

Policy Name:	Enforcement		
Policy No:	ECD-02	Version Date:	21 July 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

The Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia ('APGNS' or 'Geoscientists Nova Scotia') has a legislated mandate, under the *Geoscience Profession Act*¹, 2002, c. 7, s. 1, to regulate the practice of geoscience in Nova Scotia and to register professional geoscientists in accordance with the APGNS By-laws, policies and procedures.

This policy document is an addendum to the current *Geoscience Profession Act* (2002) and By-laws of the Association and reflects the currently accepted procedures. Where accuracy is critical, please consult the *Geoscience Profession Act* and the By-laws of APGNS.

2. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the processes for protecting the public interest through enforcement of registration with the APGNS individuals and businesses undertaking geoscience practice within Nova Scotia, regardless of project location.

The purpose of this Enforcement Policy is to ensure that unregistered practitioners and APGNS-registered practitioners (registrants, licensees, permit holders) comply with the *Geoscience Profession Act (GPA)*, APGNS Bylaws, Code of Ethics, Continuing Professional Development reporting, and other applicable standards of practice, including any enforcement guidelines established by APGNS.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All non-registrants who engage in geoscience practice contrary to the *Geoscience Profession Act*, APGNS By-laws and Policies.
- All individuals who are active APGNS registrants (Professional Geoscientist, Licensee, etc.).
- All Certificate of Authorization holders.

4. ENFORCEMENT POLICY DEFINITIONS

- **Enforcement Process:** The process outlined by this Enforcement Policy.
- **Executive Committee:** as defined in APGNS By-Law Section 19.
- **Geoscience Practice:** Geoscientists Canada have position papers on geoscience practice in Canada applicable for Canadian professional geoscience regulators. These documents

¹ <https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes%20HTML/geoscience%20profession.htm>
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is what defines geoscience practice in such a way that all regulators effectively approach geoscience practice in the same manner.

- **Geoscience Practitioner:** an individual practicing geoscience.
- **Geoscience Business:** a business doing geoscience business within or from Nova Scotia.
- **Registrar** – the person designated by APGNS Council to register applications and renewals as well as provide enforcement and registration processes as outlined in APGNS Policies.
- **Registrant** – a registered member, licensee, member-in-training (MIT), or authorized holder of a corporate Certificate of Authorization.

5. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

Enforcement process stages apply to Registrants who have allowed their active registration to lapse by not meeting annual requirements for dues payments and Continuing Professional Development reports (individuals only). The three (or less) stage process undertaken until resolution by the Registrar and/or Executive Committee-approved alternate is:

- Awareness: discussion of professional geoscience expectations in Nova Scotia
- Notification: letter describing shortfall and final compliance deadline
- Sanctions: non-compliant registrant stricken from Register of “active” registrants

There are up to six enforcement stages for individuals and businesses not registered with APGNS that would proceed until resolution. The Registrar and/or Executive Committee-approved alternate would undertake the following tasks until resolution:

- Initiation: recognition of an actionable situation
- Screening: due diligence preparation for taking action
- Awareness: discussion of professional geoscience expectations in Nova Scotia
- Notification with Executive Committee authorization: initial letter recommending compliance
- Final Notice with Executive Committee and Council authorization: legal notice (lawyer-drafted letter)
- Sanctions with Executive Committee and Council authorization: publication, GPA statutory fines

Detailed enforcement proceedings must remain confidential and comply with all APGNS policies and guidelines.

6. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

Persons acting in good faith under this policy on behalf of APGNS, including but not limited to, APGNS Executive Committee, Registrar, and Councillors, are held immune by APGNS from civil liability for any act, omission, or statement made under this enforcement process.

7. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This policy shall be reviewed by Council every 2 years. Amendments require approval by Council.

Approved by APGNS Council: 4 August 2026

Review & Approval History		
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Next Review Date:	August 2028
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