

**FILED**  
Florida Engineers  
Management Corporation  
1/15/2021 Clerk: Rebecca Valentine

**FILED**  
Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
Senior Deputy Agency Clerk  
CLERK Brandon Nichols  
Date 1/15/2021  
File # 2021-00338

STATE OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERS,

Petitioner,

v.

FEMC Case No. 2020004994

THOMAS M. DAFFINRUD, P.E.,

Respondent,

\_\_\_\_\_ /

FINAL ORDER ADOPTING SETTLEMENT STIPULATION

THIS CAUSE came before the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (hereinafter "the Board") pursuant to Section 120.57(4), Florida Statutes, at a duly noticed public meeting on December 10, 2020, via Zoom videoconference in Tallahassee, Florida, for the purpose of considering a Settlement Stipulation (attached hereto as "Exhibit A to Final Order") entered between the parties in this cause. Petitioner was represented by John J. Rimes, Chief Prosecuting Attorney. Respondent was present.

Upon consideration of the stipulation, the documents submitted in support thereof, and the arguments of the parties, the Board determined the Accept the existing Settlement Stipulation with the following Amendments agreed to by the Parties:

1. The FINE is to be REMOVED.
2. The REPRIMAND is to be REMOVED
3. The Appearance is to be REMOVED

4. Respondent shall take and pass the Auburn University Online Professional Development Course "Engineering Ethics and Professionalism," Course No. V10F-21, within one (1) year of the filing date of this Final Order.

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Settlement Stipulation as entered into by the parties and submitted is accepted, as modified by the above terms. Accordingly, the parties shall adhere to and abide by all the terms and conditions of the stipulation, as modified, and this Final Order.

This Final Order shall take effect upon being filed with the clerk of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

DONE AND ORDERED this 14 day of January, 2021.

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Zana Raybon, Executive Director  
For BABU VARGHESE, P.E., S.I., CHAIR

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing filed *Final Order Adopting Settlement Stipulation* has been furnished by U.S. First Class Mail and email Thomas M. Daffinrud, P.E. at 2591 North Dallas Parkway, Frisco, Texas 75034 this 19 day of January, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Valentine, Paralegal

STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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FEMC Case No. 2020004994

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Respondent.

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**SETTLEMENT STIPULATION**

THOMAS DAFFINRUD, P.E. ("Respondent") and the Florida Engineers Management Corporation ("FEMC") hereby stipulate and agree to the following Joint Settlement Stipulation ("Stipulation") and to entry of a Final Order of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers ("Board"), incorporating this Stipulation in the above-styled matter.

**STIPULATED FACTS**

1. For all times pertinent hereto, Respondent, THOMAS DAFFINRUD, P.E., was a licensed engineer in the State of Florida, having been issued license number PE 75286.
2. Respondent was charged with violations of Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, in an Administrative Complaint filed by the Florida Engineers Management Corporation, and properly served upon Respondent. True and correct copies of the filed Administrative Complaints are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as "Composite Exhibit A to Settlement Stipulation".

### STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent, in Respondent's capacities as a licensed professional engineer admits that, in such capacity, Respondent is subject to the provisions of Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, and the jurisdiction of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation ("Agency" or "Department"), FEMC, and the Board.
2. Respondent admits that the facts set forth in the Administrative Complaint, if proven, constitute violations of Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, as alleged in the Complaint.

### STIPULATED DISPOSITION OF LAW

1. Respondent shall, in the future, comply with Chapters 471 and 455, Florida Statutes, and the rules promulgated pursuant thereto.
2. Should Respondent fail to comply with the terms of the Final Order, an administrative complaint for failure to comply with final order will automatically be opened against Respondent.
3. Respondent shall pay an ADMINISTRATIVE FINE of \$1,000.00 and COSTS of \$58.50 to the Board within thirty (30) days of the date that the Final Order adopting this Stipulation is filed with the Agency Clerk.
4. Respondent's license to practice engineering shall be REPRIMANDED.
5. Respondent shall APPEAR before the Board when this Stipulation is presented. Respondent must be prepared to discuss: how Respondent intends to prevent this circumstance from occurring in the future
6. Respondent shall successfully complete the STUDY GUIDE which has been prepared by the Board and which will be furnished to Respondent, regarding the Engineering Practice Act, Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, and the Rules of the Board. Respondent is required to

provide a personal email address that will be used to access the on-line study guide. The study guide must be completed within thirty (30) days of the date on which the Final Order incorporating this Stipulation is filed with the Agency Clerk.

