



FBPE
FLORIDA BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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April 2019

From the Executive Director: A 2019 Legislative Update

By **Zana Raybon**, FBPE Executive Director, FEMC President

With the state Legislature in session, FBPE is keeping an eye on two bills that would affect Chapters 455, 471, and 553, Florida Statutes, and the practice of engineering.

Sen. Keith Perry has introduced [Senate Bill 616](#), which would, among other things, provide for early examination for professional licensure, provide a pathway to licensure for those graduating with an engineering technology degree, and shorten the length of time for endorsement of licensure from another state when the applicant has not taken the required examinations.

There is also an accompanying [House Bill 827](#), which has been filed by Rep. Jackie Toledo.

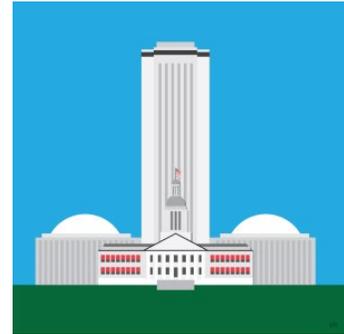
In brief, both bills amend Section 471.013, F.S., to allow an exam candidate to take the Principles & Practice (PE) examination before gaining four years of engineering experience. The applicant must, however, evidence four years of experience before earning a Professional Engineer license.

Commonly referred to as “decoupling,” this procedure is already allowed in approximately 19 states. Many other states are in the process of changing their laws and rules to allow decoupling, as well.

Statistics have shown that the pass rate for exams taken with two to four years of experience after graduation are almost the same.

An amendment to Section 471.015, F.S., would place the minimum age for licensure at 18 and would allow exam candidates who have earned a board-approved engineering technology degree to obtain licensure with six years of experience gained under the supervision of a Professional Engineer. Bear in mind – these candidates for licensure must take and pass both the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam and the PE exam.

In another change to Section 471.015, F.S., anyone seeking licensure in Florida by endorsement and who has not taken the FE exam would need to have held a valid PE license in another state for 10 years (down from the current requirement of 15 years), and have 15 years of continuous professional-level engineering experience (down from 20 years). Also, if that individual has not taken the PE exam, the applicant would need to have held a valid PE license in another state for 20 years (down from 25 years) and have 25 years of the same level of experience (down from 30 years).



A couple of other items worth mentioning are a change to Section 455.271, F.S., which would allow for reinstatement of a license that has gone null and void due to non-renewal. Currently, licensees must re-apply and receive a new license number. This change would allow for continuity in record keeping if passed.

Also, proposed changes to Section 471.023, F.S., would eliminate Certificates of Authorization for companies, providing instead for a registry of engineering companies. And a change to Section 471.025, F.S., would change how a successor engineer deals with signing and sealing work done by the original engineer.

Lastly, a proposed amendment to Section 553.79, F.S., would expand the requirement for a Special Inspector on both new construction of threshold buildings and repairs to existing threshold buildings.

We encourage all licensed engineers in Florida to review the proposed bills. Feel free to contact your legislator if you have questions or concerns.

Chair's Corner: Specific Rules Concerning Government Submittals

By **Kenneth Todd**, PE, FBPE Chair

It has come to the attention of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers that there is a misunderstanding concerning the interpretation of two rules involving final engineering documents submitted to governments.

I hope that this article will clear up the confusion and keep a professional engineer who is licensed in Florida and dealing with government entities from having a complaint filed against her or him.

So, let's delve into the two rules in question.

The first rule deals with the signing and sealing of final engineering documents prepared by government engineers for the government agency that employs them. Sections 471.001 and 471.003(1), Florida Statutes, clearly spell out that only a professional engineer shall practice engineering in Florida. The term "engineering" is further defined in Section 471.005(7), F.S., which includes the design of engineering works.

Rule 61G15-23.001(1)(a, b), Florida Administrative Code, requires that a professional engineer sign and seal all plans, prints, specifications, reports, or other documents issued for public record, or final documents provided to the owner, which would include a government agency. Engineering documents and public record are defined in Rule 61G15-30.002(4, 6, 7), F.A.C.

