GEOLOGIST-IN-TRAINING. A person who holds a degree in the geological sciences from an accredited college or university and who has successfully passed the part of the professional examination covering fundamental or academic geological subjects. (Alabama: 70% or higher on ASBOG FG exam.)

(4) GEOLOGY. The science dealing with the Earth and its history; its constituent rocks, minerals, liquids, gases, and other materials of which it is composed, and the study of the processes responsible for the development and change in the component parts of the Earth, for the benefit of mankind.

(5) GOOD MORAL CHARACTER. Character that tends to ensure the faithful discharge of the professional duties of the licensed professional geologist based on truth and adherence to ethical principles. (No felonies; misdemeanors are fully explained to the satisfaction of the Board.)

(6) LICENSE. A certificate issued by the board recognizing the individual named in this certificate as meeting the requirements for licensing under this chapter.

(7) LICENSED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST. A person who holds a license as a professional geologist under this chapter. (Was a Geologist-in-training for 5 years total under PGs or equivalent and has passed ASBOG PG exam with 70% or more … or has a “grandfathered license” (no longer available).)

(8) PUBLIC PRACTICE OF GEOLOGY. The performance of geological service or work, including, but not limited to, consultation, geological investigation, surveys, evaluations, planning, mapping, or review of geological work related to the public practice of geology, or both, in which the performance is related to the public welfare or safeguarding of life, health, property, and the environment except as otherwise specifically provided by this chapter. A person publicly practices or offers to publicly practice geology if the person does any of the following:

http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov
(8) PUBLIC PRACTICE OF GEOLOGY. The performance of geological service or work, including, but not limited to, consultation, geological investigation, surveys, evaluations, planning, mapping, or review of geological work related to the public practice of geology, or both, in which the performance is related to the public welfare or safeguarding of life, health, property, and the environment except as otherwise specifically provided by this chapter. A person publicly practices or offers to publicly practice geology if the person does any of the following:

a. Offers to or provides geological work or services to the public in any branch of the profession of geology.

b. Represents himself or herself to be a licensed professional geologist by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in another way.

c. Implies that he or she is a licensed professional geologist or that he or she is registered under this chapter through the use of some other title.

d. Holds himself or herself out as one who performs or is able to perform any geological services or work recognized by the board as the public practice of geology.
Minimum requirements to be eligible for license. (Ala. Code of Law)

(a) An applicant is eligible for a license as a professional geologist in the State of Alabama if the applicant meets all of the following minimum requirements:

1. Is of good moral character.

2. Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a degree in geology, engineering geology, or one of the related geological sciences if the applicant has completed a minimum of 30 semester hours or their equivalent of course work in geological science. The appropriate college or university shall document educational experience by submitting a certified written reference or certified transcript directly to the board. (NOTE – See Board policy on courses.)

3. Have at least five years (total) of full-time professional geological work after receipt of a bachelor's degree, either as a geologist-in-training or in geologic work related to the public practice of geology, which is satisfactory to the board. The following criteria of education and experience qualify toward accumulation of the required years of professional work:
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   NOTE – Requires ASBOG Fundamentals (FG) exam score over 70%.

http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov
a. The board, at its discretion, may give a maximum of **one year's credit for each graduate degree in geology**, engineering geology, or one of the related geological sciences.

b. The board may consider work in related fields as acceptable work experience.

c. In all cases, the board shall determine if the applicant has demonstrated his or her ability by having gained experience by performing work in a responsible position. The adequacy of the required supervision and experience shall be documented to the board (see specifics at Board web page).

d. Professional geologic research of applicants either teaching at the college or university level or in research agencies of state or federal government shall be credited and applied toward the professional requirements herein, provided the work or research in the geological sciences can be documented in writing and is demonstrated to be of a sufficiently responsible nature to be equivalent to the professional requirements as set forth above.

e. The professional geologic work experience of the applicant shall be documented in writing. Except as otherwise provided, work experience obtained before receipt of a bachelor's degree shall not be accepted as credit toward professional geologic work experience.

http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov
(4) Passes an examination which is designed to demonstrate that the applicant has the necessary knowledge and requisite skill to exercise the responsibilities of the public practice of geology. (NOTE – ABLPG requires the ASBOG PG exam; score must be over 70%.)

(Acts 1995, No. 95-399, p. 820, §10.)
ABLPG Policy on COURSES FOR A DEGREE IN GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists recognizes that a core of required geology courses common to curricula in most degree-granting geology departments is essential to the training of geologists. The following or equivalent courses in geology are deemed mandatory for licensure.

