

Florida Department of Business Professional Regulation



A Publication from the **BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS**

SUMMER 2008



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION**

CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

CHUCK DRAGO
Interim Secretary

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Stacey Merchant, Government Analyst

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM SECRETARY **Chuck Drago**

Dear Friend:

It has been a distinct pleasure serving you as the Interim Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation since February of this year. In my time at the Department, both as the Interim Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Business Regulation, I have participated in great changes that have resulted in enhanced customer service.

We've made tremendous progress over the past year, and I'm dedicated to maintaining this momentum. We know that serving you is the first step to providing great service to the people of Florida. That's why we've focused on changes that improve customer service, streamline processes, open communications with licensees and the public, and lead to better business practices.

One of the most crucial adjustments to business practices at the Department was the implementation of the Document Imaging System. The project is in its final phases, and it ultimately provides for a more streamlined and centralized application process that results in faster licensing and better service for you. I thank Governor Charlie Crist and the Legislature for providing \$2.5 million to complete this project in Fiscal Year 2008/2009, which helps take care of businesses and professionals throughout Florida.

Our quest to improve customer service is never over. In an effort to reach our licensees who are located throughout the state, I'm taking our business on the road in the "On the Road to Better Business" tour this summer. This tour will provide the opportunity for you to meet with me and my staff to ask questions and provide input and suggestions. I will hold office hours for customers to come and meet with me at a Department office in their communities. Please look forward to more information to come.

I continue to uphold our mission to "License Efficiently. Regulate Fairly." I understand and value that licensees have unique insight into how we do business and ways we can build upon existing practices, and I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Thank you for all that you do for the people and economy of our great state.

Sincerely,

Chuck Drago
Interim Secretary



It's that time again - time to renew your professional geology license. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation continues to spend time educating the public and licensees on the convenience of the Department's online services. Users can renew their license, change their mailing address, check application status, make payments and more. The renewal deadline for professional geologists is just around the corner on July 31, 2008. Many of you are already utilizing our Web site, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to access licensing information. By using our online services at www.MyFloridaLicense.com, you can help the Department "go green" and save time, trees, and stamps. Reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment should be a priority and a responsibility of each geologist in this state. You can do your part by renewing your license online.

Richard "Rick" Morrison, *Executive Director*
Board of Professional Geologists

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Are you interested in serving on a professional board or council?

Interested applicants may obtain a Gubernatorial Questionnaire by downloading the application from http://www.flgov.com/pdfs/appoint_questionnaire.pdf. Once your application is complete, return the questionnaire for consideration to:

Governor's Appointments' Office
PL01 The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0001

Helpful Reminders for Licensees

We need your help with policing your area for unlicensed activity. The Board and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation take unlicensed activity very seriously. It is up to you to report violations. You worked hard to obtain your license, and others should be required to operate by the same laws and rules that you do. The Department has a toll-free unlicensed activity complaint hotline to report unlicensed activity. The toll-free number is 1.866.532.1440. You can also report unlicensed activity by completing the complaint form, which is available online at www.MyFloridaLicense.com if you choose to file your complaint anonymously, be sure that the complaint form is complete, as the Department cannot contact an anonymous complainant.

The [Department of Environmental Protection](#) has created an educational resource center with Web links containing information on eco-friendly techniques you can use to help your business go green.

Please check the department's online services at www.MyFloridaLicense.com to assure your mailing address is current. A licensee must notify the department within thirty (30) days of changing his/her address of their place of practice.

Changes to the Board

The Board of Geologists would like to express its gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Jim Pease for his service as Chairman. Jim served as Chair from January 2006 to January 2007. He has served the profession and the people of this state by leading the Board and ensuring that only qualified individuals are licensed and able to do business in Florida. Jim was succeeded by Stuart Smith who served as Vice-Chair along side Jim during his tenure. Jim will continue to serve on the board as a professional member in other capacities.



Outgoing chairman, Jim Pease (above left) receives a plaque from Dr. Donald McNeal for his leadership and service to the Board of Professional Geologists.



Pictured above is outgoing Chairman Stuart Smith (front and center with his son) flanked by Incumbent Chairman James Funderburk and Dr. Don McNeal of the Board. Stuart is being honored for his leadership and service to the Board of Professional Geologists.

The Board of Geologists would also like to acknowledge Stuart Smith for his service as Chairman. Stuart served as Chair from January 2007 to January 2008. Stuart was succeeded by our current chair, James Funderburk. Stuart will continue to serve on the board as a consumer member.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

October 22-23, 2008
Tallahassee, Florida

All Board meeting dates and locations are subject to change. Please refer to the [Board Calendar](#) on our Web site, www.MyFloridaLicense.com, to confirm meeting dates and locations.

The State of Florida Partners with Google

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Web site provides information to the public about licensees. Consumers turn to the Department for information about professionals, and many look to the Web site for information about results of restaurant inspections. Although the Web site has tremendously useful information for consumers, it has not always been easy for consumers to find the information.

On December 3, 2007, Governor Crist announced an important partnership between the state of Florida and Google. Google has been helping DBPR and several other agencies catalog the information on their Web sites in order to make them more user-friendly.

The partnership between Google and Florida developed as officials from both entities recognized that the public is increasingly turning to search engines to access government services. However, a significant share of information on state agency Web sites could not be found using standard search engines because the information was stored behind a database, hindering citizens from easily finding online state government services. Now, with improved technology, search engines will access and index the records in online databases, making them available to anyone using a search engine.

Under the old system, if a consumer went to Google, Yahoo or MSN to search for a contractor using the name and location, the search results would not include information from the Department's Web site. While that search might return many results from the search engine,



"This public-private partnership is an innovative way to improve the accessibility of state information for all Floridians. I am grateful for this chance to join with Google to further develop Florida's leadership in delivering open government services to the people of Florida. By empowering Floridians with the tools they need for easier access to state agency Web sites, we are allowing them to truly take ownership of state government."

—Governor Charlie Crist

useful information from the Department would not be included even though meaningful information on the contractor exists.

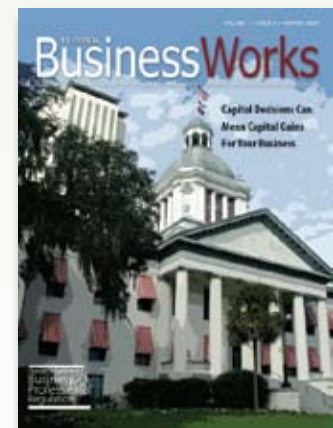
Under the new improved system, DBPR is working with Google to develop sitemaps that will allow search engines to more intelligently mine data from our Web site. Sitemaps are essentially spreadsheets for the Web site that prioritize the information on the DBPR Web site for the search engines. The Department is busy putting hundreds of thousands of records into sitemaps to make the information more useful.

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You can now subscribe on-line at www.MyFloridaLicense.com to receive your profession's newsletter as well as other Department publications via e-mail. Subscribing is quick and easy.

1. Go to <http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com>
2. Click on **"Subscribe to Department Newsletters"** located under The Bottom Line.
3. Type in your name and e-mail.
4. Choose which newsletters or publications you would like to receive via e-mail.
5. Click **"Subscribe."**

When the newsletters you have subscribed to are available, you will receive an e-mail from the Department with a link to your newsletter.



REPORT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

To report unlicensed activity, please call the Department's **UNLICENSED ACTIVITY HOTLINE** at **1.866.532.1440**, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern Time) or e-mail the information to ULA@dbpr.state.fl.us.