The fact that the design and the documents were done "in house" by a government employee for a government agency is irrelevant. Government engineers are required to sign and seal final engineering documents prepared by them for the construction of a government project. Failure to do so can bring about a formal complaint against the engineer of record, which is defined in Section 61G15-30.002(1), F.A.C. Grounds for disciplinary action for engineers who violate this rule are listed in Sections 61G15-19.001(4) and 61G15-19.001(6)(I), F.A.C.

Additionally, Section 61G15-19.001(4), F.A.C., deals with the engineer who approves and seals documents that don't conform to acceptable engineering standards to safeguard the health, safety, property, and welfare of the public. Section 61G15-19.001(6)(I), F.A.C., deals with the failure of a professional engineer to inform her or his employer of her or his responsible supervision and responsible public authority, if the



public health and safety is threatened. This can occur when an unqualified lay authority overrules the engineer of record’s responsibility to adhere to the law concerning the signing and sealing of construction drawings, specifications, reports, etc.

The second area of confusion deals with Florida Building Code training that is required by Chapter 471.0195, F.S., for engineers who are involved in the preparation of final engineering documents that are submitted to the local building departments.

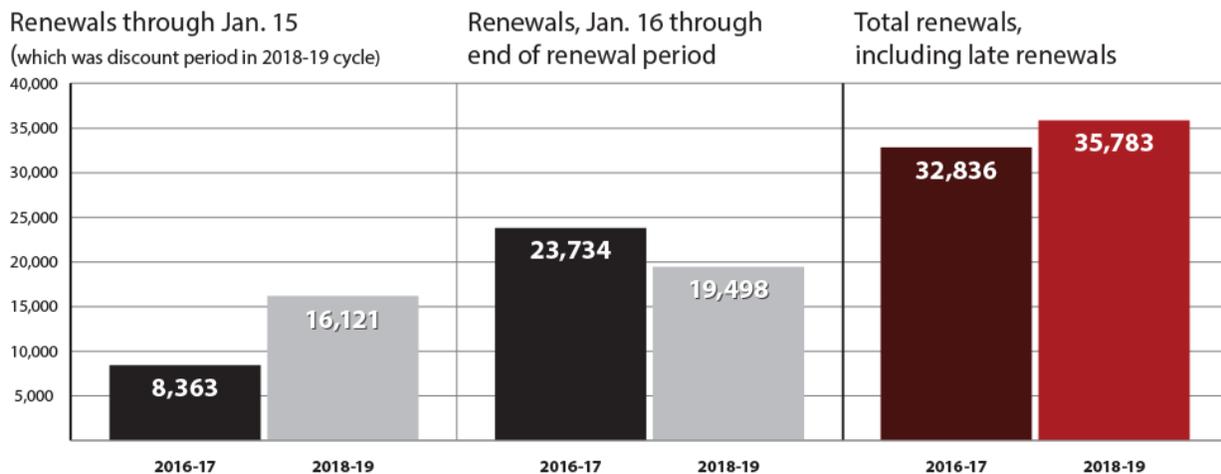
This statute states that engineers who actively participate in the design of engineering works or systems in connection with buildings, structures, or facilities and systems covered by the building code shall take continuing education courses and submit proof to FBPE in a manner as established by the Board. In Section 61G15-18.011, F.A.C., the Florida Building Code is defined, and Section 61G15-22.001, F.A.C., states that licensees actively participating in the design of engineering works or systems described in Chapter 471.0195, F.S., shall complete at least one FBC course within 12 months of the effective date of each edition of the Florida Building Code.

The rule further states that the engineer must provide a copy of the certificate of completion for said course to the FBPE. This course may count toward the regular continuing education requirement for area of practice. The courses must have been completed before any drawings are submitted to the local building department.

2018-19 License Renewal Snapshot

Renewal for Florida Professional Engineer licenses and firms’ Certificates of Authorization ended Feb. 28, 2019. More PE licenses and CAs were renewed during the 2018-19 cycle than 2016-17.

PE License Renewal Periods Compared



For the 2018-19 renewal period, Professional Engineers were offered a chance to save \$10 on their renewal fee if they completed renewal by Jan. 15, 2019. The first section of the graph above shows that quite a number of engineers took advantage of the incentive, with almost twice as many PEs renewing their license compared with the previous renewal period.

As a result of that early incentive, there were fewer PEs that needed to renew in the later part of the renewal period (as shown in the middle section above).

