What You Should Know About Signing & Sealing Engineering Documents

Submitted by: William C. Bracken, PE, SI, CFM

From time to time FBPE and legal staff receive questions regarding clarification on what kinds of documents qualify as engineering documents and require signing and sealing. We have included the statute and rules below that specifically address what requires an engineer's signature and seal and how to address submitting incomplete documents.

What has to be signed and sealed?

In Florida, engineering laws and rules found in Chapter 471, F. S., Engineering, and Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Rule 61G15-23, F.A.C., Seals, require all engineering documents filed for public record (directly or indirectly) and any engineering documents provided to the owner or the owner’s representative to bear the engineer’s signature, date and seal at a minimum.

Florida Statute 471.025(1) states:

“All final drawings, specifications, plans, reports, or documents prepared or issued by the licensee and being filed for public record and all final documents provided to the owner or the owner’s representative shall be signed by the licensee, dated, and sealed ...”

Rule 61G15-23.002(1), F.A.C. states:

“A professional engineer shall sign, date and seal: (a) All final plans, prints, specifications, reports, or other documents prepared or issued by the licensee and being filed for public record; (b) All final documents provided to the owner or the owner’s representative.”

What is an engineering document?

F.A.C. rules provide a definition for engineering documents that basically encompasses any instrument of service that expresses a professional engineering opinion or directive.

Rule 61G15-30.002(4), F.A.C. defines engineering documents as:

“Engineering documents are designs, plans, specifications, drawings, prints, reports, or similar instruments of service in connection with engineering services or creative work that have been prepared and issued by the professional engineer or under his responsible supervision, direction or control.”

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www.fbppe.org
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2016 FALL UPDATE

As summer comes to a close and we enter the hectic renewal season, I would like to provide an update on recent Board activities.

First, several members of FBPE attended the NCEES 95th Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 24-27, 2016. The board members had the opportunity to consider and vote on several business matters including a change in examination fees that will take place in the future. Specifically, NCEES will lower the cost of the computer-based fundamentals examination (FE) from $225 to $175 beginning in January 2018. In addition, the Council has established a time to transition the principles and practice (PE) examination to a computer-based format and the fee for that exam will be $375 beginning no sooner than January 2018. The transition process for the PE exam from a paper and pencil format to a computer-based format is expected to take about four to five years to complete, starting first with the chemical engineering and nuclear engineering exams conversion.

Other matters discussed during the Annual Meeting concerned NCEES’ transition to the new records program for licensed engineers. Some attendees expressed a great deal of dissatisfaction with the handling of old records. NCEES has addressed those concerns recently by announcing that pre-2008 record holders will no longer have to manually re-establish most of their information in the new system. NCEES staff members will migrate most of this information into the new system as is currently done for post-2008 holders. All pre-2008 record holders who are currently in the process of manually converting their record will be notified of the updates along with instructions on how to take advantage of the updated system. Pre-2008 record holders who would like to submit a request for NCEES to convert their record should send an email request to records@ncees.org and include their name and 7-digit account ID. You can get more information about these topics on NCEES’ website at www.ncees.org.

In this newsletter, you will find information about the upcoming licensure renewal. Licensees should have received renewal notice postcards already with information on the renewal date, renewal deadline, the cost for renewal and a website link for renewal. The website will contain instructions on how to renew licenses and certificates of authorization online at www.myfloridalicense.com. Periodic emails to licensees will also contain detailed information on how to renew licenses and certificates. It would be a good idea to go ahead and log into your account prior to the onset of renewal on November 7, 2016. You’ll want to be sure you remember your password and have time to update any information, if necessary.

As a reminder, Florida has new continuing education requirements, which went into effect on March 1, 2015. All licensees are now required to obtain a total of 18 CE hours during this past biennium. You can learn more about the CE requirements in this newsletter on page 12. The gist of it is all credits must be earned before the renewal deadline of February 28, 2017. FBPE will then conduct a random audit and if you are selected for the audit, you will be required to show proof of one (1) hour of Florida laws and rules, one (1) hour of professional ethics, four (4) hours of technical area of practice, and twelve (12) hours in any topic pertaining to the practice of engineering. Education credits earned in the Florida Building Code may also count toward area of practice for renewal.

If you hold a certificate of authorization (CA) for an engineering firm, you must renew the qualifying engineer’s license before attempting to renew the CA. If you renew out of sequence, the CA will not renew and will be delinquent. The cost to renew both a PE license and a CA is $98.75 each, if the license and certificate are both current. If either are delinquent, then a $100 delinquent fee will be assessed. If a license is delinquent right now and is not renewed by February 28, 2017, that license will go null and void. That means the license cannot be reinstated and the engineer must reapply through endorsement for a new license.

To obtain more information about renewal and review answers to frequently asked questions regarding accessing your account, changing your license status, continuing education, etc, go to the License Renewal page under the Licensure section of our website at https://fbpe.org/licensure/license-renewal/. For detailed information regarding continuing education, go to the Continuing Education section of our website at https://fbpe.org/continuing-education/continuing-education-requirements/.

We are hoping for a smooth renewal season and are confident that if all licensees will read the information and familiarize themselves with the process, renewal should be a breeze.
The FBPE’s mission is to protect the health and safety of the public by properly regulating the practice of engineering while serving its licensees and guarding against the unlicensed practice of engineering. I firmly believe in that mission and can assure you that all of the board members that currently serve you are also committed to that mission. However, to fulfill that mission and to properly serve Florida’s licensed engineers, the FBPE needs your help.

The board does not have the ability to go out and find all of those who are threatening the safety and welfare of the public by offering engineering services when not properly licensed or qualified. So, when you come across that individual or that entity that isn’t properly licensed and is providing engineering to the public, you need to let the board know. Or, when you come across that individual or entity that is licensed and is threatening the public’s safety through negligent or incompetent engineering, you need to let the board know. In addition, it is every licensees’ responsibility to remind the board that it exists to protect the public and serve its licensees.

If you would like to verify the status of an engineer or engineering company’s license, and whether or not they have been previously disciplined, go to myfloridalicense.com.

