

Office of Regulatory Management  
Economic Review Form

<b>Agency name</b>	Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists
<b>Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)</b>	18 VAC 145-40
<b>VAC Chapter title(s)</b>	Regulations for the Geology Certification Program
<b>Action title</b>	HB 287 and SB 184 Amendment
<b>Date this document prepared</b>	July 11, 2024
<b>Regulatory Stage (including Issuance of Guidance Documents)</b>	Exempt Final – (Action 6524 / Stage 10408)

**Cost Benefit Analysis**

Complete Tables 1a and 1b for all regulatory actions. You do not need to complete Table 1c if the regulatory action is required by state statute or federal statute or regulation and leaves no discretion in its implementation.

Table 1a should provide analysis for the regulatory approach you are taking. Table 1b should provide analysis for the approach of leaving the current regulations intact (i.e., no further change is implemented). Table 1c should provide analysis for at least one alternative approach. You should not limit yourself to one alternative, however, and can add additional charts as needed.

Report both direct and indirect costs and benefits that can be monetized in Boxes 1 and 2. Report direct and indirect costs and benefits that cannot be monetized in Box 4. See the ORM Regulatory Economic Analysis Manual for additional guidance.

**Table 1a: Costs and Benefits of the Proposed Changes (Primary Option)**

<p>(1) Direct &amp; Indirect Costs &amp; Benefits (Monetized)</p>	<p>This action amends the Regulations for the Geology Certification Program to conform to changes resulting from the enactment of Chapters 4 and 23 and of the 2024 Acts of Assembly.</p> <p>The legislation amends the definition of "practice of geology" to include the performance of any professional service or work wherein the principles and methods of geology are applied, including (i) investigating, evaluating, and consulting; (ii) geological mapping; (iii) describing the natural processes that act upon the earth's materials; (iv) predicting the probable occurrence of natural processes; and (v) inspecting, planning, and performing and supervising geological work in order to enhance and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment. The legislation also defines "geological mapping." The legislation also makes technical changes to the definitions of "geologist" and "geology."</p> <p>This action amends 18VAC145-40-10 to revise the definitions of "geologist," "geology," and "practice of geology" to conform the regulation to the changes to the statutory definitions. The action also adds the new definition for "geological mapping."</p> <p>Direct Costs: There are no new monetizable direct costs associated with this change.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no new monetizable indirect costs associated with this change.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: There are no new monetizable direct benefits associated with this change.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: There are no new monetizable indirect benefits associated with this change.</p>	
<p>(2) Present Monetized Values</p>	<p>Direct &amp; Indirect Costs</p>	<p>Direct &amp; Indirect Benefits</p>
	<p>(a) \$0</p>	<p>(b) \$0</p>
<p>(3) Net Monetized Benefit</p>	<p>\$0</p>	
<p>(4) Other Costs &amp; Benefits (Non-Monetized)</p>	<p>There are no new non-monetizable costs or benefits associated with this change.</p>	

(5) Information Sources	N/A
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**Table 1b: Costs and Benefits under the Status Quo (No change to the regulation)**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: There are no new monetizable direct costs associated with maintaining the status quo.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no new monetizable indirect costs associated with maintaining the status quo.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: There are no new monetizable direct benefits associated with maintaining the status quo.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: There are no new monetizable indirect benefits associated with maintaining the status quo.</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) \$0	(b) \$0
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	\$0	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	There are no new non-monetizable costs or benefits associated with maintaining the status quo.	
(5) Information Sources	N/A	

**Table 1c: Costs and Benefits under Alternative Approach(es)**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	Refer to Box #4.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	N/A	

(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	This regulatory change is the result of a legislative change. The regulatory change amends the regulatory definitions in the regulation to conform to current statutory definitions. No alternatives were considered.
(5) Information Sources	N/A

**Impact on Local Partners**

Use this chart to describe impacts on local partners. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

**Table 2: Impact on Local Partners**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	See Box #3.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	There are no anticipated costs or benefits to local partners as a result of the regulatory change.	
(4) Assistance	N/A	
(5) Information Sources	N/A	

**Impacts on Families**

Use this chart to describe impacts on families. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

**Table 3: Impact on Families**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	See Box #3.
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(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	There are no anticipated costs or benefits to families as a result of the regulatory change.	
(4) Information Sources	N/A	

**Impacts on Small Businesses**

Use this chart to describe impacts on small businesses. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

**Table 4: Impact on Small Businesses**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	See Box #3.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	<p>Professional geologist certifications are issued to individuals and not firms. However, many certified professional certified geologists may be owners or employees of firms which fall within the meaning of “small business” as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>As noted in Table 1(a), this regulatory action changes regulatory definitions to conform to the current definitions in statute. There are no new costs or benefits associated with the change.</p>	
(4) Alternatives	N/A	
(5) Information Sources	N/A	

**Changes to Number of Regulatory Requirements**

**Table 5: Regulatory Reduction**

For each individual action, please fill out the appropriate chart to reflect any change in regulatory requirements, costs, regulatory stringency, or the overall length of any guidance documents.

*Change in Regulatory Requirements*

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Authority of Change	Initial Count	Additions	Subtractions	Total Net Change in Requirements
40-10	(M/A):	0	0	0	0
	(D/A):	0	0	0	0
	(M/R):	0	0	0	0
	(D/R):	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total of Changes in Requirements:</b>					(M/A): 0 (D/A): 0 (M/R): 0 (D/R): 0

**Key:**

*Please use the following coding if change is mandatory or discretionary and whether it affects externally regulated parties or only the agency itself:*

**(M/A):** Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting the agency itself

**(D/A):** Discretionary requirements affecting agency itself

**(M/R):** Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting external parties, including other agencies

**(D/R):** Discretionary requirements affecting external parties, including other agencies

*Cost Reductions or Increases (if applicable)*

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Requirement	Initial Cost	New Cost	Overall Cost Savings/Increases
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Other Decreases or Increases in Regulatory Stringency (if applicable)*

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Change	Overview of How It Reduces or Increases Regulatory Burden
N/A	N/A	N/A

*Length of Guidance Documents (only applicable if guidance document is being revised)*

Title of Guidance Document	Original Word Count	New Word Count	Net Change in Word Count
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*If the agency is modifying a guidance document that has regulatory requirements, it should report any change in requirements in the appropriate chart(s).