

Date: Mon, 28 May 2007 10:10:50 -0400
From: "Bobrowsky, Peter" <pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca>
Reply-To: "Bobrowsky, Peter" <pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Request to IUGS to formalize Quaternary
To: James Ogg <jogg@purdue.edu>, zhang.iugs@gmail.com,
Moores@geology.ucdavis.edu, syhaldor@online.no, Antonio Brambati
<brambati@units.it>

Dear Jim

Thank you very much for providing the IUGS with your recommendations regarding the Quaternary. We are extremely pleased that you have managed to quickly and actively engage such a diverse group of parties.

IUGS subscribes to a logical and methodical process, bound by consensus and existing policy, rules of order and procedure. The issue of the "Quaternary" in fact involves several steps including the first which is formal acceptance of the Quaternary as a system/period.

I am therefore pleased to inform you that the IUGS EC unanimously approves the recommendation to recognize the "Quaternary" as a formal system/period of the international geological scale. However, IUGS EC does NOT approve the simultaneous definition of the base of the Quaternary as proposed in your letter and attachment. This latter recommendation has yet to follow established protocol for consultation, discussion and voting by the ICS. This item is therefore NOT an ICS voted recommendation and as such cannot be ratified by IUGS.

IUGS now suggests that you follow the established protocol for defining the base of the Quaternary with due consideration and respect for the issue of the "Tertiary" and due process regarding establishment for the base of the Pleistocene; e.g agreed 10 year moratorium on the base of the Pleistocene. We believe this next step cannot be rushed and should be a key topic for discussion at the 2008 IGC Congress in Oslo, where a captive and informed audience may participate.

Please inform your colleagues in ICS about this decision.

Regards

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