- Physical Geology - 4 semester hours or equivalent
- Historical Geology - 4 semester hours
- Mineralogy - 4 semester hours
- Structural Geology - 3 semester hours
- Stratigraphy - 3 semester hours
- Field Geology - 6 semester hours

http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov
Some curricula may reflect regional differences or require other similar or additional courses. Courses may be presented with slightly different or variations in name. It is the scientific content that is important. The following courses are also desirable for licensure and may be necessary for the FG and PG exams:

- Applied Geophysics
- Economic Geology
- Environmental/Engineering Geology
- Geomorphology
- Groundwater Hydrology, Hydrology, or Hydrogeochemistry
- Invertebrate Paleontology
- Petroleum Geology Petrology, Petrography, or Sedimentary Petrology
- Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology
- Optical Mineralogy
- Sedimentology

“Other geologically-related courses may be considered by the Board. In no case will course work which is not specifically focused toward the geological sciences be considered toward meeting the basic education requirements.”

http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov
http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov/

Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists
2777 Zelda Road
Montgomery, AL 36106

Phone: 334-420-7236 or 866-873-4664
Fax: 334-263-6115
Email: geology @ alstateboard.com
2020 Board Schedule

Note: All Board Meetings are held at the Board office and begin at 10:00 a.m.

January 16, 2020 Board Meeting (Thursday - 10:00am)

March 20, 2020 ASBOG Exam (Friday - 8:00 a.m.) Deadline to register is January 17, 2020

April 16, 2020 Board Meeting (Thursday - 10:00 a.m.)

July 16, 2020 Board Meeting (Thursday - 10:00 a.m.)

AGENDA for BOARD MEETING

October 2, 2020 ASBOG Exam (Friday-8:00 a.m.) Deadline to register is July 17, 2020

October 15, 2020 Board Meeting (Thursday – 10:00 a.m.)
Licensing Act
The following links will open in another window. After viewing a link, close window to return to this page.
- Section 34-41-1 Short title.
- Section 34-41-2 Purposes of chapter.
- Section 34-41-3 Definitions.
- Section 34-41-4 Creation of board; members; personnel and committees.
- Section 34-41-5 Powers of board.
- Section 34-41-6 Establishment of revenue trust fund.
- Section 34-41-7 Applicability; exemptions.
- Section 34-41-8 Acts not prohibited.
- Section 34-41-9 Application.
- Section 34-41-10 Minimum requirements to be eligible for license.
- Section 34-41-11 Examinations.
- Section 34-41-12 Issuance of license.
- Section 34-41-13 Certification in specialty.
- Section 34-41-14 Seal.
- Section 34-41-15 Register of applications.
- Section 34-41-16 Roster.
- Section 34-41-17 Written charges against licensed geologist.
- Section 34-41-18 Illegal acts.
- Section 34-41-19 Denial, suspension, or revocation of license.
- Section 34-41-20 Procedures for disciplinary actions; aggrieved person may petition board for hearing; judicial review.
- Section 34-41-21 Reissuance of license.
- Section 34-41-22 Actions which are Class B misdemeanors.
- Section 34-41-23 Injunction.
- Section 34-41-24 Sunset Law.
ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS
810 South McDonough Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
334.209.0660
Fax 334.283.6115

APPLICATION FOR LICENSING AS A GEOLOGIST

☐ By education, examination and experience
☐ By reciprocity
☐ For reinstatement
☐ For Geologist-in-Training

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT

1. The Application form must be typewritten, fully completed, signed, notarized and accompanied by the requests fee BEFORE it will be accepted for consideration by the Board. Enclose two (2) recent (less than two years old) passport size photographs.

2. Non-refundable fees MUST accompany the application (Application fee $150.00 and License fee $150.00). Do not send cash. Make checks or money orders payable to: Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists (ABLPG).

3. All reciprocal applicants must request a Letter of Good Standing be sent from the reciprocal state directly to the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>LAST</th>
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**12. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR?**

If “Yes,” fully explain on a separate sheet of paper (exclude traffic violations).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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**13. EDUCATION**

Applicant should arrange for transcripts from colleges or universities to be sent directly from the institution to the Board on forms provided. Transcripts from applicants will not be accepted. Holders of degrees from foreign institutions, see the Administrative Rule 885-X-3-028(8).

Include in chronological order attendance at each educational institution beyond high school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME AND LOCATION OF INSTITUTION</th>
<th>ATTENDANCE FROM</th>
<th>TO</th>
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<th>DEGREE RECEIVED</th>
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**14. SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Summarize your professional practice, beginning with your most recent position, in the table below. Describe your professional expertise in detail on the experience data sheets or copies thereof.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES FROM</th>
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<th>EMPLOYER NAME AND ADDRESS</th>
<th>SUPERVISOR NAME</th>
<th>JOB TITLE</th>
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Add additional sheets if necessary.
15. REGISTRATIONS

