View from the Chair

by Henry V. Liles, Jr., PE.

In accordance with the Board's administrative rules, all licensees must comply with continuing professional competency requirements. The rules are contained in the last two pages of North Carolina Administrative Code, Section 21-56.1700. For convenience of our licensees, the rules are published every year in the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors Yearbook. Many licensees order the Yearbook at renewal time primarily to keep an up-to-date list of engineers and surveyors licensed in North Carolina. I invite each of you to take a moment to familiarize yourselves with our General Statutes, Board Rules and the General Statutes pertaining to professional corporations which are also contained in the Yearbook. Of course, all of the information is available on-line as well at www.ncbels.org.

Concerning continuing professional competency (CPC), there seems to be a growing trend that licensees are not able to provide proper evidence of having completed their CPC requirements. This shortcoming generally comes to light during the audit process. Licensees must understand that failure to comply with annual CPC requirements results in non-renewal of the license and may result in additional disciplinary charges against the licensee. It is also important to understand that it is the licensee's responsibility to select courses and activities that meet the requirements of Rule 1702 Item (4), which states the course/activity must have "a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve and expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee's field of practice." The administration of CPC requirements is revealing a growing number of professional development hours which are being denied due to the fact that the course/activity does not relate to the licensee's field of practice. Real estate courses traditionally fall into this lot, but other fields of study unrelated to the licensee's practice are starting to increase as well, as indicated by audit results.

An area of common misconception in CPC requirements relates to sponsors. Licensees are advised that they may select courses other than those offered by sponsors. However, the licensee needs to understand that post-evaluation of the course material during an audit could result in non-acceptance if the course doesn't maintain, improve and expand the skills and knowledge in the licensee's practice. Courses offered by sponsors are deemed acceptable for professional development hour (PDH) credit without scrutiny of individual course content. Sponsors in turn must meet CPC rule requirements in order to be extended the privilege of blanket approval.

Licensees must understand that the obligation of record keeping is also their responsibility. Records should include "a log showing the type of activity claimed, sponsoring organization, location, duration, instructor's or speaker's name, and PDH credits earned." "Attendance verification records in the form of completion certificates or other documents supporting evidence of attendance" are also required as part of the records. The records must be maintained for a period of three years.

Out-of-state licensees are also required to meet CPC requirements. The requirements for North Carolina are deemed satisfied when the non-resident licensees meet the CPC requirements of their home jurisdictions. If a licensee resides in a jurisdiction that has no CPC requirement, the licensee must then meet the CPC requirements of North Carolina.

The North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors stands ready to help you with any of your CPC needs. Linda Peace from the Board's staff is the point person for questions. It would be better to be clear on CPC requirements now rather than being caught in an uncomfortable position later in an audit process.
Board Member News

George Freeman, PE, PLS was given the Professional Engineers of North Carolina Distinguished Service Award at the PENC Summer meeting.

Dr. Joseph Monroe, Public Member, was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of College of Engineering Deans.

Former Board member J. Richard Cottingham, PE, PLS (1990-2000) was given the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors' Distinguished Service Award at the annual NCEES meeting.

Former Board member Larry D. Nixon, PE, PLS has been elected President of ABET.

Board Staff News

Board Council David Tuttle has been named to the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors' Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines.

Investigations Supervisor David Evans has been named to the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors' Committee on Law Enforcement.

The Board has hired Carrie Fisher as an administrative assistant to replace the retired Earlean Pearce. Carrie will be handling various responsibilities including processing applications and receptionist duties.

Board Directory

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Laura Parham — Receptionist 100
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Issuance of Record Drawings
by David S. Tuttle, Board Counsel

The Board has taken the position that Record Drawings must be signed and sealed by the PE who is responsible for issuing the Record Drawings. The thought is that even though the information shown is provided by the contractor (or owner) it should still be certified for release to assure that the information is ready for release and has had the oversight of the PE before release. This procedure guards against the unauthorized release of the drawings or obvious errors or changes to the design that should be questioned by the PE. Not only is it acceptable to indicate the source of the information and disclaim any verification by the PE, but it is required by the Board to avoid the appearance that the PE personally observed or verified the changes. The purpose of the drawing should be stated on the drawing by using the title "Record Drawing" and/or clearly noting somewhere on the drawing. Language disclaiming field verification by the PE of the changes is acceptable.