7. Should the Respondent fail to timely comply with the terms of the Final Order with regard to the Project Reviews discussed herein, this case will be submitted to the Probable Cause Panel for review and determination of whether additional disciplinary action should be taken.

8. Respondent acknowledges that neither Respondent's attendance at the Board Meeting when this Stipulation is presented, nor any continuing education or college level courses taken as a requirement of the terms of this Stipulation may be used to comply with the continuing education requirements of Chapter 61G15-22, Florida Administrative Code.

9. It is expressly understood that this Stipulation is subject to approval of the Board and FEMC and has no force or effect until the Board issues a Final Order adopting this Stipulation.

10. This Stipulation is executed by Respondent for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this cause. In this regard, Respondent authorizes the Board to review and examine all investigative file materials concerning Respondent prior to, or in conjunction with, consideration of this Stipulation. Furthermore, should this Stipulation not be accepted by the Board, it is agreed that presentation to and by the Board shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board or any of its members from further participation, consideration, or resolution of these proceedings.

11. Respondent expressly waives all further procedural steps and expressly waives all rights to seek judicial review of or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of the joint Stipulated Facts, Conclusions of Law, imposition of discipline, and the Final Order of the Board incorporating this Stipulation.

12. Respondent waives the right to seek any attorney's fees or costs from the Board in connection with this disciplinary proceeding.

WHEREFORE, the parties hereto request the Board to enter a Final Order accepting and implementing the terms contained herein.



Thomas Daffinrud, P.E.,  
Respondent  
Case No. 2020004994

Dated: 7-22-20

APPROVED this 15 day of September, 2020.

Zana Raybon, Executive Director  
Florida Board of Professional Engineers

  
John Rimes (Sep 15, 2020 19:02 EDT)

BY: John J. Rimes, III  
Chief Prosecuting Attorney

**FILED**  
**Florida Engineers**  
**Management Corporation**  
05/26/2020 **Clerk: Rebecca Valentine**

STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

**FILED**  
Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
Deputy Agency Clerk  
CLERK **Evette Lawson-Proctor**  
Date **5/26/2020**  
File #

FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERS,

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v.

FEMC Case No. 2020004994

THOMAS M. DAFFINRUD, P.E.,

Respondent,

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW the Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC) on behalf of Petitioner, Florida Board of Professional Engineers, hereinafter referred to as "Petitioner," and files this Administrative Complaint against THOMAS M. DAFFINRUD, P.E., hereinafter referred to as "Respondent." This Administrative Complaint is issued pursuant to Sections 120.60 and 471.038, Florida Statutes. Any proceeding concerning this complaint shall be conducted pursuant to Section 120.57, Florida Statutes. In support of this complaint, Petitioner alleges the following:

1. Petitioner, Florida Board of Professional Engineers, is charged with regulating the practice of engineering pursuant to Chapter 455, Florida Statutes. This complaint is filed by the Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC) on behalf of Petitioner. FEMC is charged with providing administrative, investigative, and prosecutorial services to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers pursuant to Section 471.038, Florida Statutes (1997).

2. Respondent is, and has been at all times material hereto, a licensed professional engineer in the State of Florida, having been issued license number PE 75286. Respondent's last known address is 2591 North Dallas Parkway, Frisco, Texas 75034.

