MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS AND THE INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGISTS OF IRELAND

19 May, 2021

Whereas,

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG or the Institute) was founded in 1963 to promote the profession of geology and to provide certification for geologists to establish a standard of excellence for the profession. The Institute presently has more than 6,000 members in the United States of America (USA) and abroad, and is organized into 36 regional sections and one international section. AIPG adheres to the principles of professional responsibility and public service and certifies the competence and ethical conduct of geological scientists in all branches of the science with members employed in industry, government, and academia. The Institute emphasizes competence, integrity and ethics. AIPG is an advocate for the profession and communicates regularly to federal and state legislators and agencies on matters pertaining to the geosciences.

AIPG is a non-profit organization whose policies are determined by its Executive Committee.

The purposes of AIPG include:

1. advance the geological sciences and the profession of geology;
2. establish qualifications for professional geologists;
3. certify the qualifications of specific individual Member geologists to the public;
4. promote high standards of ethical conduct among its Members and Adjuncts, and within the profession of geology; and
5. represent, and advocate for, the geological profession before government and the general public.

Membership classifications include Certified Professional Geologist (CPG), Retired, Honorary Emeritus Member, Affiliated Professional, Candidate for Certification, Young Professional, and Student. AIPG certifies professional geologists based on their competence, integrity and ethics. By means of a rigorous and thorough peer review process, the Institute screens applicants who voluntarily apply for self-regulation through the Institute. This screening carefully evaluates their education, experience, technical competence, and ethical conduct. Continuing education is strongly encouraged but not mandatory as part of certification. Through agreements with professional societies in other countries, AIPG provides access for its Members to professional registration, certification, or chartered status in those countries.

AIPG’s Requirements for Certified Professional Geologist (CPG):

Applicants for certification must have a bachelor’s degree or higher in the geological sciences with a minimum of 36 semester hours of geology courses plus eight (8) years of professional geological work experience. The members of the Section Screening Committee and National Screening Committee review
and verify the applicants’ education and academic record, professional experience, and supporting sponsorship and verification forms for the following in their review of the applicants’ qualifications for award of CPG:

EDUCATION: 36 semester or 54 quarter hours in geological sciences with a baccalaureate or higher degree; certified copy of official transcripts must be sent by each college or university. Note to those who received degrees from non-U.S./Canadian universities and the school is unable to provide an acceptable transcript, you must submit a copy of your diploma and a list of courses taken. The Screening Committee may ask the applicant to provide additional information or an equivalency evaluation.

EXPERIENCE: Eight (8) years beyond bachelor's degree, or seven (7) years beyond master's degree, or five (5) years beyond a doctorate degree.

SPONSORS: Three (3) sponsors required from professional geologists, two (2) of whom must be CPGs (see Section 2.3.1 of the AIPG Bylaws for exceptions).

And whereas,

The Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI) was founded in 1999 to promote the geoscience profession and advance the science and practice of the geosciences in Ireland. The IGI presently has more than 300 members in the Republic of Ireland. Members of the IGI uphold and maintain the highest professional standards and recognize their responsibility to the public and the profession. The IGI works diligently to improve professional standards, promote improvements in legislation and law, and represent the profession to government, media, and society.

The purposes of IGI include:

1. To promote the interests of the geoscience professions and advance the science and practice of the geosciences in Ireland;
2. To require its members to uphold and maintain the highest professional standards in the practice of their profession;
3. To increase the confidence of the community in the employment of recognised geologists by admitting to the IGI only such persons as have an adequate knowledge and experience of the geosciences;
4. To promote improvements in the law and take any other steps and proceedings as may be deemed necessary in the interests of the IGI and its members;
5. To improve professional standards by organising appropriate professional development programmes for its members;
6. To represent members’ professional interests with government, appropriate committees, media and society as a whole;
7. To develop good relations with other relevant geological bodies in Ireland and elsewhere in the world; and
8. To encourage and assist in the education of, and develop course accreditation for, geologists and geoscientists in Ireland.

