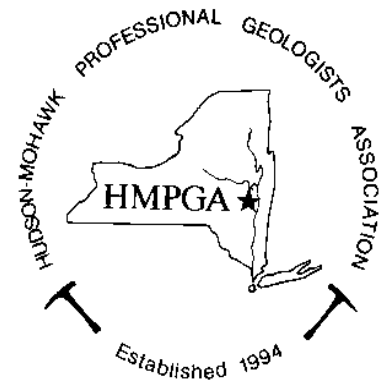


Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists' Association

May Newsletter

www.hmpga.org



May 16, 2007

June 2006 Flooding in the Mohawk Valley and its Impact on the New York State Canal System

Speaker: Howard M. Goebel, P.E., P.H.

Abstract: This month's discussion will include a close look and summary of the events that lead to the record flooding in the Mohawk River Basin, as well as the impact the flooding had on the New York State Canal System, and surrounding communities. Such aspects as: meteorological conditions, antecedent conditions, the return frequencies associated with the flood, and the exceeded 500-year return, will be discussed.

About the Speaker

Howard M. Goebel is a Professional Hydrologist and Engineer with the New York State Canal Corporation. Mr. Goebel oversees all facets of the Canal Corporation's Water management Program, including navigation, water supply, hydropower, and emergency management. He also serves as a liaison to numerous regulatory agencies, emergency managers, water users, local governments, community-based special interest groups, and appointed/elected officials. Prior to working for the NYS Canal Corporation, Mr. Goegel was a Project Manager at Moffa & Associates Consulting Engineers, and a Project Engineer with Environmental & Resource Engineering Consultants. Mr. Goebel received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Environmental and Resource Engineering at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Inside the May 2007 Newsletter

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HMPGA sponsors, coordinates, and participates in events to help educate the community and its members with respect to geological or geotechnical issues. Events include regular meetings with evening dinners and guest speakers. Other events include workshops, short courses, or field excursions. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions for our organization, please contact a HMPGA Officer or Board Member.

May's Meeting and Event Information:

When: May 16, 2007

Schedule:

Calaway Grill

The Saratoga Room

(attached to the Wingate Hotel)
661 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie

Board Meeting	4:30pm
Social Hour	5:00pm
Dinner	6:00pm
Program (free)	7:00pm

Dinner:

\$10.00/person for student members

\$20.00/person for members

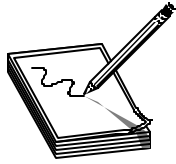
\$22.00/person for non-members

Notes:

Vegetarian or fish meals are available with prior request. Individual will be responsible for the cost of dinner unless a cancellation notice is received 24 hours prior to the meeting. Walk-ins will be charged an additional \$2.00.

Reservations: Reservations are required for dinner attendance. Call or e-mail Diane Merolla at (518) 348-6995 or dmerolla@alphageoscience.com by noon on **May 16, 2007**. Please register even if you are only attending the Program.

Thank you in advance!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AS Greetings - as we close out another year of meetings, I want to take a moment to thank my fellow HMPGA Officers and Board Members for all their contributions. As I've said in many ways over the course of this past year, our organization thrives on the engagement of its membership, and your 2006-2007 Officers and Directors exemplified this spirit. Membership rose significantly over the past year, and we've laid the groundwork for improving our outreach efforts with area academic institutions. These elements dovetail perfectly with our commitment to the Licensure process, and by extension, to the important roles that the geosciences play in society.

Along those lines, I also thank **Mark Williams**, NYSCPG President, and all of the NYSCPG leadership, for their coordination of Summit '07, a unique forum with NYSCPG (and its affiliated organizations) and the Chairs and Faculty members of geology programs in New York State. Updates on the Licensure efforts, as well as NYSCPG membership and other information, can be found at <http://www.nyscp.org/>. To reiterate what I wrote in recent correspondence to our membership, the Licensure process is a vital gateway to our future as professionals in the geosciences.

