

18VAC 145-40 Geology Regulations
Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

Agency Response to Economic Impact Analysis Performed by the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget (DPB):

The result of Department of Planning and Budget's analysis is there is insufficient information to accurately gauge whether benefits are likely to outweigh costs for the proposed fee adjustments.

The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) is proposing the fee adjustment now because Geologists renew in August of even fiscal years. While it will be too soon to have the fee adjustment in place for August 2013, it is needed to be in place before August 2015. Fee increases would end up being substantially higher if the fee adjustment is not in place before August 2015. Although it may seem premature to submit the fee adjustment at this time, the entire approval process has been taking three years or more for other DPOR boards. DPOR is trying to minimize the size of the adjustment now as well as future adjustments, while also trying to avoid from entering into deficit cash positions.

As to the magnitude of the fee increase, it is important to note that fees for Geologists were actually higher in 1995 than the current proposed fees. Incremental fee increases are not possible due to the three year approval process and are in order to sufficiently cover expenses.