



## Periodic Review / Retain Regulation Agency Background Document

<b>Agency name</b>	Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
<b>Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation</b>	18 VAC 120-11
<b>Regulation title</b>	Public Participation Guidelines
<b>Document preparation date</b>	December 9, 2011

This form is used when the agency has done a periodic review of a regulation and plans to retain the regulation without change. This information is required pursuant to Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999).

### Legal basis

*Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority for the regulation, including (1) the most relevant law and/or regulation, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., agency, board, or person.*

*Code of Virginia § 2.2-4007.02 gives authority to each agency pursuant to the provisions of this chapter (Code of Virginia, Title 2.2), which includes the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (Department), to promote public involvement in the development, amendment, or repeal of any agency's regulations by soliciting the input of interested parties. This is done through the adoption of Public Participation Guidelines and the use of these guidelines in the development of the Department's regulations.*

### Alternatives

*Please describe all viable alternatives for achieving the purpose of the existing regulation that have been considered as part of the periodic review process. Include an explanation of why such alternatives were rejected and why this regulation is the least burdensome alternative available for achieving the purpose of the regulation.*

No viable alternatives for achieving the purpose of the existing regulation could be determined. The statute enables the Department to fulfill the requirement established in Title 2.2 of the *Code of Virginia*. Further, the regulation is necessary to ensure that the Department's statutory requirements are executed in the least burdensome and most efficient and cost effective manner possible while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Virginia.

**Public comment**

*Please summarize all comments received during the public comment period following the publication of the Notice of Periodic Review, and provide the agency response. Please indicate if an informal advisory group was formed for purposes of assisting in the periodic review.*

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No comments were received during the public comment period following publication of the Notice of Periodic Review. An informal advisory group was not formed for purposes of assisting in the period review.

**Effectiveness**

*Please indicate whether the regulation meets the criteria set out in Executive Order 14 (2010), e.g., is necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and is clearly written and easily understandable.*

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The regulation meets the criteria set forth in Executive Order 14 (2010). The regulation establishes the Public Participation Guidelines which are used by the Department to promote public involvement in the development, amendment, or repeal of the agency’s regulations by soliciting the input of interested parties. The regulation is clearly written and understandable.

**Result**

*Please state that the agency is recommending that the regulation should stay in effect without change.*

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The agency is recommending that the regulation stay in effect without change.

**Small business impact**

*In order to minimize the economic impact of regulations on small business, please include, pursuant to § 2.2-4007.1 E and F, a discussion of the agency’s consideration of: (1) the continued need for the regulation; (2) the nature of complaints or comments received concerning the regulation from the public; (3) the complexity of the regulation; (4) the extent to the which the regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with federal or state law or regulation; and (5) the length of time since the regulation has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the regulation. Also, include a discussion of the agency’s determination whether the regulation should be amended or repealed, consistent with the stated objectives of applicable law, to minimize the economic impact of regulations on small businesses.*

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Code of Virginia § 2.2-4007.02 mandates the Department to solicit the input of interested parties in the formation and development of its regulations. Therefore, the continued need for the regulation is established in statute. The regulation is necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare by establishing Public Participation Guidelines which promote public involvement in the development, amendment, or repeal of an agency’s regulation. By soliciting the input of interested parties, the

Department is better equipped to ensure individuals certified as professional geologists have met minimum competencies. Since no complaints or comments were received during the public comment period, there does not appear to be a reason to amend or repeal the regulation. The regulation is clearly written and easily understandable. The regulation does not overlap, duplicate or conflict with federal or state law or regulation. The most recent periodic review of the regulation occurred in 2008 which resulted in the repeal of 18 VAC 120-10, the existing Public Participation Guidelines at that time, and adoption of 18 VAC 120-11, model Public Participation Guidelines. The Director of the Department reviewed the regulation and, for the reasons stated in this section, determined that the regulation should not be amended or repealed, but should be retained in its current form.

### Family impact

*Please provide an analysis of the regulation's impact on the institution of the family and family stability.*

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No impact on the institution of the family and family stability has been identified.