Current disciplinary cases are posted on FBPE’s website at https://fbpe.org/legal/disciplinary-actions/. Included in this section of the website are all current active 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.

If you feel that a licensee, firm or individual has violated the provisions of law outlined in Chapter 455, F.S., Chapter 471, F.S., and Chapter 61G-15, F.A.C., file a complaint with the board. You can read more about the complaint process and download a complaint form by going to the Complaints page under the Legal section of FBPE’s website at https://fbpe.org/legal/complaints/.

Any member of the public may request information about disciplinary or enforcement actions. All information, records, and transcriptions regarding such actions are available to the public for inspection or copying except information that is otherwise confidential or exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., when the investigation ceases to be active, when probable cause has been found, or when a case is closed by the Probable Cause Panel or FEMC. If you would like to request public case information on a professional engineer or firm, please send an email to publicrecords@fbpe.org, or go to the Public Records page under the Legal section of FBPE’s website at https://fbpe.org/legal/public-records/.

I wish to thank the board members and the staff for their support over the last two years.
FBPE Seeks Input for Revisions to F.A.C. Rule 61G15-33

The Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) has many responsibilities and obligations to its licensees and to the health, safety and welfare of the general public. In addition to reviewing and approving applications for licensure, FBPE is also responsible for managing, updating and enforcing the rules that govern the practice of engineering and to guard against the unlicensed practice of engineering within the State of Florida.

Florida Statute 471 and Chapter 61G15 of the Florida Administrative Code guide all rulemaking that pertains to licensure and the practice of engineering. The rules are not static and must be revised as often as necessary to keep pace with changes in society, commerce, and technology in order to best protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Florida.

FBPE’s Electrical Rules Committee is presently reviewing the content of Rule 61G15-33, F.A.C., Responsibility Rules of Professional Engineers Concerning the Design of Electrical Systems. Since these rules have not been reviewed in eight (8) years, the objectives of the committee are to ensure: that the electrical rules do not conflict with the practice act and other chapters of Rule 61G15 F.A.C.; that the rules are reflective of present-day industry practices and technology, and; that the Florida Building Code is incorporated by rule.

The Electrical Rules Committee consists of three active Board members, as well as four public advisors. Other professionals and interested individuals are invited to offer input by providing comments, questions or concerns regarding the current requirements using the short form via the link below or from the Latest News section of our Home page at www.fbpe.org. FBPE encourages and regularly seeks input from licensees and the public in this process. All Board and Committee meetings are open to the public and offer an opportunity for questions and concerns to be heard and addressed by the Board.

The Electrical Rules Committee will be accepting responses through early November 2016 and will review all comments and suggestions at the following committee meeting. To submit a response for consideration by the committee, please complete the interactive form located on FBPE’s website at https://fbpe.org/fbpe-seeks-input-for-revisions-to-f-a-c-rule-61g15-33/.

If you would like to receive future communications from FBPE’s Electrical Rules Committee regarding this topic or future activities or meetings, please be sure and include a valid email address with your response.


Requirement for Reporting Criminal Convictions

As provided in Section 455.227(1)(t), Florida Statutes, Grounds for Discipline; Penalties; Enforcement, all FBPE licensees are required to report in writing to the Board within 30 days after the licensee is convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction. Failure to timely report will result in disciplinary action being taken against the licensee.

To report this information to the Board you can send an email to Wendy Anderson, FBPE/FEMC Investigator at wanderson@fbpe.org. You must include your name, license number, the date of the conviction, what you were convicted of or the charge to which you pled guilty, along with any sentencing information (if that is available upon reporting.) You may also send this information via U.S. Mail to Wendy Anderson, in care of FBPE at 2639 N. Monroe Street, Suite B-112, Tallahassee, Florida, 32303. If you have any questions and would like to speak to someone in our Legal Department call (850) 521-0500, ext. 119.

You can read the above mentioned statute in its entirety at www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes. You can also view all the laws and rules as it relates to the practice of engineering by going to our website at www.fbpe.org and selecting Statutes and Rules under the Legal section on the Home page.
What’s the Difference…
FBPE vs. FEMC?

Many PEs have expressed uncertainty about the difference between the Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC) and the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE aka “the Board”). Since the activities of FBPE and FEMC coincidentally impact professional engineers and firms offering engineering services, it is hardly surprising that scope of the Board and FEMC’s areas of authority can appear to be overlapping and contradictory. But looking closely at the power granted by the Legislature to FEMC and FBPE will remove that impression.

Remember only FBPE makes final decisions about PEs and the engineering practice. FBPE, which is a governmental body whose members are appointed by the Governor, decides whether PEs should receive and maintain a license, adopts the administrative rules that PEs have to follow in their professional activities, decides whether PEs should be disciplined for failing to follow the engineering rules and statutes, and advises whether the statutes governing engineering need to be amended by the Legislature. FEMC doesn’t do any of the foregoing.

FEMC was created in Florida’s statutes through a legislative enactment in 1997. Its purpose is to provide the staffing necessary to implement Board decisions and to provide the infrastructure to allow the Board to regulate the engineering profession in Florida. As such, FEMC, which is a not-for-profit private corporation, employs regulatory specialists, investigators, prosecuting attorneys, public information officers, and administrative staff. These employees carry out the Board’s directives and rules under the watchful eye of the state government-represented by the Board and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR).

DBPR’s monitoring of FEMC’s activities is required by Florida statutes and is codified in the contract that FEMC has with the Department—a contract that must be renewed annually. In addition to the fact that all of FEMC’s activities are monitored by the DBPR under the terms of the contract, FEMC’s Board of Directors, to which the management of FEMC must answer - are appointed by the Secretary of DBPR and by the Board of Professional Engineers. Obviously, the Legislature set up a comprehensive scheme to make sure that FEMC would always be carefully scrutinized, so that FEMC would not overstep its bounds and would adequately perform its duties.

The Legislature’s handiwork has paid off. FEMC has provided administrative services to the Board for over 18 years and has not sought any increase in funds for more than 13 years. As many PEs already know from their own business experience, small organizations, like FEMC, are much more agile in responding to technological innovations and providing targeted services than larger more hierarchical entities. Furthermore, because the staff is involved only with engineering issues, the staff has gained and retained expertise which allows additional economies to be realized in providing services.

