



WHEN: April 1, 2021
TIME: 12:00pm to 1:00pm EST
WHERE: Online Event
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AN UPDATE ON CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS IN NEW YORK STATE

A 17-year effort to include geology among the licensed professions came to an end when Governor Andrew Cuomo signed Chapter 475 of the Laws of 2014 into law on November 21, 2014. The Law became effective on November 21, 2016.

It was then time for the New York State Council of Professional Geologists (the Council) to turn its attention to continuing education. Our efforts were complicated when the NYS Education Department (NYSED) indicated that the legislation would have to be tied to NYSED's efforts to modernize existing continuing education requirements for professional engineers and land surveyors. It was not until March 2020 that this combined bill was introduced in the NYS Legislature. It became law on November 11, 2020 as Chapter 260 of the Laws of 2020.

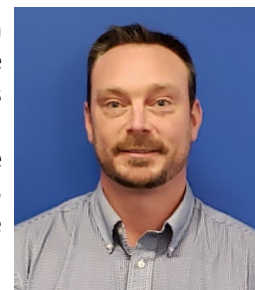
This webinar will focus on the content of the Law and will attempt to answer questions that NYSCPG members may have about the requirements for continuing education as it relates to maintaining licensure status in New York.

Your Presenters:

Peter B. O'Connell was hired by the Council as attorney and lobbyist in 2012. He guided the Council's efforts to achieve professional licensing for geologists. Attention then turned to converting geologists' business organizations to professional corporations and limited liability companies. Peter has since assisted with continuing education legislation and review of other legislation affecting PGs. His current efforts focus on enacting regulations to support the continuing education law and to qualify the Council as a purveyor of continuing education services. Peter's lobbying career has spanned four decades, during which time he has represented more than 60 clients from nearly every walk of life: trial lawyers, tow truck operators, correction officers, volunteer fire fighters, off-track betting corporations, Intuit software company, land surveyors, and the Korean Soju industry, to name a few. He has also practiced law in a Park Avenue law firm and as a solo practitioner in the Adirondack town of Day. A Vietnam Navy veteran and a graduate of Siena College and Brooklyn Law School, he resides in Albany with his wife Adele. They are the proud parents of two grown daughters who reside in Portland, Maine.



James J. Janora, P.G. is a partner at McMahon & Mann Consulting Engineering and Geology, P.C. in Buffalo, NY. Jim graduated from the Department of Geological Sciences at SUNY Geneseo in 2004. He started his career consulting on mining projects and then joined McMahon & Mann in 2008. Jim was named as a partner in the firm in 2017 after obtaining his professional geologist license in New York State. He is a member of the Council's Board of Directors and serves as the Chairperson of the Legislative Committee since 2019. Jim is proud to have worked with the Council, Peter, and members of the NYS Legislature to get our continuing education bill advanced into law. Jim also serves as the Secretary for the Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists.



Your Moderator:



Mark A. Williams, P.G. earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from East Carolina University in 1986. He began his career as an environmental consultant with Dunn Geoscience Corp. in Albany, New York. Over 32 years later, Mark is a Senior Geologist at Sterling Environmental Engineering, P.C. and is a licensed P.G. in NY and PA specializing in environmental permitting and compliance, environmental assessment, hydrogeologic investigations, environmental restoration, and groundwater remediation. Mark is an active member of HMPGA since the 1990's having previously served as president. He advocated for PG licensure as a member of the Council and served as President from 2007 to 2009. Mark is currently Secretary and plans to serve as Coordinator for Continuing Education courses in 2021.