NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS
FOR ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

POLICY

Title: **Engineering Surveys Policy**

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For Approval___
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A PE is allowed to do "engineering surveys" as included in the first paragraph of the definition of engineering in G.S. 89C-3(6)a, but it must be read in conjunction with G.S. 89C-3(6)b that states that "The term 'practice of engineering' shall not be construed to permit the location, description, establishment or reestablishment of property lines or descriptions of land boundaries for conveyance." In addition, it must be consistent with the definition of land surveying in G.S. 89C-3(7)a that lists activities that are included in the practice of land surveying. The Standards of Practice for Land Surveying, Section .1600 further clarifies the aspects of surveying that must be done by a PLS. The Board's position is that the provision for "engineering surveys" would allow a PE to do topographic and hydrographic surveys for his/her engineering project. At a minimum, any horizontal or vertical control, including locating boundary line corners must be done by a PLS. Because of the impact on property rights, any mapping of location data, including but not limited to, property boundaries, annexation boundaries, zoning boundaries, easements, wetland delineation, flood zones and buffers must be done by a PLS. Proposed easements can be shown by a PE, without metes and bounds, but cannot be used for a description or an attachment for a Deed of Easement. The PE must clearly state on the document that it is not to be used as such and that a PLS must provide a description or an attachment for a Deed of Easement.

The Standards of Practice for Land Surveying for topographic surveys in 21-56.1606 require that the plats of topographic surveys must be certified from an actual survey by the PLS and to the required accuracy standards. Only a PLS can so certify. Topographic or hydrographic surveys done by the PE for his/her project and not issued as a work product to the client or others. In addition, the PE cannot do topographic or hydrographic surveys for the PE's engineering project unless fully competent to do so and must work from property boundaries, horizontal control and vertical control established by a PLS.

A PE cannot advertise or offer boundary, easement, topographic, hydrographic or other surveying services.