Effective August 1, 2002, Board Rule .1102(c)(7) provides for language that can be modified to fit a situation where the original design engineer is no longer available to sign and seal as to the original design drawings. The PE responsible for issuing the Record Drawings can certify that changes are shown as provided by the contractor or another party and not verified by the PE and give the information to the original design engineer.

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Joint Use of Seal Brochure

The NC Board of Examiners and the NC Board of Architecture have developed a joint use of seal brochure that discusses the use of the engineer's and architect's seal on construction documents submitted to building inspection officials in North Carolina. The brochure covers the state laws for engineers and architects, building code requirements and use of seal regulations. The brochure has been sent to all building code officials in North Carolina to be used as a guide. If you have questions regarding the brochure or the information contained therein, please contact the Board of Examiners. To view the brochure, please visit the Board's web site.

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Board Gives Grant to NCSU

At its January Board meeting, the Board of Examiners authorized a $30,000 grant to be given to the NCSU Educational Foundation. The grant is to be used specifically for a license promotion project being led by Dr. Ben O'Neal. The purpose of the project is to promote the benefits of licensure at all four engineering universities in North Carolina. The two initial primary objectives are increasing the number of applicants taking the FE exam and increasing the statewide pass rates. Please contact the Board office for more information.

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Surveying Courses at NC A&T

NC A & T is currently collaborating with Old Dominion University to offer courses in surveying, land development, GIS/GPS and photogrammetry to NC residents. Students may choose to enroll in specific courses for PDH credit, or pursue the four year BS degree in Civil Engineering Technology offered by ODU. For more information, contact the University at 336.334.7589.
Disciplinary Actions

The following summaries represent disciplinary actions taken by the Board from July 22, 2002 to August 11, 2003. Penalties vary, depending upon the specific circumstances of each case. Space limitations preclude a full reporting of all circumstances. Questions or requests for information concerning specific cases should be directed to the Board Counsel at Ext. 111.

CASE NO. V99-025, 026, 033
C. Phil Wagoner, PLS
Mount Airy, NC
VIOLATION: Guilty of gross negligence and misconduct in the practice of his profession on numerous charges.
BOARD ACTION: Three-month suspension and Civil Penalty of $1,000. (Appealed to Superior Court).
SUPERIOR COURT ACTION: Affirmed action of Board. (Appealed to Court of Appeals).

CASE NO. V00-061
Lloyd R. Walker, PLS No. L-1333
Whiteville, NC
VIOLATION: Failed to spend the necessary time and effort to make adequate investigation to determine if there are encroachments, gaps, lappages or other irregularities along each line surveyed (.1602(a)); failed to examine the most recent deeds and recorded plats adjacent to the subject property (.1602(c)); and failed to make corrections to the survey by not amending incorrect information on the map (.0701(b)).
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand and Civil Penalty of $500.

CASE NO. V01-060
Terence W. Philbrick, Jr., PE No. 24578
Charlotte, NC
VIOLATION: Affixed his seal to work not done under his direct supervisory control or responsible charge (.0701(c)(3)).
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand, Civil Penalty of $1,000, pass ethics course PDH-40 offered by the Murdock Center of Texas Tech University within six months from date of receipt of Decision and Order or license will be suspended (minimum three months) and continue until compliance with Decision and Order.

CASE NO. V01-086
PD Automation LLC, unlicensed
Sanford, NC
VIOLATION: Limited Liability Company offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24, 57C and 55B.
BOARD ACTION: Board issued letter to cause respondent to cease and desist offering or practicing engineering.