The savings and innovations that FEMC has provided the state and the engineering profession are real and material. Thus, in nearly every year since its creation, FEMC has returned money back to the state coffers since the annual amount that the Legislature appropriated was not necessary to fulfill the Board’s mission. In the most recent fiscal year ending June 2016, over $314,000 was reverted back to the State of Florida in excess funding by FEMC. Moreover, while operating efficiently, FEMC has also operated smartly. For example, in the last three years FEMC has streamlined processes creating a virtually paperless workplace - an achievement that is well in advance of most state government.

In short, the engineering profession is served by a combination of state government (the Board and DBPR) and a not-for-profit form of private enterprise (FEMC). By tying the best of both worlds together, the Legislature has provided a template that has made Florida the envy of engineers and regulators from other states.

For more information about FBPE and FEMC and a listing of all Board members go to our website at www.fbpe.org and select About FBPE or About FEMC from the Home page.
Are Condition Assessment Reports or Engineering Investigation Reports Engineering Documents?

If the report contains a professional engineering opinion or directive, the answer is YES. It should be noted that the signing and sealing requirement also applies to engineers issuing documents filed with agencies at the conclusion of construction such as final certifications, as-built/record drawings and/or reports intended to be filed with agencies at the conclusion of construction.

Signing & Sealing Incomplete Documents

When signing, dating and sealing engineering documents that are not complete, you need to clearly indicate on those documents that they are not complete. If you don’t, you are violating our licensure rules and exposing yourself to discipline.

Engineers are routinely disciplined for signing and sealing incomplete documents because they failed to indicate on the face of their documents that they were not final documents. All too often engineers find themselves in front of the Board because their client “just needed something to submit” or the Authority Having Jurisdiction would only accept the documents if they were signed and sealed and “I [engineer] would be able to supplement or substitute the documents later.”

By failing to do this the engineer runs afoul of our laws and rules. For example, an incomplete set of mechanical engineering documents may wind up violating not only Rule 61G15-23, F.A.C., Seals, but Rule 61G15-30, F.A.C., Responsibility Rules Common to All Engineers, and Rule 61G15-34, F.A.C., Mechanical Systems. Whereas an incomplete set of structural engineering documents could wind up violating, among other things, Rule 61G15-23, F.A.C., Seals, Rule 61G15-30, F.A.C., Responsibility Rules Common to All Engineers and Rule 61G15-31, F.A.C., Responsibility Rules of Professional Engineers Concerning the Design of Structures.

So, in order to avoid violating our licensure rules and exposing yourself to discipline, always be sure to clearly indicate on the face of your engineering documents being signed, dated and sealed if they are not final or if there are any limitations on the use of those engineering documents.

For more information on proper signing and sealing, please refer to Florida Administrative Code 61G15-30.002(4), F.A.C. defines Engineering Documents as:

Rule 61G15-23.001(2)(b), F.A.C. states:

“An engineer shall not sign, date and seal any documents which are not final documents unless the professional engineer states any limitations on the use of those documents on the face of those documents by using terms such as “Preliminary,” “For Review Only,” “Not for Construction,” or any other suitable statement which denotes that the documents are for limited use, are not final and are not intended for permit, construction, or bidding purposes.”

For information on the current version of the Florida Administrative Code, please visit: https://fbpe.org/legal/statutes-and-rules/.

William C. Bracken, PE, SI, CFM is a licensed Professional Engineer and Special Inspector in the state of Florida and is the President and Principal Engineer for Bracken Engineering located in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Bracken has been a structural engineer for more than 25 years and is licensed in 35 states. His career has centered on the practice of structural engineering, forensics, building related codes and disaster response. Mr. Bracken is a senior structures specialist with the State of Florida’s Urban Search and Rescue Program, a member of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, has been an instructor for the International Code Council for the last 15 years, and has been named a Fellow within numerous engineering societies. Mr. Bracken has served on the FBPE Board since 2012 and was the Board’s Vice-Chair for 2013-2014. He is currently serving his second term as FBPE’s Chair.

FEMC & FBPE Quarterly Reports

Each quarter FEMC/FBPE is required by contract to provide the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) with a compliance report. These reports contain information related to licensure, legal deliverables and performance standards such as the number of applications received and processed and the status of complaints and disciplinary cases.

You can view the latest report for the 4th quarter of the 2015-2016 contract year, along with previous issues, by visiting our website at www.fbpe.org and selecting Quarterly Reports under the Corporate section.

Should you have any questions related to this report or others found on our website, please send your inquiries or comments to board@fbpe.org.
Section 471.038, Florida Statutes, adopted by the legislature in 1997 as H433, created the Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC) for the purpose of providing administrative, investigative, and prosecutorial services to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) by contract with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). Section 471.038(3)(1), Florida Statutes, requires the Corporation to submit to the Secretary of the Department of Business & Professional Regulation, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, and the Florida Legislature, on or before October 1 of each year, a report on the status of the corporation, including but not limited to, information concerning the programs and funds that have been transferred to the Corporation. That same section also requires certain specific information regarding licenses and complaints handled by the Corporation.

In support of FBPE’s efforts to license engineers, and enforce and regulate the practice of engineering in Florida, we have highlighted some of FEMC’s accomplishments during the July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, contract year. To view all of the services performed by FEMC for the 2015-2016 fiscal period, or to view previous years’ reports, go to our website at www.fbpe.org, and select Annual Reports under the Corporate section. Should you have any questions related to this report or others found on our site, please send your inquiries or comments to board@fbpe.org.

