TO IDENTIFY A GEOLOGIST

TO IDENTIFY AN ENGINEER is the title of an article in Research/Development magazine for September 1969. The author, M. A. Williamson, is past-chairman of the Professional Identity Committee of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), and the article constitutes his committee's report. Some of the ideas presented are well worth pondering by geologists.

Under the general head of "how to identify the truly professional engineer," the committee first considered state licensing or registration. Though all committee members are registered engineers, and all accept the necessity of legal recognition for engineers who do work for the public, they also recognize that there are many highly competent engineers in positions where there is no need to hold a state license. They therefore conclude that it would be unwise to make state registration mandatory for everyone who wishes to consider himself a professional engineer.

"The justification for registration lies in the protection, well-being and safety of the public; in one court case brought to our attention, the judge very explicitly pointed out that the registration laws do not exist for the betterment or enhancement or protection of the profession."

What other possibility then, for professional advancement? The committee proposes "a procedure of examining character, reputation and competence to be carried out by practicing engineers themselves," resulting in "certificates of accreditation to indicate that the holders were in fact recognized by their peers as being qualified." Sound familiar? Of course -- it's the AIGP approach pure and simple. After considering how such a program might be administered, the committee winds up its report by suggesting that engineers should have two alternate paths to achieve professional status, instead of just one. The one path that now exists is via registration (recognition by law), and entitles the qualified person to the letter P.E. (Professional Engineer) after his name. The second path, proposed by the Williamson committee, is via accreditation (recognition by the profession), and would entitle the recipient to the letters A.E. (Accredited Engineer). Of course a person could go both routes if he wished.

Reflection on these matters gives rise to two reactions on the part of a geologist -- or anyhow of this geologist. The first is envy, that the engineers have, but we lack, a well understood and widely accepted mechanism for obtaining legal recognition by the state. This is a goal that geologists are just starting toward, with an encouraging example in California of what must be done. We have something to learn from the engineers in matters of registration.

The second reaction is amusement, that the committee is so hesitant about suggesting professional accreditation. They state that it appeared at first "a little radical." They say "it may take years" to be accepted. They emphasize that it in no way replaces registration. One gets the impression of a group that is quite shaken up with its own daring.

Well, Williamson committee, be of good cheer. Your suggestion makes sense. Accreditation isn't radical and it works. Perhaps in this matter engineers can learn from geologists. Specifically, from AIGP. All inquiries along this line are welcome.

Editor

AIGP AT ATLANTIC CITY

The New York State Section reports that attendance at the AIGP booth at the annual meeting of the GSA in Atlantic City greatly exceeded expectations. Approximately 65 persons requested application packets, and many others stopped to pick up some of the literature or to make inquiries about AIGP. The booth was sponsored jointly by the New York Section and national headquarters, in an effort to promote interest in AIGP membership. Many thanks are expressed to those non-Section members who offered suggestions or helped man the booth.

OBITUARY NOTES

ROBERT L. BENISH, AIGP, died in Houston on September 8, 1969, at the age of 66. He was associated with Lloyd H. Smith. Benish was a member of AAGP and the Houston Geological Society, as well as a charter member of AIGP.

FRITZ L. AURIN, AIGP, Fort Worth, died on September 10, 1969. He was a past president of AAGP and a charter member of AIGP. At the time of his death he was consultant for Southland Royalty Company.
THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

THE ACTIVE AND THE INDOLENT

To my fellow members of the American Institute of Professional Geologists, I would like to take the opportunity in the first paragraph of my first President's Column to express my humility and thanks to all of you for the honor which you have bestowed upon me by electing me the President of the Institute. I sincerely hope that I will be able to live up to the reputations of my esteemed predecessors and your expectations in the ensuing twelve months.

As I start on my first President's Column I wonder if this gets easier as it goes along or if all of the twelve columns will be as difficult to start out as this one.

There have been many questions asked in many quarters, all relating to the general theme - what is AIPG? There is no simple answer and I think that this is no time to try to generate answers. I would like to dedicate my first column to an answer to the question: Who are the members of AIPG?

In Dana Russell's President's Column for October he remarked that after his travels around the country and his appearance before many AIPG groups he was somewhat discouraged to find that the principal work of the Institute was being carried on by only a very few people. I cannot really become too alarmed by this situation. I think we must realize that the AIPG will always be made up of a relatively small percentage of the geological profession. Of the 30,000, more or less, geologists in the United States slightly less than 2,000, or 6.6 percent, are members of AIPG. Is this appalling? I don't think so. It is, after all, the active 6.6 percent. It is the same 6.6 percent whose names you see in connection with geological activities, whose faces you see at geological meetings, and whose voices you hear when anything of importance is to be said about the profession of geology.

John Philip Curran said: "It is the common fate of the indolent to see their rights become a prey to the active. The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance ... ."