List geological or other registrations, licenses, etc., which you currently hold that have been issued by any governmental authority within or without the State of Alabama. IF APPLYING FOR LICENSING BY RECIPROCITY, YOU MUST CERTIFY EITHER THAT ONE OR MORE OF YOUR GEOLOGY REGISTRATION/LICENSES WERE GRANTED PARTLY ON THE BASIS OF WRITTEN EXAMINATION, OR THAT YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED 5 OR MORE YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL WORK AFTER OBTAINING A REGISTRATION/LICENSE BY “GRANDFATHERING” AND YOU MUST INCLUDE WITH YOUR APPLICATION A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR CURRENT REGISTRATION DOCUMENT FROM THAT STATE. Do not include membership in or certifications by professional societies or associations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF LICENSE</th>
<th>DISCIPLINE</th>
<th>ISSUING AGENCY</th>
<th>DATE ISSUED</th>
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* Registration, license, certification, other (explain)

☐ My registration/certification as a geologist in the State of ______ was granted on the basis of written examination. A photocopy of my current registration documentation is attached.

☐ My registration/certification as a geologist in the State of ______ was granted on the basis of “grandfather” provisions. I have five (5) years of professional experience since registration/licensing. A photocopy of my current registration documentation is attached.

16. REGISTRATION/LICENSING DENIAL

Has any state denied you registration/licensing? Or, has any state suspended or revoked your registration/licensing/certification other than for your failure to renew? (If “YES”, explain on a separate sheet of paper.)

☐ YES ☐ NO

17. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES HELD</th>
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18. REFERENCES

List the names of five (5) references: three (3) licensed or registered geologists, qualified geologists, or professional engineers who can attest to your character, reputation, responsibility, integrity, and competence; and two (2) personal references. Have these communications directly to the Board using the forms provided for reference evaluation. You are encouraged (but not required) to list your most recent supervisor (item 15) as a reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER</th>
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19. ATTACH THE TWO PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE.

“I understand that I may be required to furnish additional information, if requested by the Board.”

“I _______________________________________ hereby certify that I have read the “Alabama Geologists Licensing Act” (Title 34, Chapter 41 of the Alabama Code, 1976), the Rules and Regulations of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists, and the Code of Professional Conduct adopted by the Board. I further certify that the information contained in this application, including attached sheets, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.”

Signature of Applicant: __________________________

County of __________________________ State of __________________________

Sworn and subscribed before me, this ________ day of __________________________ 20________

____________________________________, Notary Public

My Commission Expires: __________________________
Steps to licensure in Alabama for new geologists fresh from university:

- Complete geologic degree with required coursework from ABLPG list.

- Take ASBOG Fundamentals (FG) exam as soon as possible after graduation or during senior year. Need 70% to pass. Now you are a Geologist-in-Training.

- Work for 5 years under licensed professional geologists (LPGs) or equivalent (see regulations and policy). One year credit for each graduate degree in Geology.

- Take ASBOG Professional (PG) Geologists’ exam. Need 70% to pass.

- Apply for geologic license.

http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov
Steps to licensure in Alabama for LPG from another state:

- Apply for licensure by reciprocity.
- Submit paperwork documenting existing license, education, experience, and exam scores.
- Upon approval by the Board, submit fees for geologic license.

http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov
Type of geologic work in Alabama wherein a geologic license is required:

The law says “any person who publicly practices, or offers or attempts to publicly practice, geology in the State of Alabama is subject to” licensure law.
The only persons practicing geology who are exempt are:

(1) Persons engaged solely in teaching of geology or related physical or natural sciences, and persons engaged solely in geologic research conducted through academic institutions, agencies, or government and nonprofit research organizations.

(2) Officers and employees of the United States of America and the State of Alabama practicing solely as officers and employees.

(3) Officers and employees of businesses and industries practicing solely as officers and employees … if they do not offer their professional services to the public for hire and are not engaged in activities that require the signature of a licensed professional geologist.

(4) Officers and employees of companies and corporations practicing solely as such officers and employees who work as a sole proprietorship in mining and mineral exploration and development and who do not offer their professional services to the public for hire … and are not engaged in activities that require the signature of a licensed professional geologist.

(5) Officers and employees of companies and corporations and individuals who work as a sole proprietorship in oil and/or gas exploration and development …

For deleted parts, see Section 34-41-7.
Keeping your Alabama geologic license:

● ABLPG geologic licenses are good for 2 years, and then must be renewed.

● Renewal requires payment of a fee and documentation of CONTINUING EDUCATION efforts in the amount of 30 professional development hours (PDHs) per biennium.

● There are rules on what is and is not considered acceptable for Continuing Education, and these efforts must be documented at each renewal. At random, the Board audits documentation for 1/3 of all LPGs renewing each quarter of the year.

● For more information on continuing education requirements, see the Board web page …
Questions on geologic licensure?

http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov/

http://asbog.org/

Disclaimer: Viewing this presentation is not a substitute for your reading and studying all ABLPG and ASBOG materials.