### Licensure Statistics

| 4,795 | New applications received for licensure. |
| 1,691 | Applications processed, approved and registered for the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. |
| 988  | Applications processed, approved and registered for the principles & practice (PE) exam. |
| 714  | Certificates of Authorizations issued. |
| 535  | PE licenses and Certificates of Authorizations renewed. |
| 17   | Certifications of Threshold Special Inspectors issued. |

### Legal Statistics

| 22  | Administrative Complaints filed. |
| 20  | Final Orders issued against professional engineers. |
| 21  | Cases dismissed with a finding of “no probable cause.” |
| 28  | Cases dismissed with a “Letter of Guidance.” |
| 2   | Licensure Revocations issued. |
| 2   | Licensure Suspensions issued. |
| 2   | Licensure Restrictions issued. |
| 2   | Voluntary Relinquishments issued. |

### Processed

| 139 complaints regarding engineering practices, of which 101 were found to be legally sufficient. |

### Imposed

| $123,540.56 in Fines & Costs. |

### Administered

| 42 FBPE, FEMC & committee meetings. |

### Distributed

| Four (4) quarterly newsletters to an average of 35,787 licensees, not including other subscribers. |
Ensuring the Health & Safety of the Public Through Education

The mission of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) is to protect the interest of public health and safety by properly regulating the practice of engineering in Florida. The FBPE accomplishes its mission by exercising its legislative authority and obligation to review and approve engineering applications; to manage, update and enforce the rules that govern the practice of engineering and to guard against the unlicensed practice of engineering within the State of Florida.

To further its mission, the FBPE created an outreach program to develop relationships and interface with licensees, engineering associations/societies, professionally aligned regulatory authorities, post-secondary educational institutions, and to increase the public’s awareness of Florida’s licensed engineers. As part of its program, the FBPE and staff routinely conduct presentations regarding the examination process, the benefits of professional licensure, the implications of unlicensed activity, and most recently the engineer’s role and ethical obligation to the practice of engineering and operating in the public’s best interest.

If you feel like your organization or institution would benefit from a presentation on The Examination Process & Obtaining Professional Licensure in Florida, The Laws & Rules that Govern the Practice of Engineering in Florida, or Ethics & the Practice of Engineering in Florida, contact FBPE’s Public Information Officer, Shannon McCoy at smccoy@fbpe.org. As always, we encourage you to access our website www.fbpe.org for all of the most current information about FBPE and its activities.

Follow us on Facebook and get news about FBPE activities, Florida’s engineering schools, and current industry related topics. Just click on the Facebook icon to go directly to our page!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 2016
27  UF Student Licensure Presentation
28-29  NCEES PE & SE Exams

November 2016
1  FEMC Board Conference Call
1  Structural Rules Committee Meeting
7  License Renewal Officially Opens
8  PCP & Application Review
9  Rules Committee Meeting
11  FBPE Office Closed - Veteran’s Day
18  Ratification Conference Call
24-25  FBPE Office Closed - Thanksgiving

December 2016
7-8  FEMC & FBPE Meeting
16  PE Exam Application Deadline
23&26  FBPE Office Closed - Christmas

January 2017
2  FBPE Office Closed - New Year’s Day
10  Application Review & PCP
11  Rules Committee Meeting
13  FEMC Board Ops Conference Call
20  Ratification Conference Call
24  2017 FAMU/FSU Spring Engineering Day

All Board meetings and other scheduled activities can be found on the calendar located on our Home page at www.fbpe.org. If you would like more information about FBPE’s outreach activities for Florida’s engineering colleges, association chapters or societies, please send an email to Shannon McCoy, FBPE’s Public Information Officer at smccoy@fbpe.org.
General Renewal Information & Helpful Hints

Renewal Fee - The cost of renewing your current license for the 2017-2019 biennium is $98.75, which includes the renewal cost of $93.75 plus $5.00 for an unlicensed activity fee. The $5.00 fee is for unlicensed activity, which FBPE must charge pursuant to Chapter 497.140, F.S., Fees. If you fail to renew by the deadline you will be required to pay a delinquent fee of $100.00.

Certificate of Authorization Holders - The qualifying engineer (PE) for a firm/company providing engineering services in Florida, MUST renew his or her license first before attempting to renew the CA license. If the qualifying engineer renews his or her license after the CA has been renewed, the certificate will not automatically renew. You MUST contact the Board office at (850) 521-0500 and select “Renewal” to have this corrected.

Continuing Education (CE) Requirement - Professional Engineers licensed in Florida are required to obtain a total of eighteen (18) continuing education (CE) course hours in order to renew their licenses. For more information about the CE requirement, go to FBPE’s website at https://fbpe.org/continuing-education/continuing-education-requirements/.

New Licensees after April 2015 - If you obtained your Florida PE license after the April 2015 exam cycle, you are only required to pay the fee to renew your license. You do not need to complete the 18 hours of continuing education for this renewal cycle. However, effective with the 2017-2019 biennium, you will be responsible for completing your continuing education hours and paying the renewal fee to successfully renew your license.

Replacement Certificates / Licenses - Online printing of licenses is not available. Due to the volume of licenses renewed during each renewal cycle, printing of the physical license for mailing may take four (4) to six (6) weeks. Your current license status can always be verified on myfloridalicense.com until you receive your replacement. You are encouraged to check your licensure record prior to renewal to ensure that the mailing address associated with your license is current and accurate. If this information is dated or incorrect, you could risk not getting your replacement license and other important notices from the Board.

To assist you in renewing your license or certificate, FBPE is providing you with general information, helpful hints, and basic instructions for accessing your account and renewing your license online. We have also included information about license status changes and continuing education requirements. Please read the information provided in this section very carefully prior to attempting to renew your license. If you have any issues accessing your account, please call the Board office at (850) 521-0500 and select “Renewal” for assistance.

(Continued on page 11)
Attestation Statements - Each licensee will be required to attest to the accuracy of your licensure information, completion of CE for the renewal period, and reporting of any disciplinary action that may have been taken against your license in another jurisdiction. You will not be able to successfully renew your license without providing a response to these statements.

Receipts - You should receive an automatic email from the DBPR licensing system confirming that your renewal application has been received. This email will contain an Online Payment Summary in the form of a PDF attachment. This may serve as a receipt.

Paper Renewal - Renewal for the 2017-2019 biennium will be available online only. Should you have circumstances that will prevent you from renewing your license online, you can contact the Board office at (850) 521-0500, and select “Renewal” and request a hardcopy renewal application. PLEASE NOTE: You must allow at least six (6) weeks to process any renewal request using this method, which means your request must be received by FBPE no later than January 16, 2017, to ensure that your license does not lapse and become delinquent.