Overall, 35,783 PEs (including late renewals) renewed their licenses during the 2018-19 period, which was almost 3,000 more than the previous renewal period.

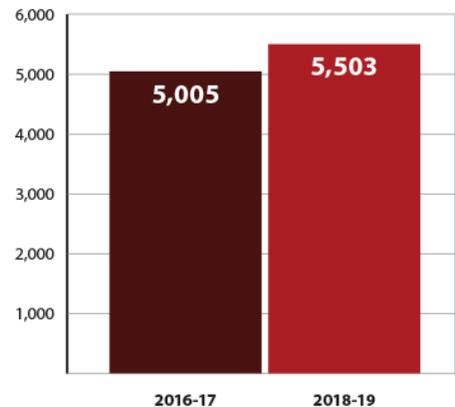
Almost 500 more firms renewed Certificates of Authorization during the 2018-19 period.

Please be aware, that PE licenses or CAs that had been current but were not renewed by Feb. 28, 2019, are now *delinquent* and can no longer be used to practice engineering in Florida. A fee of \$25 will be applied to currently delinquent licenses or CAs that are renewed prior to Feb. 28, 2021.

If the license or CA was delinquent prior to the end of renewal and was not renewed by Feb. 28, 2019, it is now *null and void*.

If you have any questions regarding renewing your license or CA, please call the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:8505210500) and select “Renewal” to speak to a representative.

CA Renewals Compared



CE Provider Renewal Now Underway

License renewal for continuing education providers in Florida is currently underway. All current CE provider licenses will expire after **May 31, 2019**. To assist providers in renewing their licenses refer to the instructions below.

CE Provider Online Renewal

- Go to myfloridalicense.com, and select “My Account.” If you already have an account, log in using your email address or user ID and password. If you don’t have an account, click “Create My Account” and follow the instructions.
- To link your license to your account, you need your provider license number and activation code, which is either the last four digits of your Social Security number or the last four of your Federal Employer Identification Number, or FEIN. Your license number *is not* the provider number assigned to you upon approval. If you cannot locate your license number, you can retrieve it by selecting “Verify a License” at myfloridalicense.com or by contacting our office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), for “Continuing Education.”
- If you cannot access your account, contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500). Once you have accessed your account, you may change your contact information, if necessary, and then continue the process to renew your license.
- You will then pay your fees and renew your license.



Laws and Rules, or Professional Ethics Courses

For CE providers conducting Florida laws and rules or professional ethics courses: After processing your renewal, please complete the *Laws and Rules Application* and/or the *Professional Ethics Application* found on our website on the [Provider Application Process & Renewal](#) page under the *Continuing Education* section. Follow the instructions, and mail to the FBPE office at 2639 N Monroe St., Suite B-112, Tallahassee, FL 32303-4064.

Questions regarding the CE provider renewal process can be directed to the CE desk by calling the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:850-521-0500), or emailing cedesk@fbpe.org.

If you did not renew during this past renewal period, you will need to contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:850-521-0500), for assistance in renewing your Florida CE provider license.

Continuing Education Provider Reporting

Rule 61G15-22.008, F.A.C., *Record Keeping*, states that Professional Engineer licensees are responsible for maintaining sufficient records demonstrating completion of qualifying professional development hours for at least two licensure cycles, or four years. PEs are subject to random CE audits.

While CE reporting to the Board is no longer necessary, all CE providers *are required* to provide completion and attendance certificates to course participants/licensees, and accurately maintain those records for a period of four years. In the event a licensee is selected during the CE audit process, the licensee will provide the appropriate certificate to FBPE. Rule 61G15-22.012, F.A.C., *Obligations of Continuing Education Providers*, states in part:

"To maintain status as a continuing education provider, the provider must:

...(c) Furnish each participant with an individual certificate of attendance. An attendance record shall be maintained by the provider for four years and shall be available for inspection by the Board and the Florida Engineers Management Corporation."

Failure to comply with this rule may result in a loss of the provider license and the ability to provide continuing education courses to Florida engineers.

The most current statutes and rules as it relates to the practice of engineering can be found on the [Statutes and Rules](#) page under the *Legal* section on [our website](#).