CASE NO. V01-102
Ronald T. Strachan, PE No. 13525
Nags Head, NC
VIOLATION: Affixing seal to work not done under direct supervisory control or responsible charge (.0701(c)(3)); producing a deficient, substandard or inaccurate report, failing to protect the public (.0701(b)); and affixing his seal to inadequate design documents, failing to protect the public (.0701(b)).
BOARD ACTION: Voluntarily and permanently surrender PE license.

CASE NO. V01-109
John L. Pierce, PLS No. L-2596
Jacksonville, NC
VIOLATION: Failed to conduct his practice in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare (.0701(b)); failed to comply with state regulations applying to a project to protect the public (.0701(b)); failed to report the results of a survey in a clear and factual manner (.1602(f)); failed to provide legend (.1604(e)(11)); failed to be objective and truthful in all professional reports, statements and testimony (.0701(d)(1)).
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand, Civil Penalty of $2000 and pass the ethics course offered by New Mexico State University or the University of Maine within sixty days from date of receipt of the Decision and Order. Failure to comply with the Order will result in a minimum of a three month suspension.

CASE NO. V02-006, 031
James S. Ballinger, PLS No. L-2880
Ellenboro, NC
VIOLATION: Failed to report the results of a survey in a clear and factual manner (.1602(f)); by reporting ownership in the name of his client of the area indicated as an overlap, failed to report the acreage in a clear manner (.1602(f)); failed to locate all apparent improvements on boundary (.1604(e)(8)); specifically, a fence, failed to properly sign, seal and date revision (.1103(a)(7), .1604(c)); and failed to identify reference source (.1602(f)).
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand.

CASE NO. V02-009
Gary L. Gechter, unlicensed
Huntersville, NC
VIOLATION: Practicing or offering to practice engineering without a license (G.S. 89C-23).
BOARD ACTION: Closed case based upon final action by Board for Licensing of Geologists (no action taken - no violation of G.S. 89E).

CASE NO. V02-010
Ground Technological Services, Inc., PC No. C-1825
Huntersville, NC
VIOLATION: Failed to conduct its practice in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare (.0701(b)) by allowing the practice of engineering by unlicensed individuals.
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand and Civil Penalty of $2000.

CASE NO. V02-017
Joel E. Whiteley, PE No. 9036
Oakboro, NC
VIOLATION: Affixed his seal to work not done under his direct supervisory control or responsible charge (.0701(c)(3)); affixed his seal to inadequate design documents, failing to protect the public (.0701(b)).
BOARD ACTION: Voluntarily and permanently surrender PE license.

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design documents, failing to protect the public [0.701(b)]; and failed to include address on document [1.103(b)(6)].

BOARD ACTION: Reprimand and Civil Penalty of $500.

CASE NO. VO2-019
Rio H. Benson, unlicensed
Gaston, NC

VIOLATION: Practicing or offering to practice engineering without a license [G.S. 89C-23], and Limited Liability Company offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24, 57C and 55B.

BOARD ACTION: Court granted Prayer for Judgment Continued.

CASE NO. VO2-024
Alan B. Styles, PLS No. L-2985
Candler, NC

VIOLATION: Failed to include address on document [1.103(b)(6)], failed to conform to the Standards of Practice for Land Surveying in North Carolina [1.1600] by failing to indicate ratio of precision [1.1603(a)], failing to accurately locate all apparent rights-of-way and improvements on boundary [1.1604(e)(8)], and failing to provide barograph [1.1604(e)(11)]; failed to report the results of a survey in a clear and factual manner [1.1602(f)] by reporting incorrect acreage and distance on boundary lines; and performed an inaccurate or substandard survey, failing to protect the public [0.701(b)].

BOARD ACTION: Reprimand and furnish proof of passing the March 2003 NC Society of Surveyors Institute Section A Boundary Retracement. Failure to comply with Order will result in suspension of license until proof is furnished of compliance with Decision and Order.