License Issues & Status Changes

Delinquent/Active Licensees - If your license has a current status of “delinquent/active” and you wish to renew your license, you MUST complete 18 hours of continuing education which includes one (1) hour of Florida laws and rules, one (1) hour of professional ethics, four (4) hours related to your area of practice and 12 hours related to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering.

You will also be required to pay a delinquent fee of $100, as well as the fee for the past renewal cycle and the fee for the current renewal, for a total of $297. If you do not renew before February 28, 2017, your license will become “null and void.”

Null & Void Licensees - If your license is currently “delinquent” and you do not renew in this renewal cycle, your license status will become “null and void” on March 1, 2017. A license status of “null and void” means your license and license number will no longer be valid. To obtain a new Florida PE licensure, you must reapply through the endorsement process. Information regarding the endorsement process is available on our website at https://www.fbpe.org/index.php/licensure/application-process/endorsement-comity-reciprocity. You can also access this information by going to the Licensure section on our Home page at www.fbpe.org and selecting the Endorsement (Comity & Reciprocity) page under Application Process.

Military Status - Pursuant to section 455.02(1), Fla. Stat., any member of the Armed Forces of the United States may request that his or her professional license be placed in a military status, without paying dues or fees, or performing any other act such as continuing education. This status will be in effect for as long as he or she is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty and for a period of six (6) months after discharge from active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, if he or she is not engaged in his or her licensed profession or vocation in the private sector for profit.

If you are a Florida professional engineer and meet these requirements, you simply need to inform the Board and provide your military orders placing you on active duty. Once you are discharged from active duty, you must notify the Board again, within six months of discharge and submit a Form DD-214. No continuing education or fee is required to return your license to a current and active status. If you have any questions regarding an active military status, please contact the Board office at renewal@fbpe.org or call (850) 521-0500 and select “Renewal.”

Current Inactive Licensees - If your license is currently in an “inactive” status, and you want to become “active” you may renew your license online. Complete the renewal process by going to www.myfloridalicense.com, and select “Renew Your License” or “Licensee Login.” After you have renewed and paid your $150.00 fee, contact the Board office at (850) 521-0500, ext. 113 to obtain further instruction on how to change your license status back to “active.” Note: you may be required to demonstrate that you have completed the 18 hours of continuing education requirement if your license has been “inactive” for more than a year.

Active to Inactive License Status Change - In order to place your license in an inactive status during the current renewal period, you MUST pay the renewal fee of $98.75. You will not be required to take any continuing education hours. You will then need to request that your license be placed in “inactive” status by submitting the Application for Change of Status Form - Active to Inactive application to change your license status. Go to the Other Forms page under the Licensure section of our website and download the application. Be sure you have read and understand the requirements of Rule 61G15-22.001, F.A.C., regarding activating your license before your request an inactive status.

Should you decide to activate your license, you will be required to submit the Application for Change of Status Form - Inactive to Active with all required documents, pay any additional licensure fees necessary to equal those imposed on an active status licensee, pay any applicable reactivation fees as set by the board and meet all continuing education requirements as defined in Rule 61G15-22.001, F.A.C.
How to Troubleshoot Errors When Accessing Your Account

- **What is an activation code?** Your activation code should be the last four digits of your social security number (SSN). For those trying to renew a Certificate of Authorization, the activation code should be the last four digits of your employer identification number (FEIN). If you cannot access your account by using this information, contact the Board office at (850) 521-0500 and select “Renewal” for assistance.

- **Receiving a message that says your email address is associated with another account?** Contact the Board office at (850) 521-0500 and select “Renewal” to verify the email address on file with your account. If the email associated with your account is no longer valid we can “unlink” your account so that a new email address can be linked to your record, but be advised you will not be able to use the existing email address again with your account.

- **Forgot your password?** If you attempt to sign in to your account to renew your license and have forgotten your password, select “Forgot My Password.” You will then be prompted to “Create a New Password” by answering your security question and you should then be able to access your account.

- **Forgot the answer to the security question associated with your account?** Contact the Board office at (850) 521-0500 and select “Renewal” for assistance or send an email request to renewal@fbpe.org. Once we have retrieved the information for you, an email will be sent to you with the answer to your security question. However, it may take up to 24 hours to process your request. If you are sending a request to retrieve your account, you MUST include your name, license number and the appropriate email address to complete the request.

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**Continuing Education FAQs**

Effective for the 2015-2017 biennial renewal, all professional engineers licensed in Florida are required to obtain a total of eighteen (18) hours of continuing education hours in order to renew their licenses.

Of the 18 hours, one (1) hour must be related to the Florida laws and rules of professional engineers, one (1) hour must relate to Florida professional ethics, and four (4) hours of area of practice. The remaining 12 hours may be related to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering.

*Are all credits that involve training and seminars required to be provided by Florida Board-approved providers?* - Continuing education hours may be earned by presenting or attending seminars, in-house or non-classroom courses, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, webinars, conventions, or conferences, including those presented by vendors with specific knowledge related to the licensee’s area of practice. Pursuant to Rule 61G15-22.011, F.A.C., only **BOARD-APPROVED** providers may offer continuing education courses and credit. If you take a course from a provider who meets the requirements below, your course will qualify for credit.

To qualify as a **BOARD-APPROVED** provider, a provider applicant must:

1. Submit an application to FBPE for approval to provide continuing education courses; or
2. Be registered as a continuing education provider with the Registered Continuing Education Program (RCEP) or the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

*Can I use CE credit obtained for my other licenses towards the CE requirement for my Florida license?* With the exception of the one hour Florida Laws & Rules and Professional Ethics CE requirement, you **MAY** apply continuing education credit earned for another state’s engineering license to your remaining 16 hours, assuming it meets the criteria set forth in 471.017, F.S., Renewal of License, and Rule 61G15-22.001, F.A.C., Continuing Education Requirements. In addition, pursuant to Rule 61G15-22.011, F.A.C., only Board-approved providers may offer continuing education courses and credit.

