Consensus Statement on Ethics in the Geosciences

Washington, DC

16 September 2013

We, the undersigned representatives of national and international geoscientific societies and professional associations, assert the fundamental importance of protecting scientific integrity and of upholding ethical standards and behavior in the geosciences.

Geoscientists have considerable understanding of the processes that have formed and continue to shape our planet, and of the history of change to Earth and life through deep geological time. This understanding of our physical and biological environment is scientifically valid and has a role to play in the formation of policy, our use of the planet and its resources, and in developing our conception of the common good in relation to the Earth.

As concerned geoscientists, we wish to ensure that members of our societies, associations, and organizations behave at all times in an ethical manner.

We agree to work together to:

- Promote informed understanding of the role of ethics in the geosciences
- Raise standards of professional practice among our memberships
- Develop and promote a common Code of Ethics for geoscientists

Signed,

American Association of Petroleum Geologists
American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists – The Palynological Society
American Geophysical Union
American Geosciences Institute
American Institute of Hydrology
American Institute of Professional Geologists
American Rock Mechanics Association
Association for Women Geoscientists
Association of American State Geologists
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Council on Undergraduate Research, Geosciences Division
Geological Society
Geological Society of America
International Association of Hydrogeologists/U.S. National Chapter
International Medical Geology Association
Karst Waters Institute
National Association of State Boards of Geology
National Cave and Karst Research Institute
North American Commission of Stratigraphic Nomenclature
National Association of Geoscience Teachers
Paleontological Society
Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc.
Society of Economic Geologists
Society of Exploration Geophysicists
Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists
Soil Science Society of America
The Society for Organic Petrology