CE Provider Account and Renewal FAQs

FBPE has compiled the following questions and answers generally asked by our continuing education providers during each renewal cycle. We hope this information will provide clarification of some of the most common issues that arise each biennium and how to get them resolved. If you have any other questions or require additional information regarding any of the information below we encourage you to contact the Continuing Education desk at the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:850-521-0500), or email cedesk@fbpe.org.

- 1. What is the renewal fee for continuing education providers?** The renewal fee for the 2019-21 biennium is \$250 for current CE providers. If you did not renew during this last renewal period, you will need to contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:850-521-0500), for assistance in renewing your Florida CE provider license.
- 2. What is the application fee for courses in laws and rules, and in ethics?** There is no longer an application fee to register a Florida laws and rules or professional ethics course if you are a current

Board-approved CE provider. If you are currently providing one or both of those courses, you must complete the *Application Form* for each course after you have processed your provider renewal and submit the application to the Board. If you are not currently providing a Florida laws and rules or professional ethics course, but would like to obtain course approval from FBPE, you must submit the [CE Provider Application](#) for the appropriate course.

3. **How do I access my account?** Go to myfloridalicense.com. Click on “My Account” in the blue box in the upper right. Either log into your existing account with your email or user ID and password, or click “Create My Account” if you do not have one. The process is similar to that used by Professional Engineers to log into their accounts, which is [illustrated on our website](#).
4. **I forgot my password to access my account. How can I retrieve that information?** If you attempt to sign into your account to renew your license and have forgotten your password, select “Forgot Your Password.” You will be prompted to your email address or user ID, and then answer your security question. A temporary password will be emailed to you, which you can use to log into the system and set a new password. If you do not know the answer to your security question, please follow the instructions provided in the question below.
5. **I forgot the answer to the security question associated with my account. How can I get that information?** Contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), or at cedesk@fbpe.org. Once we have retrieved the information for you, an email will be sent to you with the answer to your security question. It may take up to 24 hours to complete your request. If you are sending an email request to retrieve your answer, you must include your name, license number, and email.
6. **I am using my information to login, but I can’t access my account. What do I do?** We can help. Contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), or at cedesk@fbpe.org.
7. **How do I link my license to my account?** You need your provider license number and your activation code, which is either the last four digits of either your Social Security number or your Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN). Note that your license number is not the provider number assigned to you upon approval. If you cannot locate your license number you can retrieve your license number by selecting “Verify a License” at myfloridalicense.com or contact our office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), for “Continuing Education.”

If you have any questions regarding your obligations as a continuing education provider after reviewing Rule 61G15-22.012, F.A.C., *Obligations of Continuing Education Providers*, the rule regarding CE reporting, Rule 61G15-22.008, F.A.C., *Record Keeping*, or the CE requirements for licensees covered in Section 471.017, F.S., *Renewal of License*, please feel free to contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), or at cedesk@fbpe.org.

FBPE Outreach Promotes Licensure

As the spring school semester nears its end, it’s a good time to look back at FBPE’s outreach efforts.

For the 2018-19 school year, FBPE staff have made 17 presentations to university engineering classes or groups, and volunteered at the annual [Florida Mathcounts state competition](#) and the [2019 ASCE South-east Student Conference/AISC Steel Bridge Competition](#). At least one more university presentation is on the calendar before the spring semester ends.

During presentations, FBPE Executive Director Zana Raybon discusses [the importance of earning a Professional Engineer license](#), the education, exams, and experience necessary in order to obtain a license in Florida, and answers questions from students. The talks include a PowerPoint presentation with several short videos provided by NCEES.

Following events at colleges of engineering, students receive FBPE-branded lanyards that include USB flash drives loaded with information about PE licensure in Florida, copies of recent [FBPE Connection newsletters](#), information and reference material on NCEES' Fundamentals of Engineering exam, links to FBPE's website and social media pages, FBPE contact information, and more.

Below are a selection of photos from FBPE outreach events.



FBPE Executive Director Zana Raybon answers questions from students attending the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering STEM Career Day in the fall 2018.



Civil engineering students at the University of Florida learn about licensure during a presentation last fall.



Members of the biological systems engineering club at the Florida A&M University College of Agriculture and Food Sciences hear about the benefits of a Professional Engineer license in February 2019.