The **Spring 2007 Field Trip** was a great success - we had about 40 participants, and were treated to first-hand observations of lower to middle Devonian Onondaga and Helderberg carbonates over a fairly sizeable geographic area. Kudos to **Bill Miller** for his dedication and enthusiasm in bringing this trip from concept to reality. Their efforts reflect the very essence of membership involvement that I've repeated time and again. Enhancing the experience were discussions fostered by our trip leaders of **Bob Osborne, Art Palmer, and Paul Rubin**, whose combined experience with the stratigraphic, structural, and karst features of these limestones gave us a chance to view so many aspects that normally go unseen. The trip was a step back in time for me on several levels, as it seemed like only yesterday that I was following Dr. Palmer through the woods to some outcrop - or more likely another cave entrance. Art was one of my professors during my undergraduate training in Oneonta, and he's one of a select few recipients of SUNY's Distinguished Teaching Professor Award, so we got to spend some quality time with one of the legends of karst and cave hydrology. Bob Osborne, who was a key player in the development of NYSDOT aggregate specifications, brought tremendous empirical knowledge of the economic value of these limestones, and he's currently waiting patiently at the **Cave House Museum** for students and teachers to pry loose some of the hidden thesis and dissertation topics that sit out the back door. Paul Rubin has done some incredible work on the timing of cave-formation events and their hydrologic relationships to the surrounding terrain, and his insights were both informative and enlightening. Paul is a veritable wellspring of hydrogeologic information on this area, and is always eager to share his love of caving and geology with others. Special thanks as well to **Emil and Mike Galasso** and **Cobleskill Stone Products** for the generous use of their quarries as tour destinations. As I say, this was a rare opportunity indeed to view such excellent exposures of these historically, economically, and geologically significant strata.

Our Summer Gathering will be held at one of the state parks in the Capital District - we're considering Thacher or Saratoga Spa in particular, but if you have alternative suggestions, please let us know! The Saratoga Spa location would give attendees the opportunity to visit the track earlier in the afternoon and make a full day of it. The format will be a simple picnic-style barbeque and social event, and we've targeted the third week in August as the timeframe - specifics will follow shortly. This should enable most of us to have our plates reasonably cleared of summer goings-on, and will be a good springboard to the September 2007 meeting - **not to mention a great reminder to get those 2007 - 2008 membership dues paid in timely fashion!**

Thanks also to **Jeanne Hewitt**, who served as a judge at the 21st Annual Joseph Henry Science Fair, held on April 20th at the College of Saint Rose. Jeanne has become something of a regular at the event, and we certainly appreciate her enthusiasm for this important event. Please consider volunteering your time for the 2008 Fair - it's a great chance to interact with some budding scientists in our midst, and it reflects well upon our whole organization.

Our regular monthly meetings will resume in September. This month's meeting will feature **Howard Goebel**, a hydrologist with the NYS Canals Corporation, who will be speaking to us about the June 2006 flooding in the Mohawk Valley and its effects on the NYS canal system.

I thank you for the opportunity to have served as your President for the 2006 - 2007 year, and I look forward to working with the organization's future leadership in developing and enhancing this shared resource. I believe we've built upon the solid foundation that previous leaders have provided, and I feel confident that HMPGA is in very good hands with the incoming leadership.

See you on May 16th at the Calaway Grill!

Ted Loukides

Mineral Resources Specialist with the NYSDEC's Division of Mineral Resources in Albany

~ *From the New York State Council of Professional Geologists* ~



Fellow Geologists:

The following is a brief overview of recent efforts undertaken by the NYSCPG.

President Williams, Lobbyist Leckerling, and Past President's Jeff Loney, Sam Gowan, and Marjory Rinaldo-Lee **met with the Chair for Higher Education (Deborah J. Glick) on April 18, 2007.** The purpose of this brief meeting was to introduce ourselves and discuss the merits of our licensing bill. Following a meeting, our lobbyist met with our Assembly Sponsor (Assemblyman Steve Englebright)

We are committed to actively participate in issues that pertain to the professional, commercial, and ethical development of the geologic profession. **NYSCPG hosted Summit '07 at the NYS Museum on April 20, 2007** to discuss various issues confronting academia and the practicing geologist. We had a great response and are making plans to do this again next year. I believe strongly that the issues we discussed are critical to academia as well as industry and will be summarizing them to you soon. **Special thanks to Past Presidents Gowan and Bill Kelly for moderating this event.**

Senator Carl L. Marcellino introduces Bill No. S5307 on April 25, 2007. This bill provides for professional licensing for geologists and mimics last year's bill (S3114A of 2006). Check out <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugetf.cgi> and type in **S5307** for more information. Subject bill establishes the profession of geology; defines the practice of geology; establishes requirements for a license as a professional geologist; regulates the practice of such profession; and authorizes geologists to engage in professional business enterprises with engineers, land surveyors, architects and landscape architects. **We would like to thank Senator Marcellino for his leadership and loyal support.**

We are currently setting up several meetings with key policymakers (i.e., newly appointed DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis and Judith Enck (Governor's Deputy Secretary for the Environment) and leaders within the NYS Assembly (Sponsor Englebright, Chair Deborah Glick, and others) to promote our licensing bill. Plans are under way to have Assemblyman Englebright introduce the licensing bill in the Assembly very soon.

BOTTOMLINE: WE NEED YOUR HELP, YOUR TIME, AND FINANCIAL BACKING IN SUPPORT OF THIS EFFORT.

"DON'T LET WHAT YOU CAN'T DO INTERFERE WITH WHAT YOU CAN DO."
(JOHN WOODEN)

Regards,

Mark A. Williams
(NYSCPG President, 2007)

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Joseph Henry, HMPGA, and the Next Generation of Scientists

Over one hundred junior scientists proudly presented their projects at the **21st Annual Joseph Henry Science Fair** held at the College of St. Rose on April 20, 2007. HMPGA was one of fifteen sponsor-donors and also helped to judge the event, which is open to any student in grades 4 through 8 attending private, parochial, or public schools in Albany. Participants from fourteen schools submitted entries, and students from the Harriet Myers Middle School even arrived by limousine!



The earth sciences were well represented with projects describing how tornadoes form, what "cave icicles" are, how crystals grow, and the mysterious way that water seems to disappear in the hydrologic cycle. Several young scientists stated that the media's coverage of global warming inspired them to study the greenhouse effect and how a warming earth will affect germination.

The annual science fair honors Joseph Henry, who was born in Albany in 1797 and became one of the most accomplished scientists of his era. He taught at Princeton University, was the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and is considered to be the inventor of the electric motor. He pioneered an empirical approach to science as a way of thinking built on evidence. Science students today remember him through "Henry's Law," one of the gas laws that predict the solubility of gases in liquids. The Joseph Henry Memorial is located in Academy Park, across from Albany City Hall.



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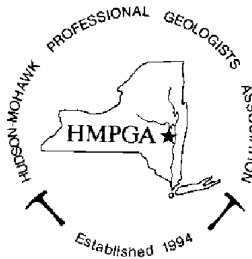
Are you interested in really getting involved with HMPGA for the 2007-2008 Session?

HMPGA is seeking a new Newsletter Editor for the upcoming 2007-2008 Session.

Duties include: Attending Board Meetings, collecting, organizing, and assembling ads, announcements, and various articles for the Newsletter. Adding an artistic touch is always nice, as well!