Membership classifications include Professional Members, Members in Training, Associate Members, Retired Members, and Student members. IGI certifies professional geologists based on their education, experience, competence, and ethics. Using a Validation Committee, IGI rigorously screens applicants who voluntarily apply for self-regulation through the Institute. This screening carefully evaluates their education, experience, technical competence, and ethical conduct. A commitment to Continuing
Professional Development (CPD) is required of successful applicants. Through agreements with professional societies in other countries, IGI provides access for its Members to professional certification, or its equivalent, in those countries.

IGI’s Requirements for Professional Membership (PGeo):

Applicants for professional membership must hold a primary degree. In addition, applicants must possess a minimum amount of professional experience. The number of years of experience varies, depending on the type of primary degree held, and the percentage of geoscience training represented in the degree (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Degree</th>
<th>Masters Degree</th>
<th>Doctorate</th>
<th>Required Professional Geo-Science Experience (Years)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geo-Science Degree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo-Science Degree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo-Science Degree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Geo-Science Degree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Geo-Science Degree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Geo-Science Degree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Geo-Science Degree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo-Science Diploma</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Degree and professional experience requirements for admission to IGI as a Professional Member. Note that a Primary Degree is the equivalent of a Bachelor’s Degree in the United States. A Primary Diploma is an approved third level undergraduate course that may be used as credit to progress to a Primary degree.
Therefore,

Based on a review of the requirements and processes for recognition and regulation of certification and/or licensure as professional geologists in the USA by the American Institute of Professional Geologists and in the Republic of Ireland by the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, the requirements of each organization are mutually agreed to be comparable. AIPG reminds its members that the use of the title of “professional geologist” or “geologist” and the practice of geology may also be subject to the rules and regulations of individual states of the United States. Members are reminded to be familiar with those regulations. By this mutual recognition of professional qualifications, the American Institute of Professional Geologists’ Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) and the Institute of Geologists of Ireland’s Professional Geologist (PGeo) shall be recognized as comparable between the two organizations in affording its respective CPG and PGeo members discretionary privileges with each of the organizations. This mutual recognition may be terminated or voided should either organization significantly modify its certification standards. Applicants for certification from the other organizations are still subject to review based on recommendations of sponsors, employment verification statement, and similar as indicated on the respective organization’s application.

By this mutual recognition of professional qualifications the following agreements are acknowledged:

1. The American Institute of Professional Geologists will accept applications for the title of Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) from members of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland who are registered as a Professional Geologist (PGeo) with a single sponsorship affidavit from the Institute of Geologists of Ireland in lieu of the standard application requirements; and,
2. The Institute of Geologists of Ireland will accept applications for title of Professional Geologist (PGeo) with a single sponsorship affidavit from members of the American Institute of Professional Geologists who are Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) members, in lieu of the standard application requirements. The objective is to have an accelerated application process which will not require the submission of transcripts or certified record of employment. Each organization will provide an application to meet these objectives.
3. In circumstances where a Professional Geologist (PGeo) is best qualified to sponsor an application for Certified Professional Geologist (CPG), that sponsorship will be accepted by the American Institute of Professional Geologists, as if from a Certified Professional Geologist, subject to the Professional Geologist accepting full responsibility as if a Certified Professional Geologist; and,
4. In circumstances where a Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) is best qualified to sponsor an application for Professional Geologist (PGeo), that sponsorship will be accepted by the Institute of Geologists of Ireland as if from a Professional Geologist, subject to the Certified Professional Geologist accepting full responsibility as if a Professional Geologist.

Agreement accepted on the 28th of June 2021 by:

Name: __________________________
For the American Institute of Professional Geologists (printed) ____________Aaron W. Johnson____________
Date signed: __June 28, 2021_________

Name: __________________________
For the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (printed) ____________Mairéad Glannon________
Date signed: __19th May 2021________