CASE NO. VO2-028
Alvah C. Arm, PE No. 10504
Durham, NC

VIOLATION: Affixed his seal to inadequate design documents, failing to protect the public [0.701(b)]; affixed his seal to work not done under his direct supervisory control or responsible charge [0.701(c)(3)]; failed to include address on document [1.103(b)(6)] and made representation as being capable of performing architectural services or as an Architect [G.S. 83A, 0701(b)].

BOARD ACTION: Suspension for 6 months (from date of receipt of Decision and Order), Civil Penalty of $500, and furnish proof of passing ethics course PDH-40 offered by the Murdock Center of Texas Tech University prior to reinstatement.

CASE NO. VO2-038
Sauls Sesemic, Inc., unlicensed
(formerly Sauls Engineers Inc.)
Charlotte, NC

VIOLATION: Corporation practicing or offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24 and 55B and using the words "engineer" or "engineering" in violation of licensing required by G.S. 89C-23.

BOARD ACTION: Board closed case based upon final action by the Attorney General's office to cause the respondent to cease and desist offering to practice or practicing engineering, by providing blasting evaluation reports, or any other acts which constitute the practice of engineering, and cease representing that the firm has professional engineering qualifications until properly licensed with the Board. (Failure to take these measures to comply with the law will result in the Attorney General's office filing a court action seeking injunctive and other appropriate relief as provided by law).

CASE NO. VO2-040
David D. Gray, PE No. 9807
Granite Falls, NC

VIOLATION: Practicing while suspended in violation of GS 89C.

BOARD ACTION: Revocation.

CASE NO. VO2-043
Robert L. Cassady, PLS No. L-3318
Greensboro, NC

VIOLATION: Practicing or offering to practice land surveying without a license [G.S. 89C-23], practicing or offering to practice engineering without a license [G.S. 89C-23] and firm practicing or offering to practice land surveying without a license [G.S. 89C-24].

BOARD ACTION: Board issued a letter to cause respondent to cease and desist offering or practicing engineering and land surveying; must pass Land Surveying Exam II before reinstatement of PLS license; and Board cautioned respondent that the service of construction staking is only allowed by a non-licensee if the control is established by a PLS and any property boundaries or monuments are located by a PLS.

CASE NO. VO2-044
David R. Ziegler, unlicensed
Charlotte, NC

VIOLATION: Practicing or offering to practice engineering without a license as required by G.S. 89C.

BOARD ACTION: Board closed case based upon final action by Attorney General's office to cause respondent to cease and desist offering to practice or practicing engineering, by providing blasting evaluation reports, or any other acts which constitute the practice of engineering, and cease holding himself out as having professional engineering qualifications until properly licensed by the Board. Failure to take these measures to comply with the law will result in the Attorney General's office filing a court action seeking injunctive and other appropriate relief as provided by law.

CASE NO. VO2-049
Arthur V. Martin, unlicensed
Waynesville, NC

VIOLATION: Practicing or offering to practice engineering without a license as required by G.S. 89C and firm practicing or offering to practice engineering without a license as required by G.S. 89C-24.

BOARD ACTION: Board closed case based upon final action by the Attorney General's office to cause respondent to cease and desist practicing or offering to practice engineering, including the use of engineering knowledge for consulting in the areas of humidity control, energy management, and analysis and recommendations for HVAC systems. Further the respondent must cease using the words "engineer" or "engineering" in any title or promotional materials until such time as he is properly licensed with the Board. Failure to take these measures to comply with the law will result in the Attorney General's office filing a court action seeking injunctive and other appropriate relief as provided by law.

