

# AEG OREGON NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2



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My Career: A Long and Winding Road

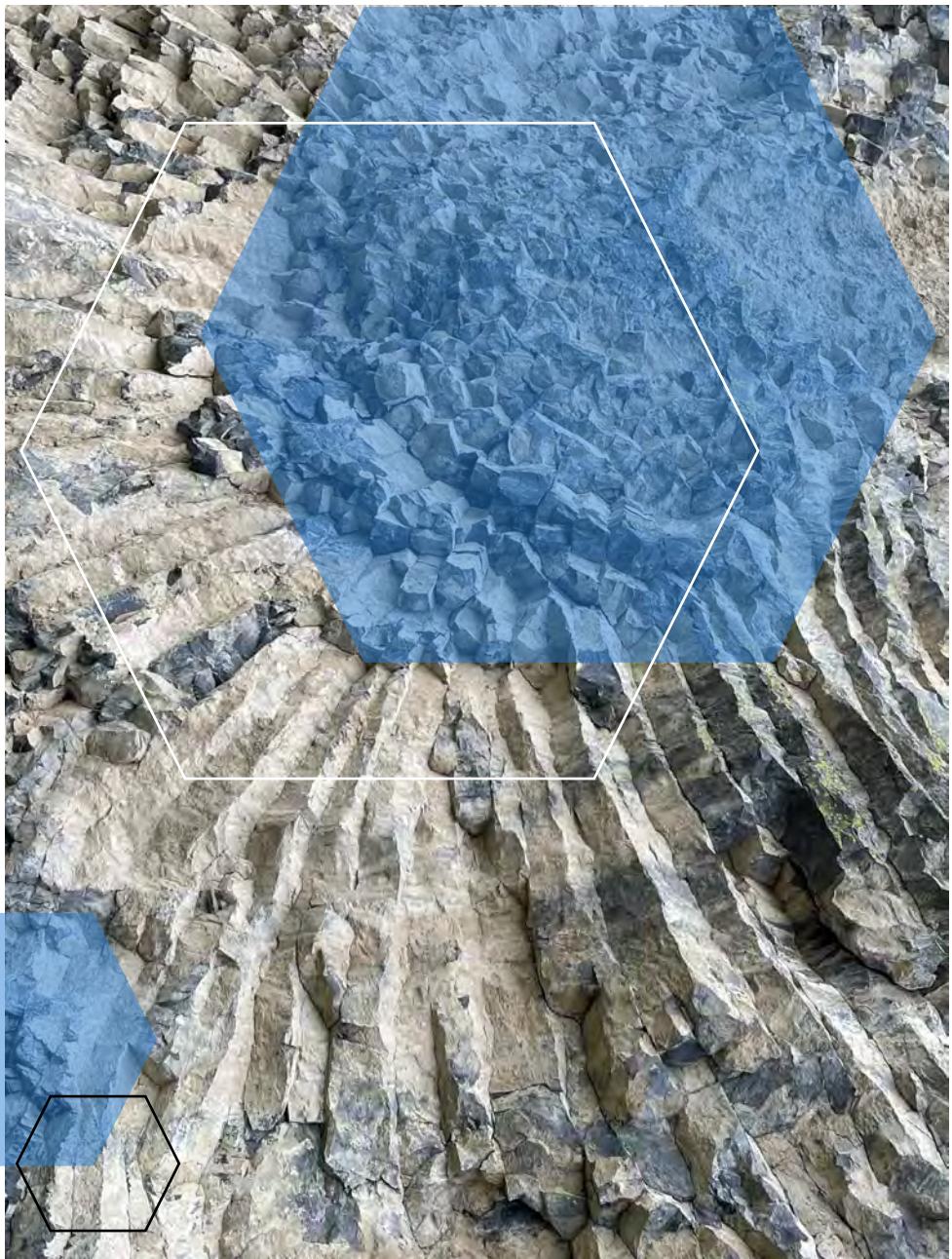
[RSVP here.](#)

### Letter from the Chair

Fall is here!