The above quotation may be applied equally well to the geology profession as a whole in its relationship to other professions, or to the active geologists in their relation to the inactive. Many geologists have said that AIPG may be moving too fast. Who is to say what is too fast? As long as we have legitimate goals to reach there is no reason to delay. If the indolent wish to slow down and review and rehash and reconsider and procrastinate they have only themselves to blame if the active take over what they think are their rights.

The membership of AIPG will probably always remain small compared to the total profession of geology. Although we sincerely hope for the support of all geologists we must realize that an organization of the Active must not become diluted by the Indolent, otherwise their potency would be seriously diminished. I hope that none of my geologist friends will be offended by my remarks. I wish it clearly understood that I make no reference whatsoever to anyone's abilities as a geologist, I am speaking only of their attitudes as professionals.

I would like to show as an example of the effectiveness of the "Active" the recent passage of Assembly Bill 600, the Geologists Registration Act in California. Of approximately 3,000 to 3,500 geologists in the State of California there were less than 300 members of the California Section of AIPG. This represents less than 10 percent of the geologists in the State. The California Section of AIPG had the wholehearted support of the Pacific Section of AAPG and most of the AEG in their efforts to attain passage of the Geologists Registration Act. Without this support our efforts would have been fruitless, but the work of obtaining registration was actually done by probably less than 30 geologists or 10 percent of the California Section, and 1 percent of the geological population in the state. It could not have been otherwise. In a project such as this it is essential that a few people with excellent communications carry the load. The larger the organization the more cumbersome and the more ineffective its efforts. This is not to say that every member of the Cal Section would not have helped to his utmost if requested. It merely indicates that the Section realized that the only effective way to operate was through a small, active, flexible group.

The American Institute of Professional Geologists needs as many "Active" members as it can obtain. What we do not need are "Indolent" members. In any group, wherever you are, you will find that the active few carry the load and make the decisions. The remainder are happy to follow along and be relieved of the responsibility of making the decisions and taking the initiative for themselves.

As I start my first month of my year as President of AIPG I can ask that I have the support of the active 6.6 percent of the geologists of the United States. The indolent will follow because they know no other course.

Henry H. Neel
RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY
by the AGI Committee on Environmental Geology Advisory to AIGP

HISTORY OF THE PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY CENTER

Shortly after being elected president of AIGP in October, 1967, John T. Galey began publicizing the need for the services of professional geologists in solving some of the growing environmental problems of our society. To show engineers, architects, and community planners concerned with environmental problems where geology can play an essential role in the solution of these problems, he proposed that an Environmental Geology Center be established by AIGP.

At Mr. Galey’s direction a proposal for such a Center was prepared and printed on August 1, 1968. Copies of the proposal received only limited distribution, as they were used primarily in fund-raising activities for the proposed Center.

Mr. Galey did much to awaken geologists to the field of environmental geology in his travels to AIGP Sections throughout the nation and in his writings in The Professional Geologist and for the Geological Society of America. He personally presented the case for a Center to some of the larger foundations located in the eastern United States. The 1968 annual meeting of AIGP in San Francisco was devoted in part to reports on environmental geologic activities by members in various parts of the United States.

Initial attempts at funding an Environmental Geology Center did not meet with success. Experience gained in contacting certain philanthropic foundations indicated that the original proposal should be revised. Revised drafts were thus submitted to a six-man committee appointed by the president of the American Geological Institute. The committee was charged with the task of reviewing the entire proposal and submitting recommendations for its revision.

Following individual studies and communication by correspondence, the committee met in Denver on November 16, 1969 to discuss all aspects of the problem. The present report constitutes the unanimous opinion and recommendations of the AGI Committee on Environmental Geology Advisory to AIGP, whose members are:

William A. Newton, Chairman;
Harold Bloom, Society of Mining Engineers;
William C. Hayes, Jr., Association of American State Geologists;
Stanley W. Lohman, Geological Society of America;
Ogden L. Tweto, Society of Economic Geologists;
Frank W. Wilson, Association of Engineering Geologists.

The report was submitted to William B. Heroy, Jr., president of AGI, on December 1.

OBSERVATIONS ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY

1. State geological surveys are becoming very active in the field of environmental geology because of the pressing needs within their states. Examples are the Missouri Survey’s Educational Series No. 2, titled Environmental Geology in Towne and Country, and the Illinois Survey’s Geology for Planning in McHenry County. By means of such publications, geologic data are presented with new meaning, and perhaps for greater practical usage, than ever before. Studies are going on in many other state surveys and this work will continue to expand.

2. The U.S. Geological Survey has recently set up a major organizational unit of environmental geology in recognition of the growing demand for redirection and stress on these aspects of geologic endeavor.

3. A growing number of societies and organizations are now paying attention to environment. Some, like the American Chemical Society, are producing action reports by the committee method, rather than forming a continuing center.