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CASE NO. V02-050
Ronald S. Hollifield, PLS No. L-1404
Troutman, NC
VIOLATION: Failure to report the results of a survey in a clear and factual manner [1602(f)].
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand and furnish proof of coming Ethics course from New Mexico State University or the University of Maine with 70% on each part within 60 days from receipt of Decision and Order.
VIOLATION: Violated Order of the Board dated 02/27/03 wherein he was required to pass the Professional Ethics Course offered by New Mexico State University or the University of Maine within 60 days of receipt of Decision and Order by failing the course.
BOARD ACTION: Suspension of license until such time as proof of compliance with Decision and Order dated 02/27/03 (furnish proof of passing, with a minimum average of 70% on the homework and a minimum of 70% on the final exam for a minimum overall score of 70% for the professional ethics course offered by New Mexico State University or the University of Maine).

CASE NO. V02-053
Rindt-McDuff Associates, Inc., unlicensed
Marietta, GA
VIOLATION: Corporation practicing or offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24 and 55B
BOARD ACTION: Board issued a letter to cause respondent to cease and desist offering or practicing engineering until licensed by the Board.

CASE NO. V02-054
Roy J. Tucker, PLS No. L-1280
Sylva, NC
VIOLATION: Failed to make adequate investigation [1602(a)]; performed an inaccurate or substandard survey, failing to protect the public [10701(b)]; and failed to provide a legend that depicts all symbols [1604(e)(11)].
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand and Civil Penalty of $1000.

CASE NO. V02-056
Operations Concepts, Inc., unlicensed
Cherry Hill, NJ
VIOLATION: Corporation practicing or offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24 and 55B.
BOARD ACTION: Board closed case based upon final action by Attorney General’s office to cause respondent to cease and desist offering to practice or practicing engineering, including but not limited to, providing general arrangement layouts, manufacturing facilities planning and design, materials handling systems planning and design, or any other actions which constitute the practice of engineering. Further, to cease making representations that the firm has professional engineering qualifications by using the terms “engineer” or “engineering” in any titles or promotional materials until such time as firm is properly licensed with the Board. Failure to do so will result in the Attorney General’s office seeking injunctive and other appropriate relief as provided by law.

CASE NO. V02-058
Bonnie T. Gregory, unlicensed
Elon College, NC
VIOLATION: Practicing or offering to practice engineering without a license [G.S. 89C-23] and using the title “engineer” in violation of licensing required by G.S. 89C-23.
BOARD ACTION: Board issued a letter to cause respondent to cease and desist the use of the title “engineer” and from offering or practicing engineering, including within home inspection reports, any engineering analysis or recommendations that utilize engineering education, training or experience in NC until licensed with the Board.

CASE NO. V02-059
Island Automation, Inc., unlicensed
Emerald Isle, NC
VIOLATION: Corporation practicing or offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24 and 55B.
BOARD ACTION: Board issued letter to cause respondent to cease and desist using any engineering titles or the holding out of engineering capability and to cease and desist offering to practice or practicing engineering in NC until licensed with the Board.

CASE NO. V02-071
Entek Corporation, unlicensed
Pleasant Hill, CA
VIOLATION: Corporation practicing or offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24 and 55B.
BOARD ACTION: Board issued a letter to cause respondent to cease and desist offering or practicing engineering until such time as the company is properly licensed with the Board.

CASE NO. V02-076
Stacy K. Rhodes, PLS No. L-2959
Hendersonville, NC
VIOLATION: Failure to make adequate investigation [1602(a)]; failure to show encroachment or easement on survey [1602(b), (f)]; failure to accurately locate all apparent rights-of-way and improvements on boundary [1604(e)(8)]; and failure to protect the public by not establishing control corners of degree of permanence required by G.S. 39-32.1 [10701(b)].
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand and Civil Penalty of $500.

CASE NO. V02-078
Mac McDaniels, unlicensed
Asheboro, NC
VIOLATION: Presented or attempted to use the certificate of licensure or seal of another [G.S. 89C-23] and practiced or offered to practice engineering without a license as required by G.S. 89C-23.
BOARD ACTION: Board issued a letter to cause respondent to cease and desist using the seal of a PE or from offering to practice or practicing engineering in NC until licensed with the Board.

