Consumer Guide

Geological services

Professional Geologists perform technical services related to solids, liquids and gases from the Earth. Geologic services that are commonly of interest to property owners, real estate developers and others follow:

- Assessing the reserves and value of oil, gas, minerals, groundwater, and other natural resources.
- Identifying and assessing natural hazards such as landslides, sinkholes, seismic zones, faults, and other unstable conditions that could damage buildings and developments.
- Investigating environmental conditions related to soil and groundwater.

Who can offer geological services in Kentucky?

In the interest of public health and safety, the public practice of geology is regulated in Kentucky. Only persons who are registered by the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists, as per Kentucky law KRS 322A, can offer geological services for hire in the state.

What is a Professional Geologist?

Professional Geologists are individuals who meet Kentucky registration requirements, including a college degree in geology (or equivalent), five years of work experience under the supervision of a Professional Geologist, and a passing grade on both the fundamentals and practical examinations of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®).

- Note: Registration does not indicate area(s) of specialization.
- As of 2013, there were approximately 1,500 Professional Geologists registered to practice geology in Kentucky.

How can I hire a Professional Geologist?

To hire a Professional Geologist consider the following steps:

(1) Assess your service needs (e.g., mineral appraisal, hazards assessment, or environmental investigation).

(2) Check the Yellow Pages and the Internet for companies and consultants that advertise geological and geotechnical services.

(3) Verify that the geologists you identify hold an active registration in Kentucky. Registrations can be verified on the Board of Registration Web site *(Also posted on the Board's Web site are the law and administrative regulations that govern the practice of geology in Kentucky.)*

(4) Ask Professional Geologists for references from former clients to verify the quality of work performed. Check with your local Better Business Bureau.

(5) Have a written contract that specifies the terms, performance expectations, and time frame for deliverables. If the Professional Geologist asks for a retainer, know its purpose and whether it will be applied to the bill or charged separately.

Geologists working in Kentucky

Can I file a complaint?

If you have a complaint about a Professional Geologist, or someone purporting to be a geologist, or if you need more information about the Board's authority or requirements, contact the Board Administrator for the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists at the address on the front of this brochure.

Disputes over fees will not be investigated by the Board unless negligence, incompetence, or fraud is indicated.

Where can I get information about Kentucky geology?

- **Kentucky Geological Survey**. The KGS at the University of Kentucky maintains a wealth of information about Kentucky geology on its Web site at www.uky.edu/kgs. Downloadable information includes maps, reports, well data, mineral resources data, groundwater data, and seismic data.
- **Public libraries and universities**. many public libraries can assist people searching for geological information. Kentucky's colleges and university science departments often have special library collections and faculty knowledgeable about Kentucky geology.
- **Other government agencies**.

  - State offices for environment, mining, oil and gas, waste disposal, and water, have information about geological conditions in their specialties.

  - Federal government agencies such as US Geological Survey (http://usgs.gov/), National Park Service, National Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency also have geological information about Kentucky. For example, the USGS Water Science Center (http://ky.water.usgs.gov/) in Louisville can assist people who seek information about Kentucky water resources.

More questions?

Contact the Board Administrator Lindsey Melton (lindsey.melton@ky.gov) at the Kentucky Office of Occupation and Professions.

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Consumer Guide to **Geological Services** *in Kentucky*

Kentucky Board of Registration For Professional Geologists

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