Please send notice of your interest in this position by **July 31, 2007**, to:

Ted Loukides
tnloukid@gw.dec.state.ny.us
(518) 402-8054



HUDSON-MOHAWK PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

2007 - 2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

<i>Please check one</i>	
Original Application <i>(Please complete entire form)</i>	Renewal <i>(Fill in name, changes to personal information, newsletter format, indicate how you'd like to help, and sign and date)</i>

Personal Information				
Name:		Preferred mailing address:		
Affiliation:				
Position:				
Business phone:				
Fax:		Email address:		
Degree/Major:	School:	Graduation Date:		
Newsletter Form:	Electronic (via email)	Hard copy (US Mail)		
Other Professional Memberships:				
We need your help. Would you be willing to help with the newsletter or serve on a committee?				
newsletter	program committee	membership committee	communications committee	
Membership class:	Member	Associate Member	Student	Corporate
Signature:			Date:	

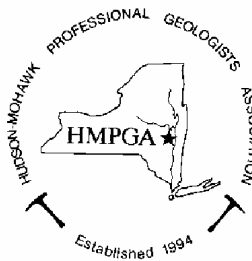
2007 – 2008 ANNUAL DUES	
Membership Class	Dues
Member	\$ 25.00
Associate Member	\$ 25.00
Student	\$ 5.00
Corporate	\$ 100.00

*Please return the completed Membership Application with a check made payable to **Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists' Association**.*

(Application fee will be returned if applicant does not meet membership requirements.)

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Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists'
Association
PO Box 5506
Albany, NY 12205-0506

(HMPGA use only)			
Membership Approved		Membership Denied	
Routing:	Treasurer	Membership Committee	Secretary
Date:		Check No.	



HUDSON-MOHAWK PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

2007 - 2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

HMPGA is incorporated as a non-profit organization. Money raised through membership dues and other fund-raising will be used to pay for mailings, meeting expenses, speaker expenses, and other needs as the Association develops into the future. The purpose of this corporation is to reach out to area geologists, hold regularly scheduled meetings, disseminate geologic knowledge and exchange information concerning the professional practice of geology. HMPGA is affiliated with the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG). This affiliation with AIPG will facilitate the exchange of information regarding professional activities on state, regional and national levels; and will promote the professional development of the members of HMPGA.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Only Members shall be eligible to vote. Associate Members and Student Members shall enjoy all privileges of the Corporation, except that they shall not hold office, endorse applications for membership, or vote. The Corporation shall consist of the following classes of membership:

- (a) **MEMBER** - Any person who by education and/or experience is qualified to advance the objectives of the Corporation shall be eligible for full membership. Such a person must be a graduate of an institution of collegiate standing, in which institution the major work has been done in geology or in geological sciences. In the case of a person who has not had this training but whose standing in the profession is well recognized, admission to full membership may be granted by unanimous approval of the Board of Directors.
- (b) **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** - Any other person who is interested in the science of geology, and in the advancement of the objectives of the Corporation, and who is not eligible to be a Member, as above defined, shall be eligible to be an Associate Member. After two years' participation in the affairs of the Corporation an Associate Member may, upon application and approval of the Board of Directors or by direct action of the Board of Directors, be elevated to a Member.
- (c) **STUDENT MEMBER** - Any full-time graduate or under-graduate college student who is studying geology shall be eligible to be a Student Member. Upon termination of full-time college work, such student membership shall cease, and application for membership as set forth herein may be made.
- (d) **CORPORATE MEMBER** - Any corporation or organization whose activities and/or interests concern the science of geology and the advancement of the objectives of the Corporation. Corporate Membership - Admission to and continuation of membership shall be contingent upon (1) a professional interest in the science of geology, and (2) payment of dues. Rights and Privileges of Corporate Members
(1) One (1) designated representative of a corporate member (not already holding an Individual Membership) shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to membership vote. (2) Election to office shall be the privilege of the person designated as Corporate Representative. (3) Each Corporate Member shall have the option of designating a portion of their membership dues to help defray the expenses associated with the monthly meeting. (4) Annual dues for a Corporate Member shall be one-hundred dollars (\$100) per year.

COMMITTEES

Program Committee - The duties of this committee will be to plan, organize, and carry out, with approval of the Board of Directors, all meetings of the corporation, including field trips. The program committee shall also submit to the corporation, no later than September 1 of each year, a tentative program for the ensuing year.