A list of Board-approved CE providers and courses can be found on [www.myfloridalicense.com](http://www.myfloridalicense.com). If you are unsure if a provider or course is approved or acceptable, call the Board office at (850) 521-0500, and select “Continuing Education” for assistance.

*Can I fax or email my certificates for my continuing education (CE) to the Board?* **NO.** You are no longer required to report continuing education to the Board. Pursuant to Rule 61G15-22.006, F.A.C., Demonstrating Compliance, the licensee is responsible for retaining receipts, certificates, or other documentation as may be necessary to evidence completion of continuing education in the event you are subject to a random audit. You must retain these records for four (4) years from the date of completion of the continuing education activity.

For more information related to continuing education and CE provider requirements go to the Continuing Education page on our website at [www.fbpe.org](http://www.fbpe.org).
All around the world, engineers are pushing the limits of ingenuity and innovation in unexpected, imaginative, and amazing ways. *Dream Big*, a giant-screen film about engineering, will take viewers on a journey of discovery from the world’s tallest building to a bridge higher than the clouds. From record-reaching skyscrapers to bridges soaring above the clouds to giant tunnel-boring machines navigating beneath our cities, audiences will experience the massive scale and the forces of nature that challenge their designers, and discover how imagination and human invention—even failure—turn ideas, dreams, and human needs into reality.

Combined with educational programming and powerful media, *Dream Big* will:

- Inform the public about the important work engineers do, helping to heighten interest and change perceptions about the profession;
- Inspire young people to consider careers in engineering; and
- Answer the demand for K-12 engineering education resources, in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards.

To view the upcoming movie trailer, go to [http://macgillivrayfreeman.com/project/dream-big/](http://macgillivrayfreeman.com/project/dream-big/) or [http://www.asce.org/dream-big/](http://www.asce.org/dream-big/). *Dream Big* and movie clips from 37 other giant screen films made in some of the most exotic, challenging locations on Earth, can also be found on MacGillivray Freeman’s media channel on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/user/macfreefilms](https://www.youtube.com/user/macfreefilms).

**How Can You Get Involved: Access ASCE’s Dream Big Volunteer Resources**

Learn about ASCE’s investment in the film, outreach activities and events that will accompany the film, and the types of programs and planning engineers, your organization or local ASCE group can get involved in hosting. You can watch a pre-recorded webinar, by going to [http://www.asce.org/dream-big/](http://www.asce.org/dream-big/). You can also see recommended volunteer activities by downloading suggested activities at [ASCE Local Group Dream Big Volunteer Opportunities](http://www.asce.org/dream-big/). Have questions about planning an event? ASCE can help! Send an email to [civilengineersdreambig@asce.org](mailto:civilengineersdreambig@asce.org).
Are You Keeping Your Licensure Record Up-to-Date?

With each electronic newsletter distribution, renewal reminder campaign and new license mailing, FBPE receives a number of returned communications due to bad emails, invalid mailing addresses, lack of forwarding information, etc. By not having accurate contact information on file, you jeopardize receiving important information regarding policy/law changes, deadline notifications, receipt of certificate replacements, and much more. Since November 2016 marks the opening of licensure renewal, there is no time like the present to remind our engineers and certificate of authorization (CA) holders about the importance of keeping license records up-to-date.

Did you know that it is the responsibility of the licensee or certificate holder to update licensure records and notify the Board of a change to any vital information? This includes information such as a name or address change, or change of PE in responsible charge for a firm.

This information should be provided within 30 days of when the change occurs to ensure proper delivery of licensure correspondence and uninterrupted Board service. We also encourage licensees to provide the most current email address as we routinely provide special notices, information and the quarterly newsletter electronically.

For Engineers

A licensee can make changes to their licensure record via two methods: through DBPR’s online portal or by submitting a request to FBPE to have your record updated. You can access your account by going to www.myfloridalicense.com and selecting Licensee Login from the Home page. Should you receive a message while trying to access your account, such as “this account is linked to another email” or “enter in an activation code,” and you need assistance, please contact the Board office at (850) 521-0500 and select the option to speak to someone in FBPE’s Licensure Department.

To submit your changes to FBPE, select the Change Contact Information page under the Licensure section or go to https://www.fbpe.org/LicenseContactChange and complete the interactive form. You can submit changes to your mailing address, phone number or email on file using this form. If you experience problems using either of these methods send an email to board@fbpe.org with your change request. NOTE: When emailing your request to FBPE to update your record with new information you must include your full name, license number, old and new address, phone number and email.

For those individuals needing to change their name and obtain a new copy of their license, you must submit a copy of a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order along with the Order Form for Duplicate Licenses and Certificates and the $25.00 fee. The order form can be downloaded from our website under the Other Forms page under the Licensure section at http://fbpe.org/licensure/other-forms.

Additional forms can be located on the Other Forms page, such as requests to change active/inactive license status, retired license status, and verification of licensure. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Board’s office at (850) 521-0500.

For Certificate of Authorization Holders

Per F.S. 471.023-Certification of Business Organizations, if the qualifying engineer no longer wishes to qualify a company, it is that qualifier’s responsibility to advise the FBPE, in writing, of his/her desire to no longer act as qualifier. Should the qualifier change, it is the company’s responsibility to submit a Certificate of Authorization Engineer Name Change application within 30 days to obtain a new qualifying engineer. If the company changes its name, it is the company’s responsibility to submit a Change Company Name for Certificate of Authorization application, along with the appropriate fee, proof of registration and other accompanying documentation.

These forms can be located on FBPE’s website by selecting Application Process under the Licensure section and then Certificate of Authorization or by going to https://www.fbpe.org/index.php/licensure/application-process/certificate-of-authorization-ca. Should you have any questions regarding the applications on this page, the process to apply for a CA, or changing the qualifier or company name, please contact FBPE’s office at (850) 521-0500, ext. 110.
A team of professional engineers from across Florida assessed the 11 categories, including:

- Aviation (B-)
- Bridges (B)
- Coastal Areas (D+)
- Drinking Water (C+)
- Energy (C-)
- Ports (B-)
- Roads (C)
- Schools (D+)
- Stormwater (D)
- Transit (C)
- Wastewater (C)

Florida’s average daily freshwater demand (including drinking water) is projected to increase by about 20% to 7.7 billion gallons per day by 2030.