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CASE NO. V02-081
Zora Hutchins, unlicensed
Seagrove, NC
VIOLATION: Using the seal of a PE in violation of G.S. 89C-23 and practicing or offering to practice engineering without a license as required by G.S. 89C.
BOARD ACTION: Board issued letter to cause respondent to cease and desist using the seal of a PE and from offering or practicing engineering in NC until licensed with the Board.

CASE NO. V02-084
Rich and Associates, Inc., unlicensed
Southfield, MI
VIOLATION: Corporation practicing or offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24 and 55B.
BOARD ACTION: Board issued letter to cause respondent to cease and desist offering or practicing engineering.

CASE NO. V02-085
Church Development Services, Inc., unlicensed
Clearwater, FL
VIOLATION: Corporation practicing or offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24 and 55B.
BOARD ACTION: Board issued letter to cause respondent to cease and desist offering or practicing engineering and that all marketing materials, including the web site, state that no engineering services are offered in NC.

CASE NO. V02-088
TriMech Solutions, LLC, unlicensed
Columbia, MD
VIOLATION: Limited Liability Company offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24, 57C and 55B.
BOARD ACTION: Board issued letter to cause respondent to cease and desist offering or practicing engineering, including but not limited to work outsourced services and "engineering services" as described on the company’s web site and any other services that are determined to be within the definition of engineering as defined by G.S. 89C-3(6), until such time as the individuals and the firm are licensed with the Board.

CASE NO. V02-090
Henry T. Jones, PLS No. L-2634
Louisburg, NC
VIOLATION: Failure to comply with annual CPC requirements [.1712].
BOARD ACTION: Refusal to renew for the year 2003.

CASE NO. V02-093
Harold L. Martin, Sr., PE No. 10638
Winston-Salem, NC
VIOLATION: Failure to comply with annual CPC requirements [.1712].
BOARD ACTION: Refusal to renew for year 2003 and subsequent years until respondent complies with continuing professional competency requirements for licensure.

CASE NO. V02-094
Gregory N. Jones, PLS No. L-3783
Youngsville, NC
VIOLATION: Failure to comply with annual CPC requirements [.1712].
BOARD ACTION: Refusal to renew for year 2003 and subsequent years until respondent complies with continuing professional competency requirements for licensure.

CASE NO. V02-096
Edward M. Haynes, PLS No. L-3280
Asheville, NC
VIOLATION: Failure to keep in possession of license required by law; failure to cooperate fully with the Board in the course of an investigation [G.S.89C-20] and failure to timely claim Board correspondence from Postal or delivery service [.0701g(2)].
BOARD ACTION: Refusal to renew and respondent must cease practicing land surveying.

CASE NO. V02-104
Robert E. Reif, PLS No. L-1516
Toast, NC
VIOLATION: Failure to report the results of a survey in a clear and factual manner [.1602(l)].
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand.

CASE NO. V02-108
Gary P. Grunau, PE No. 7605
Milwaukee, WI
VIOLATION: Surrendered his license as a result of disciplinary action by another jurisdiction in violation of G.S. 89C & Board Rules [.0701(h)].
BOARD ACTION: Suspension until eligible to reinstate in other jurisdiction.

CASE NO. V02-109
BSA LifeStructure, Inc. (formerly BSA Design, Inc.), unlicensed
Indianapolis, IN
VIOLATION: Corporation practicing or offering to practice engineering in violation of G.S. 89C-24 and 55B.
BOARD ACTION: Board entered into a Consent Agreement as a condition and basis for issuing a license to the corporation that requires the company to offer and practice engineering in a manner that complies with Board Rules, particularly as to the operation of a branch office.

CASE NO. V02-121
Michael A. Moss, PLS No. L-3794
Wake Forest, NC
VIOLATION: Failed to make adequate investigation [.1602(a)]; performed an inaccurate or substandard survey, failing to protect the public [.0701(b)]; and failed to correctly show names of adjacent land owners [.1604(e)(7)].
BOARD ACTION: Reprimand.