Membership Committee - The duties of this committee shall be to promote membership in the corporation, to assist the treasurer in contacting members who are in arrears in their dues, and to promote fellowship by notifying new members of their acceptance in the Association and inviting them to meetings.

Communications Committee - The duties of this committee shall be to disseminate understandable and accurate information about geology to high school or grade school students, to develop a better understanding and appreciation of the role of geology in the everyday life of the Hudson/Mohawk area, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of geologists as trained professionals comparable to members of the other professions. This committee shall also arrange for all publications authorized by the Board of Directors.

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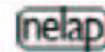
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- Do you know of someone who isn't a member, but should be?
- Would you like to join a committee, or give a presentation?

Well why not? Renew your membership today, and tell a friend to join! Join a committee and lend your ideas to our Association. Or simply send us an e-mail, and let us know that you want to present a discussion on an interesting topic! We want to hear from you!



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Military Geology in Alaska Springtime 1957

I traveled into the Chugach Mountains with a reconnaissance team from the Second Engineer Battalion, to give them some scientific support in their effort to find a way to move troops and equipment to build an underground fortress. We left the paved highway in the vicinity of Eklutna Lake and trundled up into the hills along a dusty dirt road. The dense birch forest pressed in, close to the road.



We could see an occasional moose trail, heading off towards the lake and towards other feeding grounds, but no sign of human occupation and no other roads.

As we entered a clearing, the driver sped up. The road made a wide turn right, and then a sharp turn left.

“STOP!” I shouted.

“Why?” the sergeant asked, “What’s wrong with you?”

“Quicksand ahead!”

“You’re nuts! I don’t see nuthin’. Keep goin’.”

“Stop!” I insisted, “Let me out – NOW!”

The driver stopped and I got out, taking my pack with me. “I’ll walk from here, and take pictures.”

The sergeant made some vulgar remarks about headquarters’ wimps and slammed the Jeep door shut. The driver preceded another few car lengths before the Jeep sank into the roadbed.

“How did you know it was there?” the driver asked, as the sergeant arranged rocks and wood under the jack, in a futile effort to lift the Jeep wheels out of the mud. I told him that I saw some snowmelt pouring over the embankment above the road, and then bubbling up on the opposite side of the road. Although the road surface was dry and dusty, it was very smooth and level in the vicinity of the snowmelt. It had become saturated and charged with water. It really was a pond. It could not support anything – not a person walking and certainly not a Jeep.



“You have quick eyes,” the driver said.

“And a big mouth,” added the sergeant.

We could hear military maneuvers going on in the next valley. We had taken the lakeside road to avoid them. As lunchtime approached, I climbed a tree, to see if I could tell where we were, relative to the maneuvers. Navigation from within the birch forest had been impossible. Climbing the birches was also impossible, because they had such small and slippery trunks. Besides, they were almost all the same size, so I would have gained no advantage. There was one tall aspen, with branches that broke under my weight and oozed sticky sap. I saw a helicopter in the distance. I waved. The helicopter landed nearby. An infantry captain emerged and smiled at me. It was not a pleasant smile. We exchanged perfunctory salutes.

“What have you done now, Davis?”

“Ask the sergeant. He’s in charge.”

After a brief discussion, the Captain radioed for help. Some time later, an army truck came by to pull the Jeep out. In order to get into a better position, the truck driver started to pull off the road. “STOP!” I shouted.

Too late. It sank into the ground, deeper than the Jeep.

At this point, the captain told me put the camera away.

They called for more help. A tank showed up and immediately moved in, close to the Jeep. Too close.

The Captain called for a tank retriever. When it arrived, he told them to stay away from the quick ground area and to feed out a long cable. Then he went back to the helicopter and stood on the skid, to shout one more instruction. The helicopter began to sink into the spreading area of quick ground. He quit in mid-sentence and leapt into the helicopter, which then managed to lift from the soft ground and drift away into the mists.

The tank retriever crew skillfully pulled all vehicles free of the muddy road. Then it got stuck! By the end of the day, the Army had spent hundreds of dollars, digging vehicles out of the mud and cleaning them up.