### AEG Oregon Bulletin

Local industry goings-on.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**OCTOBER 20, 2025**

Ken Neal, My Career

**FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

Special Event!

**NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

TBD

**MARCH 17, 2026**

TBD

**DECEMBER 16, 2025**

TBD

**APRIL 21, 2026**

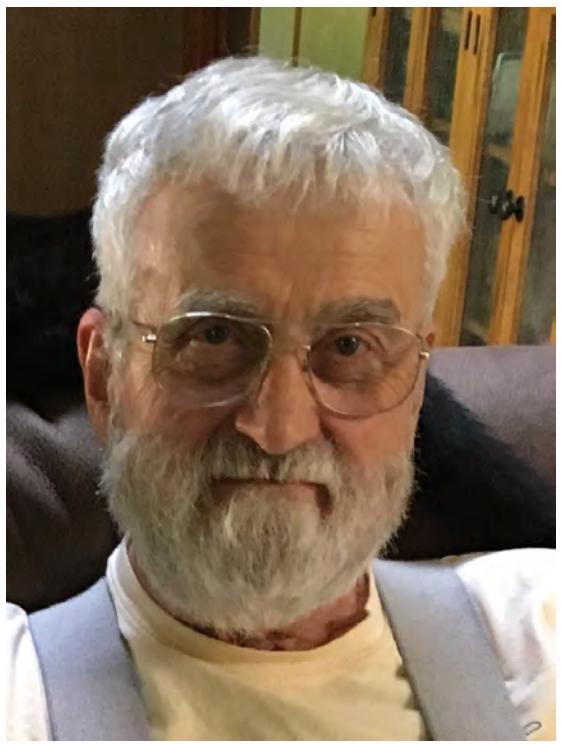
TBD

**JANUARY 20, 2026**

ASCE/AEG Joint Meeting  
Polychrome Bridge Launch

**MAY 19, 2026**

Student Night



# OCTOBER MEETING

## MY CAREER: A LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Ken Neal's career was garnered by his love of the outdoors and the mountains. As a Mazama, he climbed most of the major peaks in the Cascades and Olympics. After enrolling at Portland State University as a math major and serving in the military, he changed his major to geology and graduated with a Bachelor of Sciences degree in 1971. Following that, he spent a summer with City Services Minerals Corporation in Hells Canyon and completed his thesis with a Master's of Science in 1973.

In 1974, after a short stint with Shannon & Wilson, he obtained a career-conditional appointment with the Willamette National Forest Santiam Engineering Zone and, in 1975, moved to the Olympic National Forest Geotechnical Section, which was ultimately headquartered in Fort Lewis, Washington. At that location, he managed the Engineering Geology Section, followed by the Resource Geology Section, and, later, the North Drill Management Area, which encompassed the six northernmost national forests in the region. During that time, with significant input from Doug Williamson and Dennis Larson, he wrote the field-developed cross-section manual.

In 1991, Ken left the Forest Service and joined GeoEngineers, Inc. in Bellevue and Redmond, Washington. During that time, he became involved in geologist licensure and, for the next 10 years, coordinated the Washington Section AEG licensure effort. In 1993, Ken opened his own consulting firm, Kenneth Neal & Associates, in Olympia, Washington, and provided engineering geology and geotechnical engineering services until 2013. During that time, he also worked as a disaster assistance employee for the Federal Emergency Management Agency on federally declared disasters in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Ohio, and New Jersey. He "mostly retired" in 2013, although he has since done some project work for other firms and served on the AEG Foundation Board from 2020 through 2022.

## MEETING DETAILS

**Date:**

Monday, October 20, 2025

**Agenda:**

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Social  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Dinner  
7:00 p.m., Presentation

**Location:**

Old Market Pub  
6959 SW Multnomah Boulevard

**RSVP:**

Ticket prices vary. Use cash or check to pay at the door. If you want to pay with card, [RSVP here](#).





# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

## FALL IS HERE!

AEG Oregon,

Fall is here, and I cannot be more excited. Not only are the weather and scenery beautiful, but it's also time to start decorating for Halloween. Every year, my brother and I attempt to watch 31 horror movies in October, one for each day. Last October I was drill logging in Alaska, so I could not reach this lofty goal, but I have much better prospects this year. I hope all of you are taking some time to enjoy the season and recuperate after the hectic summer.

I want to again thank Greg Martin from GRI for our talk last month about the Kellogg Creek Restoration and Community Enhancement Project. I really enjoyed hearing about the innovative approach to the site investigation and his review of the historic site activity and implications for the project. Understanding the history of a project site, whether you are talking about geologic or human history, is a vital and fascinating aspect of engineering and environmental geology.

This month we have Ken Neal, a true pioneer of the engineering geology profession in the Northwest. A graduate of Portland State University, Ken worked for private firms and the Willamette and Olympic National Forests during his career. He played a pivotal role in establishing the geologic licensure requirements in Washington State.

I hope to see you all on October 20, 2025, for this exciting presentation.

Regards,

Nicholas Farny

AEG Oregon Chair





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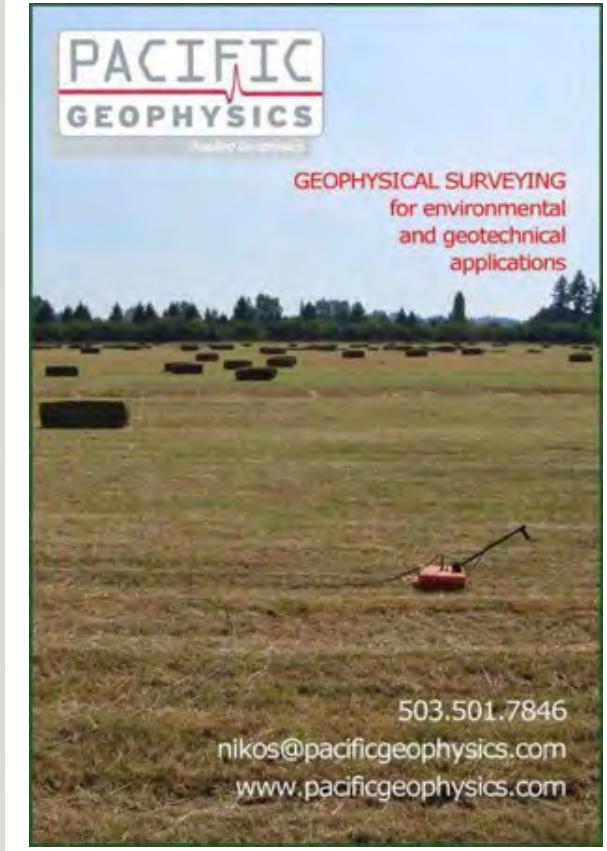
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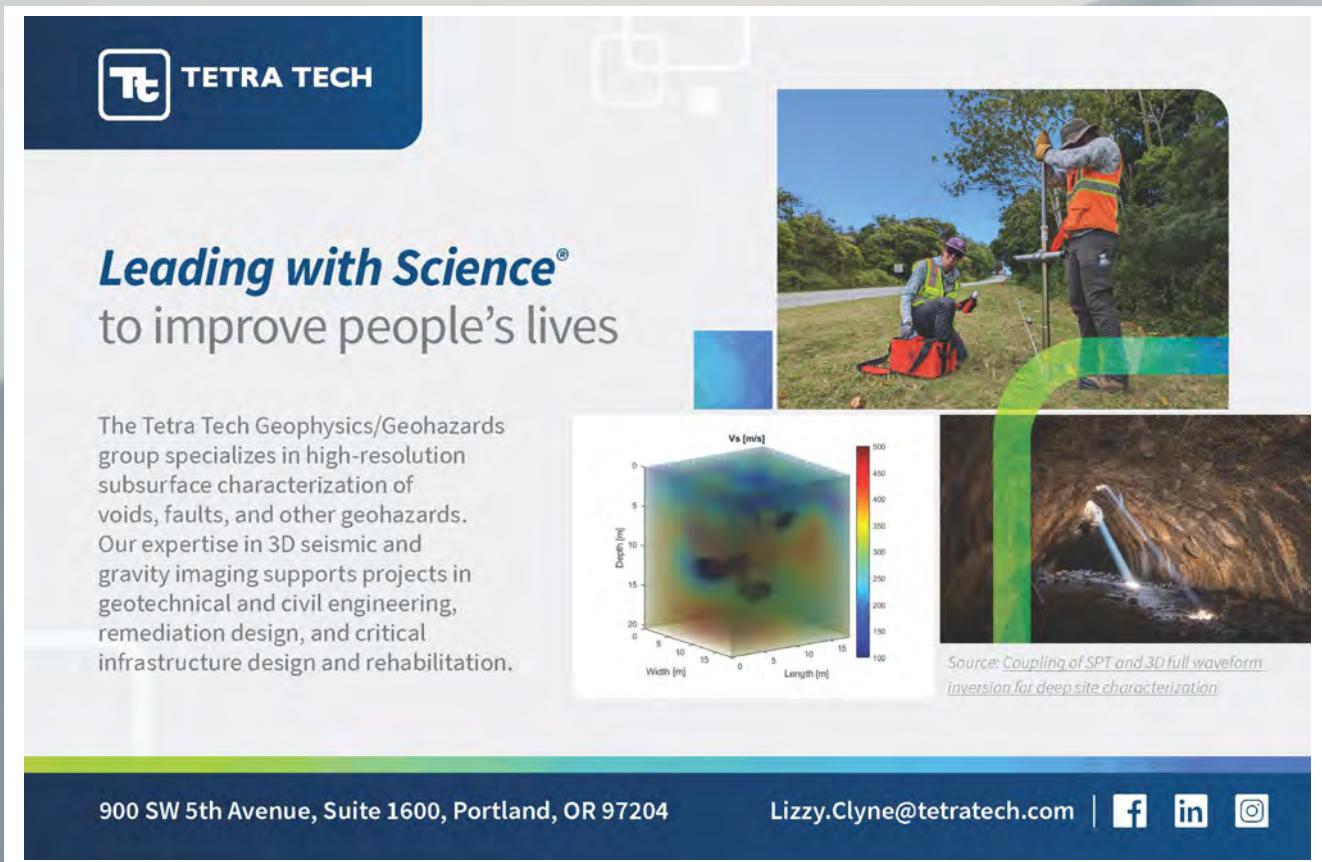
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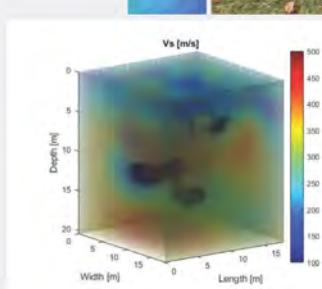
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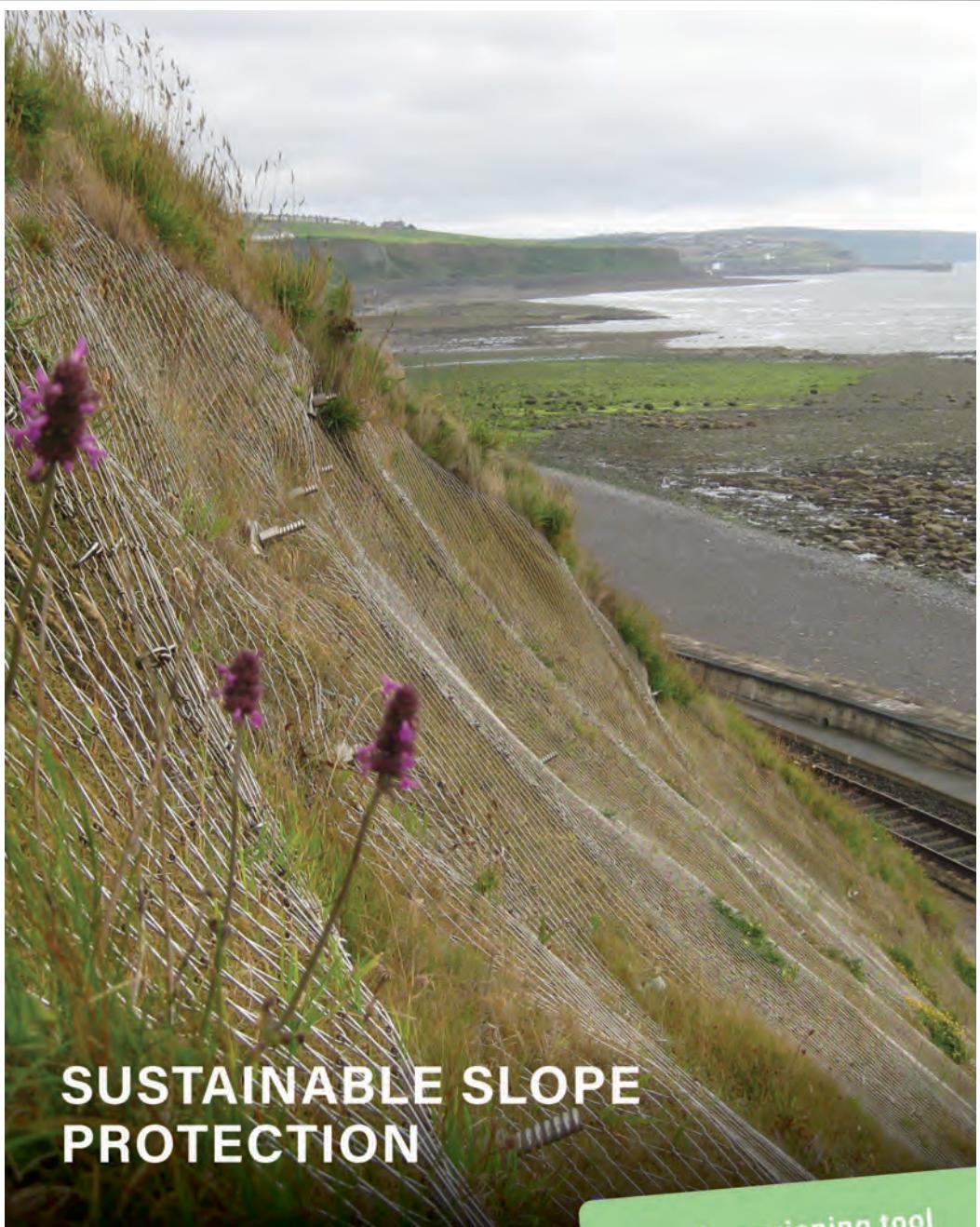
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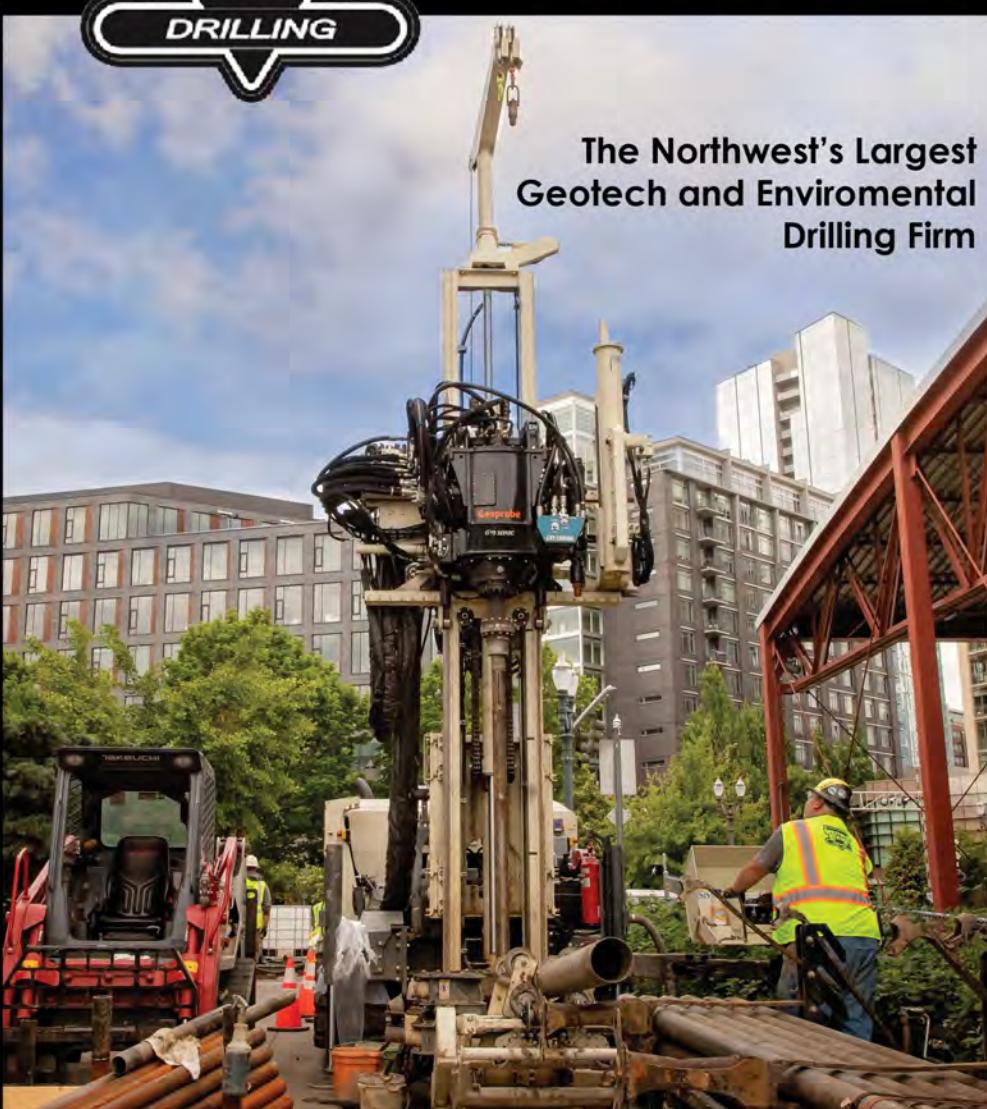
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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 3–5, [Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show](#); Hillsboro, Oregon

Oct. 10, Carolyn Driedger presents, ["Hazards from the Nevado del Ruiz and Mount Rainier volcanoes"](#); PSU, Portland, Oregon, and online.

Oct. 29, Nick Zentner presents, ["Where did the lava flow and how do we know? A geological mystery and treasure hunt"](#); OSU, Corvallis, Oregon, and online

#### TEST DATES

Oct. 3, ASBOG exam date

#### STUDENT NIGHT

Student night will be May 21, 2026. This is an opportunity for students to present their projects and mingle with industry professionals. And there are prizes! It's never too early to start thinking about what you might present.

#### CALL FOR CONTENT!

We would love to hear from you! Information about recent projects, career milestones, events, awards, and job postings is all welcome, as are articles and visual elements. Send newsletter contributions to Sarah Norton at [snorton@gri.com](mailto:snorton@gri.com).

# 2025 – 2026 CHAPTER OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



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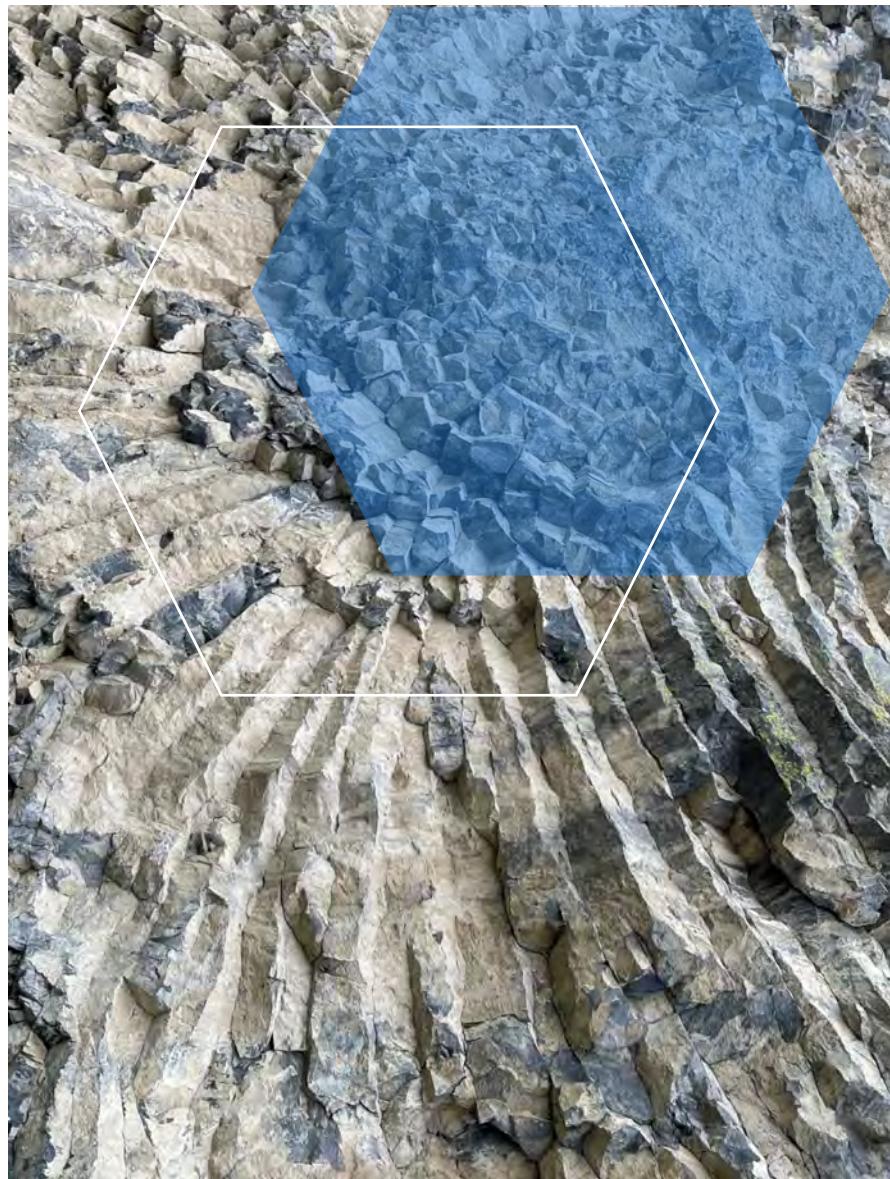
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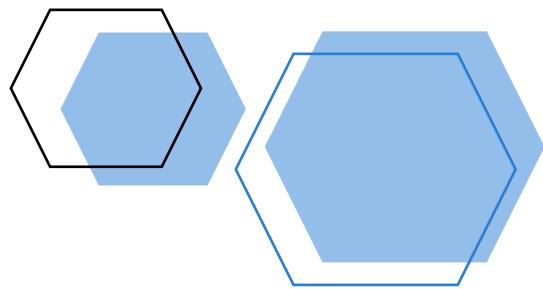
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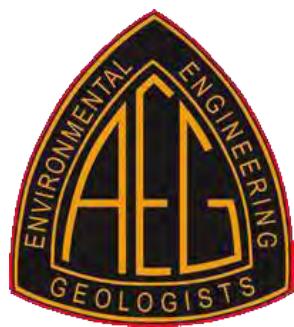
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