Students in an introduction to engineering class at the University of North Florida School of Engineering pick up FBPE handouts following a presentation there in March 2019.

See photos from other outreach events in the [Events and Conferences](#) section of the [FBPE website](#).

One of the missions of FBPE is to increase public awareness of professional engineering licensure, and to educate and promote licensure to engineering students at colleges and universities around Florida. If you

would like an FBPE representative to speak to your class or student event, please email publicinfo@fbpe.org.

Massachusetts Ends Licensing Exemption After Explosion

By **Danielle Boykin**, National Society of Professional Engineers

On Sept. 13, in the city of Lawrence, Mass., life for many families took an unexpected and tragic turn. A natural gas explosion and subsequent fires resulted in one fatality and 21 people were taken to the hospital. Five homes were destroyed, and 131 structures were damaged. Thousands of people were affected by this devastating event.



Following the disaster, the National Transportation Safety Board investigated the incident and consulted with the National Society of Professional Engineers. The Society and NTSB staff spent several weeks discussing the engineering licensing process, its standards, and NSPE's opposition to licensing law exemptions. NSPE shared several documents, including its industrial exemptions position statement and fact sheet, and public testimony from Professional Engineers.

Ultimately, this collaboration led to a new state law designed to better protect the public. On Dec. 31, 2018, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker signed emergency legislation that requires a licensed Professional Engineer to approve plans for the construction, operation, and maintenance of natural gas infrastructure. The Society believes that Baker took an important step by heeding the call for PE oversight and signing the measure, which took effect immediately.

Since 1907, PE licensure has developed to protect the public, often after tragic events have revealed vulnerabilities. NSPE serves as a leading voice in protecting licensure and working to combat threats to licensure wherever they may appear. In 2015, the Society served as a voice for licensing following the uncontrolled release of wastewater from the abandoned Gold King Mine in Colorado. NSPE worked with U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman, PE, to secure a PE role in abandoned mine cleanup projects. Similarly, after the Deepwater Horizon explosion and subsequent oil spill in 2010, NSPE pressed for years for a rule requiring PE review and approval of changes to oil and gas blowout preventer systems. Eventually, a rule was established, and today NSPE finds itself fighting regulators' attempts to reverse the rule.

Now, the Merrimack Valley gas pipeline explosion re-emphasizes how vital it is that NSPE, state societies, and NSPE members continue to inform policymakers, regulators, and the public about the value of professional engineering expertise.

What Went Wrong?

What went wrong on that September day in Massachusetts? Columbia Gas was conducting a pipe replacement project when the pipeline system experienced over-pressurization. Ultimately, Columbia Gas, a subsidiary of NiSource Inc., failed to implement proper procedures and controls to reduce project risks.

According to the NTSB investigation report, a series of explosions occurred when high-pressure natural gas was released into a low-pressure, cast-iron gas distribution system. The system was originally installed in the early 1900s, and upgrades to steel and plastic pipes were made beginning in the 1950s. Columbia Gas' pipe replacement project involved replacing the low-pressure, cast-iron and plastic natural gas main with a low-pressure and high-pressure plastic gas main.

During the project, when contractors disconnected the cast-iron distribution main that was being abandoned, a section of the main that contained regulator-sensing lines lost pressure. The regulators responded by opening up, which increased pressure in the distribution system. This led to the delivery of gas at a pressure above the maximum-allowable operating pressure, causing the explosions and fires.

In its investigation, NTSB found that a Columbia Gas field engineer developed engineering plans without reviewing engineering drawings that documented the regulator-sensing lines. The engineer had limited knowledge about the importance of the regulator-sensing lines and the consequences of losing the capability to detect the system's pressure levels through the regulator-sensing lines. NTSB noted that constructability reviews, which should outline deficiencies and include project improvements, are often approved by a licensed Professional Engineer in many jurisdictions.

During a U.S. Senate hearing on the explosion investigation, NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt III said, "Pipelines remain one of the safest and most efficient means of transporting vital commodities used to power homes and supply businesses. However, as many in this room know all too well, the consequences are tragic when there is insufficient safety planning and oversight. To that end, NTSB urges expeditious implementation of five interim safety recommendations."

The NTSB report recommended that Massachusetts end the PE license exemption for public utility work and require a PE's seal on public utility engineering drawings.

The agency also recommended the following for Columbia Gas owner NiSource:

- Revise the engineering plan and constructability review process across all subsidiaries to ensure that all applicable departments review construction documents for accuracy, completeness, and correctness, and that the documents or plans be sealed by a Professional Engineer prior to commencing work;
- Review and ensure that all records and documentation of natural gas systems are traceable, reliable, and complete;
- Apply management of change process to all changes to adequately identify system threats that could result in a common mode failure; and
- Develop and implement control procedures during modifications to gas mains to mitigate the risks identified during management of change operations. Gas main pressures should be continually monitored during these modifications, and assets should be placed at critical locations to immediately shut down the system if abnormal operations are detected.

Follow the Leader

With the expeditious actions taken by both NTSB and Massachusetts, will other states follow suit? Vermont may be one.

When the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities began repairing the natural gas infrastructure and restoring services, public utility teams from other states came to help. Teams from Vermont Gas Systems spent several weeks assisting.

In Vermont, a state agency recently called for increased safety inspections and started an inquiry on PE oversight at a 41-mile pipeline construction project completed in Addison County.

According to a Vermont Public Radio News articles on Dec. 31, 2018, and Jan. 11, 2019, the Vermont Department of Public Service asked the Public Utility Commission to consider NTSB's recommendations following the Merrimack Valley gas line explosions. A spokesperson for Vermont Gas Systems said the utility provided documentation to the Public Utility Commission that a Professional Engineer licensed in Vermont approved the design plans for the Addison County project, which was completed two years ago. She also said that Vermont Gas Systems will follow the safety recommendations and guidelines in the NTSB report. Currently, NTSB's engineering licensure recommendation associated with gas pipeline design and construction applies only to Massachusetts.

NSPE encourages more states to follow Massachusetts' lead in ending engineering license exemptions for public utility work and elevating the Professional Engineer's role in protecting the public.

The Exemption Challenge

NSPE takes a clear position on licensure exemptions: All engineers who are in responsible charge of the practice of engineering as defined in the [NCEES Model Law and Rules](#) in a manner that potentially impacts the public health, safety, and welfare should be required by all state statutes to be licensed Professional Engineers. An "industrial exemption" is defined as a state law that exempts companies and organizations from being required to have a licensed Professional Engineer oversee engineering design and production services.

The Society recommends the phasing out of existing exemptions in state licensing laws. Currently, 53 states and territories allow licensing exemptions in some form, while 16 states allow exemptions for public utilities.

In a report issued last year, NSPE's Future of Professional Engineering Task Force addressed concerns about exemptions. According to the report, states grant license exemptions to engineers whose practice fits within one or more of five categories:

- Engineers working under the supervision of a PE who takes responsibility for the unlicensed engineer's work;
- Engineers employed by public utilities;
- Engineers employed by the federal government;
- Engineers employed by a state government; and
- "In-house" engineers employed by a manufacturing or other business firm.

The task force emphasized that educating the public about licensing exemptions and the risks involved is critical. The public must be made aware that engineering licensing laws rarely apply to the engineering work in their states and that the overwhelming majority of engineering is done by unlicensed engineers. The report points out that legislators who want to keep these exemptions in place may be more responsive to demands for change from the public, especially if these legislators have a record of supporting licensing laws as necessary for the public's protection.

The task force recommends that NSPE consider the following when addressing issues around the industrial exemption:

- Positively recognize and encourage industries or industry partners promoting professional engineering licensure in states where that industry would otherwise be exempt from licensure requirements.

- Proactively communicate what is and is not considered the practice of engineering requiring a PE license and not wait for someone to come upon state-by-state summaries containing this information on the NSPE website.
- Equip state society partners to articulate what is and is not encompassed by their state’s industrial exemption when speaking with local and state regulators, including drawing important parallels to the legal and medical professions and concerns related to the public health, safety, and welfare in instances of unregulated practice.

While some opponents of expanding professional engineering licensure may view these efforts through a cynical lens, NSPE responds to the issues around exemptions as a very serious matter. Some exemptions, the Society believes, pose the risk of weakening the foundation of engineering licensure. Recent discussions about the PE license, even within the NSPE community, have revolved around its necessity and benefit to the public and how far should licensure reach in our society as it evolves.