Seven of the top 100 most congested cities in the U.S. are in Florida, costing drivers $8.75 billion in 2014.

Florida’s capital improvement needs for stormwater management are estimated to be $1.1 billion through 2019, with needs doubling over the decade, yet utility fees to upkeep the systems have declined since 2011.

The last Report Card for Florida’s Infrastructure, released in 2012, gave the state’s infrastructure a GPA of “C-”. The Grading Scale is as follows:

- A - Exceptional
- B - Good
- C - Mediocre
- D - Poor
- F - Fail

Over the past 5 years, Florida’s population has grown at a rate of about 1% per year, adding about 1 million people. This is the equivalent to adding a city the size of Jacksonville every 5 years and makes Florida the fourth fastest growing state in the nation.

The 2016 Report Card for Florida’s Infrastructure finds that much of the state’s infrastructure needs investment and upgrades to keep up with the state’s growing population. Of note:

- As a top destination, more than 50% of Florida’s commercial airports will experience demand levels that will surpass their operational capacity over the next 15 years.
- About 15% of Florida’s bridges are at least 50 years old.

Given these infrastructure challenges, the Florida Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers urges a number of recommendations to raise the grades, including:

- Growing Florida’s infrastructure investment by county, city, state and private entities to keep up with the growth of the state.
- Implementing smart technology and asset management strategies to help reduce congestion, lengthen the life of assets, expand water supplies, and optimize power use.
- Continuing to make Florida’s infrastructure resilient to all risks, including storms and changing climate conditions that will impact Florida’s coast and economy.

The Report Card for Florida’s Infrastructure was created as a public service to the citizens and policymakers of the state to inform them of the infrastructure needs in their community. By using school report card letter grades, civil engineers use their expertise to condense complicated data into an easy-to-understand analysis. Now that the report card has been updated, a copy can be found on the ASCE Florida Section website, www.fla-asce.org.

ASCE State Infrastructure Report Cards are modeled after the national Report Card for America’s Infrastructure, which gave America’s infrastructure a grade of D+ in 2013. To view the national report card, go to http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org.
In the last few months, the Board has formally approved the following enforcement cases based on the Florida Statutes and Rules applicable at the time of the violation. Included is a brief description of the licensee’s violation and discipline imposed by the Board.

You can access the final orders for these cases and other recent engineer disciplines on our website under the Legal section at https://fbpe.org/legal/disciplinary-actions.

Marcus Standrod  
Unlicensed  
Case No. 2015030471

Subject was charged with violating Section 471.031(1)(a), Florida Statutes; practicing engineering without a license. At one time, the subject held a license as a Professional Engineer in Florida. On February 28, 2011, the Professional Engineer license became null and void for non-renewal. Subject issued, signed and sealed an engineering inspection report on July 15, 2014.

Ruling: The case was presented to the full Board based upon the subject’s failure to timely respond to the properly served Administrative Complaint. The Board imposed Costs of $210.60 and an Administrative Fine of $5,000. A Final Order was issued on July 5, 2016.

Violation: Section 471.031(1)(a), Florida Statutes

Charles C. Mitchell, PE  
PE 11127  
Case No. 2014031694

Licensee was charged with violating Section 471.031(1)(g), Florida Statutes; negligence in the practice of engineering. Licensee sealed and signed electrical, plumbing, and structural engineering documents for construction of a remodeled single family residence. The documents contained deficiencies. The deficiencies include, but are not limited to: the electrical drawings contain an Electrical Riser Diagram but no short circuit values and no voltage drop calculations for the feeders and customer-owned service, no surge protection devices are shown on the drawings, and the drawing contains errors and conflicts, etc.; the mechanical engineering drawings contain fixture equipment to determine total fixture units, but complete equipment schedules are absent, potable water isometric diagrams are not shown on the drawings, and the drawings show sanitary piping layouts but no cold water, hot water nor storm drainage piping layouts, etc.; the structural drawings contain no demolition information as required, the roof information is missing, the drawings are mislabeled, and no calculations were submitted on the drawings as required, etc.

(Continued on page 17)
**Ruling:** The case was presented to the full Board upon a Settlement Stipulation. The Board imposed Costs of $5,957.95, an Administrative Fine of $1,000, a Reprimand, Appearance, Licensee is RESTRICTED from creating, producing, or certifying any Electrical and/or Mechanical Engineering documents, Probation to include: Project Review at six and eighteen months for Electrical/Mechanical projects once Licensee has taken and passed the NCEES Exam, Structural Project Review at six and eighteen months following entry of the Final Order, Advanced Engineering Professionalism and Ethics and the Board’s Study Guide. A Final Order was issued on August 24, 2016.

**Violation:** Section 471.031(1)(g), Florida Statutes

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**G. R. Claiborne, PE**
PE 58238
Case No. 2015018063

Licensee was charged with violating Section 471.031(1)(g), Florida Statutes; negligence in the practice of engineering. Licensee signed, sealed and dated Fire Protection System Engineering Design Drawings for a fire alarm plan. The drawings contained deficiencies. The deficiencies include, but are not limited to: the location of the strobes does not provide full coverage, there is no sprinkler flow or tamper connected to the fire alarm system for the sprinklered building, the class and style of circuits were not provided, etc.

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**Disclaimer:** The FBPE would like to note that every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of discipline information; however this should not be relied upon without verification from the Board office or website. It is possible that names of companies and individuals listed may be similar to the names of parties who HAVE NOT been disciplined or had compliant actions taken against them, so we encourage you to review licensee information on www.myfloridalicense.com, contact our office or make a public records request should you have any specific questions regarding disciplinary actions. Public records requests can be sent to publicrecords@fbpe.org.

