

2020 Joint Section Meeting
69th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section
55th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Section
20-22 March 2020 | Reston, Virginia
Hyatt Regency Reston

MARCH 11, 2020

Dear GSA Members, 2020 SE/NE Section Meeting Participants, Colleagues, and Friends,

We are writing to inform you that the Geological Society of America 2020 Southeastern and Northeastern Joint Section Meeting will be canceled in Reston, Virginia 20-22 March due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The health and safety of our members and event attendees are always our highest priorities, and with the growing number of travel restrictions for both academia and industry, and multiple states declaring states of emergencies, we have determined that we could not in good conscience continue with the meeting.

For over a year we have been planning on hosting a joint section meeting. The local planning committee and officers of the Southeastern and Northeastern Sections were excited to welcome you to the 2020 Joint Meeting of the 69th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section and 55th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America in Reston, Virginia. The joint meeting was being hosted by representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey; the Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment at the Slippery Rock University; the Department of Geology at William and Mary; Barner Consulting; the Department of Geology at Allegheny College; and the Department of Earth Sciences at California University of Pennsylvania.

Sadly, the presence and spread of the novel coronavirus both internationally and in the United States, makes it both impossible to hold a meeting that would even approximate the value of a place-based gathering, and irresponsible to encourage or expect participation, or even offer participation, when attendees could be exposed to a communicable disease and return home transmitting an illness to family and friends even before it manifests itself.

Although an in-person Southeastern and Northeastern Joint Meeting will not take place next week, we are exploring ways for the sessions and abstracts to still be presented at the 2020 GSA Annual Meeting in Montreal, Quebec 25 – 28 October, 2020. As we work out those details with the Technical Program Chairs of both the Southeastern and Northeastern Section Meeting and the Joint Technical Program Chair for the Montreal Annual Meeting, we will share that information with all those presenters.

GSA will be issuing full registration refunds for the meeting to all attendees, and attendees do not need to contact GSA for their refunds. Our Sales & Services Department will be in touch should they need anything in order to issue the refund. We also recommend that those who made hotel reservations, whether within the official block of the Hyatt Regency Reston or at other nearby hotels, cancel those reservations before there are any penalties. In

addition, many airlines ([United](#), [Southwest](#), and [Delta](#)) have announced that they are working with customers who have changing travel plans.

This decision is not an easy one for the local committee and leadership of the Southeastern GSA Section, Northeastern GSA Section and GSA HQ, but we feel it is the right one given the current situation. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we work together for the health and safety of all our attendees.

Best Regards,
Vicki S. McConnell
Executive Director GSA

Arthur Merschat
Patrick Burkhart
General Co-chairs of 2020 SE/NE Joint Section Meeting

Blair R. Tormey
Southeastern Secretary
David P. West, Jr.
Northeastern Secretary