

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS AND THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**

The Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists (MSBRPG) and the Mississippi State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (MSBRPELS) seek by means of this Memorandum of Understanding to provide general guidelines for resolving any jurisdictional concerns that may arise between Registered Professional Geologists and Registered Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. MSBRPG as used herein shall refer to the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists. MSBRPELS as used herein shall refer to the Mississippi State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

It is recognized that certain aspects of geology and engineering are interrelated, and in certain endeavors the discipline of both professions may be required to adequately evaluate project parameters. If an individual by formal training and experience has become qualified in both geology and engineering, according to the standards of both fields in the State of Mississippi, he or she may then be registered as a geologist and as an engineer and further be privileged to practice within the applicable standards of both fields.

The MSBRPG and the MSBRPELS recognize that an individual who is principally either a geologist or an engineer may, by formal training and experience, have acquired a knowledge of aspects of the other field pertinent to his or her principal activities. Both the MSBRPG and the MSBRPELS also recognize, within their statutory responsibilities, that qualified individuals should not be restricted from activities in the second field which are incidental to their primary field of professional practice. In such cases, the practitioner will ordinarily be adequately guided and constrained by the registration laws, rules, and regulations associated with his or her primary professional affiliation.

Questions which arise concerning activities at the interface between geology and engineering may or may not have a clear resolution with the respective registration laws and may require judgment as to the degree of practice of the secondary field with respect to the primary field. The laws, rules, and regulations shall serve as the primary guide in the determination of, or resolution of disputes that may arise in the course of activities concerning geology and engineering. Each Board is to notify the other in writing when such questions arise. This notice shall be given within 30 days of being brought to the attention of the respective board. The notice shall advise the other board as to the action(s) taken until the matter is resolved.

The following guidelines are suggested for the evaluation of such issues:  
Require a statement from the individual in question indicating his or her principal field of practice;

The registration board of the principal field of practice will evaluate the case for compliance with the applicable registration laws;

In the event the principal field cannot be established by the individual or is unacceptable to one or both boards, the MSBRPG and MSBRPELS boards will resolve the matter by joint committee;

If it is determined that this issue cannot be resolved by the joint Board action, the data of the case in question may be referred to an independent third party for an opinion and recommendation.

Each Board has the authority and obligation to regulate the activities of its registrants. It is desirable for both Boards to attempt to resolve questions with the professional body having jurisdiction rather than to invoke procedures external to the professions. This objective may be accomplished by the methods of increased communication and awareness set forth in this memorandum of understanding. Other mechanisms should be invoked only when it becomes clear that the matter is irreconcilable between the MSBRPG and the MSBRPELS or that the matter lies outside the jurisdiction of either Board.

**Signed: Charles T. Swann, President Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists**

**Signed: G. Wayne Gardner, President Mississippi State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors**