

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Black Lab Pub, Churchill Room • 4100 Montrose Blvd.
 Social Hour 5:30–6:30 p.m.
 Dinner 6:30–7:30 p.m.

HGS Environmental & Engineering Dinner Meeting

Cost: \$30 Preregistered members; \$35 non-members/walk-ups

To guarantee a seat, pre-register on the HGS website & pre-pay by credit card.

Pre-registration without payment will not be accepted.

Walk-ups may pay at the door if extra seats are available.

If you are an Active or Associate Member who is unemployed and would like to attend this meeting, please call the HGS office for a discounted registration cost. We are also seeking members to volunteer at the registration desk for this and other events.

*Glenn Lowenstein, PG
 Terrain Solutions, Inc.*

Protecting the Geoscience License that Protects Texas and Texans

The Texas Sunset Commission wants to abolish the Geoscience license. Look at today's headlines. Environmental issues are often in the top 10 lists of voters' concerns. To say that the environment is not important to merit assessment by government licensed professionals or that geoscience is not used in the evaluation of the environment is not correct. My company, Terrain Solutions, often finds itself privy to information about unreported adverse environmental conditions which has not even entered the radar of environmental regulatory agencies. Geoscientists serve on the front lines to protect an uneducated public from the dangers. To say that the current manpower of regulatory bodies can adequately address all the environmental concerns, undervalues the importance of environmental assessment. Every additional educated and trained body is needed in the environmental arena from safe drinking water identification to risk assessment of chemical releases.

Understanding the history of how we convinced a group of independent-minded geoscientists to accept governmental oversight is complex. Efforts towards Texas geoscience licensure failed in the 1980s and was resurrected to become a Geoscience Act in 2001 and a funded board in 2003. I will give my version of the road that brought us the Sunset report, a look towards consequences of the return to pre-licensure, what we can do to

improve enforcement, continuing education, and the ethics of our profession to improve licensure, and ultimately, why we believe licensure is good for all geoscientists and critical for the future of Texas. ■

Biographical Sketch

MR. GLENN LOWENSTEIN, P.G., C.A.P.M., is the President of Terrain Solutions, Inc., an environmental consulting company based in Houston, Texas. Mr. Lowenstein holds a BS in Geology from Queens College and a MS in Geology from Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. He is a Licensed Professional Geologist (P.G. # 28) in the State of Texas and is a Corrective Action Project Manager (CAPM # 116). Mr. Lowenstein has over 25 years of professional experience in environmental and geological applications which include environmental site assessments, UST investigations, and geologic studies of surface faults. He has performed environmental site assessments for both public and private sector projects. Mr. Lowenstein served as a Professional Member on the Texas Professional Geoscience Board from 2005-2011.