3. Pursuant to Rule 61G15-22.006(2), Florida Administrative Code, “The Board will audit at random a number of licensees as is necessary to assure that the continuing education requirements are met.” Pursuant to the provisions of the Rule, on August 12, 2019 FEMC requested the Department of Business & Professional Regulation (DBPR) to provide a list containing a random number of licensees who had renewed their licenses. This information was received from DBPR on the same day.

4. Respondent renewed Respondent’s Professional Engineer license on June 10, 2019 and attested that Respondent had completed the required Continuing Education necessary for renewal as required by Section 471.017(3)(a), Florida Statutes, which provides in material part:

“(3)(a) The board shall require a demonstration of continuing professional competency of engineers as a condition of license renewal or relicensure. Every licensee must complete 9 continuing education hours for each year of the license renewal period, totaling 18 continuing education hours for the license renewal period. For each renewal period for such continuing education:

1. One hour must relate to this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.
  2. One hour must relate to professional ethics.
  3. Four hours must relate to the licensee’s area of practice.
  4. The remaining hours may relate to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering.
- Continuing education hours may be earned by presenting or attending seminars, in-house or nonclassroom 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....”

5. On August 23, 2019, Respondent was provided with a Memo advising Respondent that Respondent was selected to participate in the audit process. Respondent responded to the Memo on February 14, 2020.

6. Upon review of the information provided by Respondent, it was clear that, when Respondent renewed the PE license on June 10, 2019, Respondent lacked all of the CE Courses required for renewal as provided in Section 471.017(3), Florida Statutes.



7. In fact, Respondent did not complete 16 CE hours until September 10, 2019 and the remaining 2 CE hours until February 13 & 14, 2020. In order to have been in compliance with Section 471.017 when Respondent certified that Respondent had taken and completed all required CE Courses, Respondent was required to have taken and completed all required CE Courses by June 10, 2019.

8. Section 471.033(1)(a) provides in material part: “(1) The following acts constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions in subsection (3) may be taken: (a) Violating any ... rule of the board or department. Rule 61G15-19.001(6)(s), Florida Administrative Code, provides in material part: “(6) [a] professional engineer shall not commit misconduct in the practice of engineering. Misconduct in the practice of engineering as set forth in Section 471.033(1)(g), F.S., shall include, but not be limited to: (s) Renewing or reactivating a license without completion of Continuing Education (CE) hours and subject areas as required by Section 471.017, F.S., and Rule 61G15-22.001, F.A.C.”

9. By renewing Respondent’s PE license without having completed the required CE Courses at the time that Respondent certified that all required CE Courses had been taken, Respondent violated Section 471.033(1)(a) and Rule 61G15-19.001(6)(s).

10. Based upon the foregoing Respondent is hereby charged with violating Section 471.033(1)(a) and Rule 61G15-19.001(6)(s).

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner respectfully requests the Board of Professional Engineers to enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties: permanent revocation or suspension of the Respondent’s license, restriction of the Respondent’s practice, imposition of an administrative fine, issuance of a reprimand, placement of the Respondent on probation, the assessment of costs related to the investigation and prosecution of this case, other than costs

associated with an attorney's time, as provided for in Section 455.227(3), Florida Statutes, and/or any other relief that the Board deems appropriate.

SIGNED this 26 day of May, 2020.

Zana Raybon  
Executive Director

BY: John J. Rimes, III  
Prosecuting Attorney

**COUNSEL FOR FEMC:**

John J. Rimes, III  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Florida Engineers Management Corporation  
2639 North Monroe Street, Suite B-112  
Tallahassee, Florida 32303  
Florida Bar No. 212008  
JR/rv  
PCP DATE: May 13, 2020  
PCP Members: MATTHEWS, FLEMING & DRURY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was furnished to Thomas M. Daffinrud, P.E. at 2591 North Dallas Parkway, Frisco, Texas 75034, by certified mail and First Class U. S. Mail, on the 28 of May, 2020.

Rebecca Valentine  
Rebecca Valentine, Paralegal