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Monroe Professional Engineers Society

A Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers

657 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14607

Dedicated to Professionalism in Engineering in the Interest of Public Safety and Welfare

2016-17 Officers: President **David Roberts, PE**, President-elect **Chris Kamar, PE**, Vice-President **Arthur Reardon, PE**, Secretary **Martin Gordon, PE**, Treasurer **Neal Illenberg, PE**, Membership Chair **Arthur Reardon, PE**

NYSSPE Supports Licensure of Geologists & Protects Engineering License

On November 21, 2014 the Governor signed Chapter 475 which provides for the licensure of professional geologists under Title VIII of the Education Law. The law, however, did not take effect until November 21st of this year. Additional amendments and clarifications were made via Chapter 260 of the Laws of 2016. The previous *State Board for Engineering and Land Surveying* is now known as the *State Board for Engineering, Land Surveying and Geology*.¹

While NYSSPE fully supports the licensure of our allies in the profession of geology, we are also keenly interested in ensuring that the new licensure of geologists does not infringe on areas that are specifically reserved for the disciplines of engineering. In an August 9th YouTube broadcast, NYSSPE Executive Director, Anthony Fasano, and NYSSPE Legal Counsel, Mark Kriss, discussed some of the specific areas in which the organization supported and assisted in the development of this new professional license.²

Mr. Fasano and Mr. Kriss noted that NYSSPE was able to provide some assistance to the proponents for licensing geologists in regard to the process of developing a licensed profession. At the same time, they paid keen attention to how the law was being drafted in order to ensure that specific engineering disciplines, such as geotechnical and geothermal engineers, were protected. In addition to protecting the engineering profession, this also serves to protect public welfare.

Where geologists are often concerned with researching, mapping, and studying the earth's strata, they are prohibited from providing services that involve design, remediation, or application of technology. In this way, a mutually beneficial law was drafted that protected the interests of geologists, engineers, and the general public.

This is just one example of how NYSSPE works to protect the interests of not just its members, but all licensed professional engineers. The staff and members of NYSSPE remain vigilant in keeping up to date on new developments that affect the profession.

As always, we encourage active membership in the Monroe Professional Engineers Society. We are constantly striving to improve your membership but we always need more help. If you are interested in becoming an active member or have any questions, please email me at dcrebertspe@gmail.com or contact MPES through our website at www.monroepes.org/contactus/.

David C. Roberts, P.E., President, MPES

¹ <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/geo/>

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05NHjfxCDIQ>