4. Consulting demands in the field of environmental geology is expanding, although there seems to be no such thing as an environmental geologist. Environmental geology is a field in which no one geologic specialty is the master.

5. Several universities are now offering programs and/or courses in environmental geology.

CONCLUSIONS

Recognition of this new field of geology by the layman may become more prevalent as adequate planning is demanded by our society. It is gratifying that many of the state geological surveys and the Federal Survey are now providing information to the public by means of publications, personal help, and association of their geologic personnel.

The Environmental Geology Center, as proposed, was to have three main aims: (1) to promote research on the changes and effects in the environment resulting from man’s activities; (2) to promote interdisciplinary technologies on problems of population growth, environmental quality, and health, safety, and welfare; and (3) to provide a centralized information, collection and distribution mechanism. The first two aims are being met in considerable degree by the activities noted above, and the outlook for continued progress is excellent. The third aim, that of an information center, is not being met, except locally as in some state surveys.

In summary, the field has progressed so rapidly during the past two years that a new, separately funded Environmental Geology Center as originally conceived by AIGP is no longer needed, nor can it be justified. This does not mean that all aspects of the problem are being satisfied, however. This committee makes the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Within the memberships of AIGP and AEG there exists the expertise to conduct a National (or President’s) Conference on Environmental Geology. Progress in this direction was exhibited by a highly successful Governor’s Conference on Environmental Geology, held in Denver, Colorado, April 30 through May 2, 1969. This conference, sponsored jointly by the Colorado Section of AIGP and the Denver Section of AEG, was an interdisciplinary program which succeeded in publicizing the need for geology in solving many environmental problems of today’s society. Attendance was greater than anticipated, professional and nonprofessional backgrounds of the participants were extremely varied, and the conference was
financially self-sustaining. A similar conference on a national scale is needed now.

It is hereby recommended that AIPG, AEG, and perhaps others concerned with environmental geology, e.g. the AASG, jointly sponsor a National Conference on Environmental Geology, to be held in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 20 and 21, 1970, immediately preceding the annual convention of the Association of Engineering Geologists.

2. There is need for a center to collect, abstract, and distribute timely environmental geologic publications in a form that nongeologists can use. Such a center could also be a repository for films highlighting how geology affects the public, and a source of information for community planners, government agencies concerned with the public welfare, and the schools.

In recognition that the American Geological Institute is the appropriate organization to establish and manage an Environmental Geology Information Center, it is hereby recommended that proper steps toward this end be taken by AGI. To this end the committee passed the following motion at its meeting on November 16, 1969.

It is the recommendation of this committee that an Environmental Geology Information Center be established for the dissemination of information on geology as it pertains to man's environment, for distribution to interested geologists, the lay public, and other professional and nonprofessional disciplines involved in community, urban, and rural planning; that such a Center should be established and managed by a centralized, prestigious national organization representing the professional and scientific geologic societies, and that the American Geological Institute is the logical organization for this purpose.

The committee would also like to go on record as having unanimously passed the following resolution:

Resolved, that John T. Galey and the American Institute of Professional Geologists are to be commended for their pioneering efforts in awakening geologists in general and the lay public in particular to the natural and important role that geology must play in the solution of man's environmental problems. The dedication of Galey and the AIPG to the advancement of the field of environmental geology is hereby officially recognized and noted in appreciation by the professional and scientific societies composing the American Geological Institute.

William A. Newton, Chairman

PROFESSIONAL PARAGRAPHS

DONALD B. BASKO, AIPG, of Casper, Wyoming, has been named state oil and gas supervisor and ex-officio director of the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Basko, who has been with the commission nearly 10 years, is a former deputy oil and gas supervisor.

DAVID R. MARTIN, AIPG, has been appointed exploration manager - Latin America of Occidental Petroleum Corp. Previously senior staff geologist, Martin will report to RICHARD H. VAUGHAN, AIPG, vice-president, in his new assignment.

C. EARL HARRIS, AIPG, of Youngstown State University, Ohio, has been selected "professor of the year" by student vote. Criteria included knowledge of subject, teaching ability, and "ability to relate on an individual level."

Taking part in the "Geological Seminar on the North Slope of Alaska," to be held Feb. 1-3 at Palo Alto, Calif., are KENNETH H. CRANDALL, AIPG, president of AAPG, and J. DOUGLAS TRAXLER, AIPG, president of AAPG's Pacific Section.

Certified Professional Geologists who are officers of the American Geological Institute for 1970 are JOHN C. MAXWELL, vice-president, LAURENCE BRUNDALL, vice-president for finance, and WILLIAM B. HERoy, JR., past-president. WIL- LIAM J. HLSEWECK is a director of AGI.

PAUL V. HOVELLER, AIPG, formerly with R. G. Boekel Oil Properties, has joined with Richard Boyd in opening a geological consulting office at 936 Equitable Building, Denver.