☆☆☆☆

Later, our Headquarters Engineer Intelligence group, headed by my own Sergeant Meehan, motored into the Talkeetna Mountains, looking for a way that a battalion could pass through. It was a covert operation, so we wore civilian clothes as we rode in the army sedan that John had checked out from the motor pool – don’t ask.

We found our way along good roads, but decided that neither we nor a mechanized army could get past a deep cirque with sheer rock walls. Our reconnaissance ended with a grand vista.



Terrain can stop a modern mechanized army!





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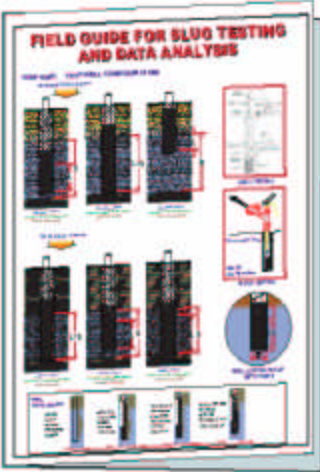
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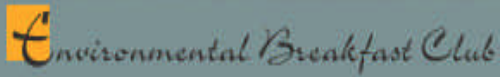
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CAPITAL DISTRICT BREAKFAST CLUB PRESENTATIONS:

The Capital District Environmental Breakfast Club is an informal group of environmental professionals that meets monthly to discuss current environmental issues. Each meeting features a speaker on a topic of interest, a regulatory update, and an open forum. Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month except July and August.

The Environmental Breakfast Club meets at the Holiday Inn Turf on Wolf Road in Colonie, New York. Meetings start at 7:30 am. The cost is \$12 per person which includes a full breakfast buffet.

You can find out more details about the Capital District Environmental Breakfast Club at their website:
www.youngsommer.com/CM/Custom/TOCEnvironmentalBreakfastClub.asp



Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists (BAPG)

The BAPG conducts regular membership meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, January through June and September through November. Meetings feature distinguished speakers and interesting topics. Field trips and technical seminars sponsored by the BAPG encourage the exchange of scholarship and expertise.

Visit www.bapg.org for more information!



Central NY Association of Professional Geologists (CNYAPG)

The CNYAPG conducts regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month from September to May. Meetings feature dinner and distinguished speakers whose presentations invite comment and discussion.

Visit www.cnyapg.org for details!



LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

The Long Island Association of Professional Geologists (LIAPG) is a not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to the professional and business needs of geologists located in the Long Island / Metro New York area.

To contact members or view upcoming events sponsored by the LIAPG, go to their website:
www.lipg.org



AIR AND WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (AWMA) NORTHEAST SECTION:

The Mid-Atlantic States Section of the Air and Waste Management Association (MASS-A&WMA) is a professional non-profit association of engineers and scientists working in the environmental field, with a particular focus on issues related to air and waste. The Association strives to provide an opportunity to enhance the profession by providing opportunities for its members to network with other professionals.

Visit the AWMA website for information on professional activities and updated news!
www.mass-awma.net



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)

The GSA strives to be a leader in advancing the geosciences, while enhancing the professional growth of its members, and promoting the geosciences in the service of humankind.

Discover events and information on their website: www.geosociety.org



The **New York State Museum** is a major research and educational institution. It is dedicated to promoting inquiry and advancing knowledge in the fields of geology, biology, anthropology, and history, through the investigation of material evidence germane to New York State's past, present and future.

For information on upcoming exhibits visit: www.nysm.nysed.gov.



New York State Council of Professional Geologists

*The **NYSCPG** strives to strengthen and advance the geologic sciences as a profession, promote the protection of public health and welfare and the environment through the professional practice of geologic sciences, and create high standards of ethical conduct among its members and within the profession of geology, as well as the legal standing of geologists and their ability to practice geology in New York State by promoting the licensing of geologists in New York State through statutory regulation.*

To learn more about supporting the licensure of professional geologists in NYS, visit: www.nyscpge.org



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