As these debates carry on, NSPE will continue to ask, “Is the public good being served?” and continue to advocate for the Professional Engineer’s responsibility in that service.

Republished from the March/April 2019 issue of *PE* magazine, a publication of the [National Society of Professional Engineers](#).

Wireless Site Project Plans With Stolen PE Stamps?

By Dr. Jonathan L. Kramer

With the push to apply for as many cell sites as possible in as short a period as possible, and for the least cost, we’re observing an alarming new situation: the use of Professional Engineer seals and signatures copied onto wireless project plans and related safety documents, all without the knowledge — much less the permission — of the Professional Engineer.

This is an issue that appears to be happening nationally. Unfortunately, the use of what I’ll call “Stolen Stamps and Signatures,” or SSS, also known as stamp fraud, is also not much of a surprise.

The industry pressure to get proposed wireless sites through the local government permitting process as quickly as possible for the fewest dollars seems to have incentivized some wireless industry members to engage in what is, in most states, a violation of law. Specifically, scanning PE stamps and signatures from one set of plans for a project location reviewed and approved by the PE, and then inserting the scanned seal and signature on multiple other project site plans.

Let’s be clear:

SSS endanger the public. The public, and more directly the local governments that have police powers to protect the public, rely on the fact that an engineer’s PE seal and signature are an assurance of safety code compliance.

SSS are a violation of law in most states. Most states have laws on the books that make the unauthorized use of a PE stamp an illegal act. Expect to see stamp fraud referrals to local law enforcement and state PE boards. Also expect to see planning companies shown to engage in stamp fraud to be disbarred from submitting additional wireless applications for a period of time or forever depending on who in the firm knew what and when. Disbarment of a firm or a person by a government entity can require the disclosure of that fact when a locally-disbarred firm or person bids on state, federal, or military contracts.



SSS cost a registered Professional Engineer income, and more importantly the loss of professional reputation. If SSS is discovered by a PE, that PE is placed in the unenviable position of deciding whether to accept the theft as a cost of doing business with their large clients and eating that cost of the lost work or contacting the state PE board. If the PE does eat it, however, the PE is likely endangering his or her own license by suborning the illegal use of the PE stamp. I suspect many state PE boards will not look favorably on that intentional head-in-the-sand approach. Moreover, some jurisdictions may also look at disbarring a particular PE as being unreliable to seal plans and safety documents for the intentional looking away. As above, disbarment at one level can carry through to other governments and agencies.

SSS hurt the wireless providers. As the breadth of stamp fraud becomes clearer, expect that projects already approved that were submitted by now-known stamp thieves will be brought back for very close scrutiny. Projects already approved under false pretenses may be subject to revocation, or at least a costly new review.

SSS are likely to change the local permitting process. I expect that as the breadth of this nauseous activity is determined with greater certainty, some or many jurisdictions will require that actual wet stamps and wet signatures be affixed to plans and other safety documents. This will be a change from the current practice, now questioned, of allowing facsimile stamps and seals to be placed on plans and safety documents.

This is a big issue that I will continue following.

About the author

Dr. Jonathan Kramer, Esq., J.D., LL.M, DLP, is founder and principal attorney at Telecom Law Firm, P.C., in Los Angeles. He has over 30 years of wireless and broad telecommunications technology engineering and management experience. This article originally appeared on the blog, [Deep Wireless \(With a Viewpoint\)](#).

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Special Recognition: Congratulations, Examinees

FBPE applauds all of the candidates that successfully passed engineering exams in the past quarter. We wish them much success as they move towards the next step in their engineering careers. [See the complete list online.](#)

Legal Department: Latest Engineer Discipline

Pursuant to Rule 61G15-37.001(11), Florida Administrative Code, the Florida Engineers Management Corporation is required to post all Final Orders involving active disciplinary cases to the website until the terms of the final order are completed, or until the licensee becomes inactive, retires, relinquishes the license or permits the license to become null and void. Included in this section are the most recent cases in which final action has been taken by the Board, a brief description of the licensee's violation and discipline as well as a link to the final order. [View actions.](#)

Mark Your Calendar

We regularly update our calendar to ensure you stay up to date with the latest events. [Check out the calendar on our website.](#)

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