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**What Is Considered Unlicensed Activity?**

Practicing engineering or offering engineering services without a license is a violation of Florida Statute 471.003 and 471.031(1)(a), and is a serious threat to the health, safety and welfare of the general public and to the profession itself. Typically, FBPE receives cases involving firms practicing without a Certificate of Authorization, individuals utilizing the protected title of Professional Engineer (PE) or any variation thereof, and individuals practicing without a PE license. In most of these cases, the violations occur due to a lack of knowledge of the laws and rules associated with the practice of engineering by offenders, as well as the public.

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**Examples of Unlicensed Activity Include:**

- A firm practicing or offering to practice engineering without a Certificate of Authorization;
- Practicing engineering without a license;
- Using a name or title tending to indicate that a person holds an active license as engineer. Examples include: “Professional Engineer,” “Agricultural Engineer,” “Air-Conditioning Engineer,” “Architectural Engineer,” “Civil Engineer,” etc.;
- Presenting as his or her own the license of another; and
- Practicing on a revoked, suspended, inactive or delinquent license.

The actions taken by the Board related to unlicensed activity violations are a Notice to Cease & Desist, a Citation (which is a fine), an Administrative Complaint which can come with a recommended penalty of up to $5,000, injunctive proceedings if the action continues and criminal prosecutions.

You can check the status or verify a license for an engineer or company, by going to myfloridalicense.com.

To file a complaint involving either licensed OR unlicensed activity, download a copy of the Uniform Complaint Form located on the Complaints page under the Legal section on our home page at www.fbpe.org or request a form from the Board’s office.

If you want to talk to someone about a potential violation, please call the Board office at (850) 521-0500 and ask to speak to an investigator.
Congratulations Examinees!

FBPE applauds all the candidates that successfully passed the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam.

We wish them much success as they move towards the next step in their engineering careers!

NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam Passers
(Exam Period July 1, 2016 - September 30, 2016)

Sofia Guimaraes Ribeiro Baptista
Amit Gulati
Claudia Gutierrez
Juan Guzman Diaz
Myo Thi Ha
Zachary Hajifathali
Patrick Hammond
Anthony Harel-Canada
Russell Harper
Rebecca Harris
Hunter Harrison
Dean Hauck
Carlee Hayden
Chaka Hazelwood
Delbert Horton, II
Ryan Hoskins
Senmiao Hu
Katelyn Ireland
Orinta Jankauskaite
Joel Jenkins
William Johnson
Hunter Johnson
Joshua Jones
Jeffrey Kast
Erica Keller
Madeline Kender
Jordan Kennedy
Elijah Kimmig
Brandon Kowalske
Kaitlyn Kundert
Miguel Labrador
Hudson Larson
Kimandy Lawrence
Them Le
Kathryn Leahy
Taylor Lewis
Megan Long
Josh Lorenz
Scott Lougheed
Duncan Lozinski
Xiaodong Lu
Rafael Luugo
Alexander Maas

Ashar Abdullah
Kellideon Agnew
Matthew Agrella
David Aguiar
Ramin Ahmadi
Nandita Ahuja
Mauricio Alegre Fierro
Anwer Al-Kaimakchi
Randall Arthurs
Christopher Autrey
Nargis Azim
Jinnah Bacchus
Ronald Bacon
Zinski Baggen
Walker Baird
David Ballentine
Kokil Bansal
Mohammed Barakat
Osman Bayindir
Juan Benavides
Carl Bohm
Gustavo Bora
Jessica Botero
Nathan Boyette
William Boynton
Seyedeh Layla Bozorg-Zadeh
Devon Brazeal
Kara Brinhaupt
Uriel Cain
Chase Camarotti
Larry Campoverde Aguirre
Kevin Carabeo
Austin Carlson
Kristina Carlson
Timothy Carson
Jeremy Castello
Daniel Castillo
Rui Chi
Matthew Clonts
Martin Coleman
Felipe Compean
Miguel Conde
Anne Creamer

Kyle Cross
Jonathan Cruz-Cole
Omar Dalusung
Stacy Dalzell
Melissa De La Rosa
Kaila DeHaan
Pierson Delcambre
Jonathan Delgado
Jiabin Deng
Joshua Dennis
Ardit Dervishaj
Jessica Diaz
Salvatore DiMauro
Orion Dominguez
Kedwin Dominguez
Moises Dominguez
Karen Doran
Jeandona Doreste
Edwin Dundas
Stephen Edwards
Julius Elo
Tyler England
Andrew Erickson
Patrick Escalante
Martha Espejo
Amy Felt
Glenn Fernandez
Steven Ferraro
Adriana Ferrera
Christopher Folsom
Alexander Forth
Ian Foster
Gregory Franca
Nicholas Francis
Rachel Franklin
Bailey Freer
David Garcia
Adam Gebarin
Leonardo Gil
Joseph Goldberg
Akash Goyal
Shane Griffin
Erick Guillen
Congratulations Examinees!
(Continued from page 18)

NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam Passers Continued
(Exam Period July 1, 2016 - September 30, 2016)

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**NOTE:** Initial application information to FBPE must include pages 1-4 of the PE Initial Application Form plus the fee payment to begin processing. Additional / supporting documentation to complete processing must be submitted by the final due date in order to complete the application process.

**NOTE:** For applicants that are currently awaiting test results from the previous exam, the re-exam deadline date will be extended for only one week after NCEES notifies you with your score from the previous exam.
Florida Board of Professional Engineers

The Florida Legislature found it necessary, in the interest of public health and safety, to regulate the practice of engineering in the State of Florida and thus created Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, the Engineering Registration Law. Under this law, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers is responsible for reviewing applications, administering examinations, licensing qualified applicants, and regulating the practice of engineering throughout the state. The Board is comprised of 11 members, nine of whom are licensed professional engineers representing multiple disciplines and two laypersons who are not and never have been engineers or members of any closely related profession or occupation. All members are appointed by the Governor for terms of four years.

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Florida Engineers Management Corporation

Under Section 471.038, Florida Statutes, administrative, investigative and prosecutorial services are provided to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers by the Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC). FEMC is a non-profit, single purpose corporation that operates through a contract with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. The FEMC Board of Directors is composed of seven members. Five members are appointed by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers and must be Florida registrants. Two members are appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and must be laypersons not regulated by the Board.

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(Postal Certificates & License Printing)

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