

ELODIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL

Department of Business and Professional Regulation Senior Deputy Agency Clerk

CLERK: Brandon Nichols

Date: 9/19/2023

File #: 2023-07360

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

FEMC Case No. 2022039032

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 September 13, 2023 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.

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Settlement Stipulation as submitted be and is hereby adopted *in toto* and incorporated herein by reference. Accordingly, the parties shall adhere to and abide by all the terms and conditions of the stipulation.

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

DONE AND ORDERED this 18 day of September, 2023.

FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Zana Raybon, Executive Director For Dylan Abergo, P.E., 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 to Vojtech Gall, P.E. at 44345 Premier Plaza, Suite 210, Ashburn, Virginia 20147 and vgall@gzconsultants.com this day of the premier plaza, 2023.

Rebecca Valentine,

Paralegal

1.

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,

Petitioner,

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FEMC Case No. 2022039032

VOJTECH GALL, P.E. (Delinquent),

Respondent,

SETTLEMENT STIPULATION

VOJTECH GALL, P.E. hereinafter referred to as "Respondent" and the Florida Engineers Management Corporation, hereinafter referred to as "FEMC," hereby stipulate and agree to the following Joint Settlement Stipulation ("Stipulation") and Final Order of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, hereinafter referred to as "Board," incorporating this Stipulation in the above-styled manner.

STIPULATED FACTS

- 1. For all times pertinent hereto, Respondent, VOJTECH GALL, P.E., was a licensed engineer in the State of Florida, having been issued license number PE 73563.
- 2. Respondent was charged by an Administrative Complaint filed by FEMC, and properly served upon Respondent with violations of Chapters 471 and 455, Florida Statutes. A copy of the Administrative Complaint is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibit "A".

STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent, in his capacity as a licensed engineer, admits that in such capacity he is subject to provisions of Chapters 455 and 471, Florida Statutes, and the jurisdiction of the Florida

Department of Business and Professional Regulations, hereinafter referred to as "Department," FEMC, and the Board.

2. Respondent admits that the facts set forth in the Administrative Complaint, if proven, constitute violations of Chapters 455 and 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. Respondent's license shall be **SUSPENDED** until Respondent complies with the following terms:
- a. Respondent shall pay an <u>ADMINISTRATIVE FINE</u> of \$2,000.00 and <u>COSTS</u> of \$91.65 to the Board within thirty (30) days of the date that the Final Order adopting this Stipulation is filed with the Agency Clerk.
- b. Respondent complies with Section 471.017(3)(a), Florida Statutes, and successfully completes 18 continuing education hours for the license renewal period. One hour must relate to this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter. One hour must relate to professional ethics. Four hours must relate to the licensee's area of practice. The remaining hours may relate to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering.
- Upon coming into compliance, Respondent must petition for reinstatement of the license and must APPEAR at the Board Meeting at which the Petition shall be considered. Unconditional reinstatement is not guaranteed and the Board may impose such conditions of probation as it deems appropriate.
 - 3. Respondent shall <u>APPEAR</u> before the Board when the stipulation is presented.
 - 4. Respondent's license to practice engineering shall be **REPRIMANDED**.

- 5. 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.
- 6. Respondent shall take and pass the Auburn University Online Professional Development Course "Engineering Ethics and Professionalism," Course No. V10F-22, within ninety (90) days of the filing date of this Final Order.

EPD Program

Auburn University

Engineering Extension Service

217 Ramsay Hall, Auburn, Alabama 36849-5331

Ethics and Professionalism

Phone 800-446-0382 or 334-844-4370

- 7. 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
- 8. Should the Respondent fail to timely comply with the terms of the Final Order, this case will be submitted to the Probable Cause Panel for review and determination of whether additional disciplinary action should be taken.
- 9. It is expressly understood that this Stipulation is subject to approval of the Board and FEMC and has no force and effect until the Board issues a Final Order adopting this agreement.

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 the Stipulation. Furthermore, should this joint 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 Stipulation of Facts, Conclusions of Law, imposition of discipline, and the Final Order of the Board incorporating said 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.

Vojtech Gall, P.E.,

Respondent

Case No. 2022039032

APPROVED this 14 day of August, 2023.

Zana Rayboni Executive Director Florida Board of Professional Engineers

BY: John J. Rimes, III Chief Prosecuting Attorney FILED
Florida Engineers Management Corp
CLERK Rebecca Valentus
DATE TILY AVA3

FILED
Department of Business and Professional Regulation
Deputy Agency Clerk
CLERK: Evette Lawson-Proctor

Date: 7/18/2023

File #:

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

ENGINEERS,	
Petitioner,	
v.	FEMC Case No. 2022039032
VOJTECH GALL, P.E. (Delinquent),	
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 VOJTECH GALL, 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 73563. Respondent's last known address is 44345 Premier Plaza, Suite 210, Ashburn, Virginia 20147.

- 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, 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 January 11, 2021 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 October 4, 2021, Respondent was provided with a Memo advising Respondent that Respondent was selected to participate in the audit process. FEMC received a response to the Memo on August 11, 2022.
- 6. Upon review of the information provided by Respondent, it was clear that, when Respondent renewed the PE license on January 11, 2021, Respondent had not completed any of the CE Courses required for renewal as provided in Section 471.017(3), Florida Statutes.

- 7. In fact, Respondent has still not completed the CE Courses. 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 February 28, 2021.
- 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 18th day of July ______, 2023.

Zana Raybon
Executive Director

Subn Rumer [Li 16, 2021 09 26 CDT]

RV: John J Rim

BY: John J. Rimes, III Prosecuting Attorney

COUNSEL FOR FEMC:

John J. Rimes, III
Prosecuting Attorney
Florida Engineers Management Corporation
2400 Mahan Dr.
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Florida Bar No. 212008
JR/rv

PCP DATE: July 07, 2023

PCP Members: MATTHEWS, PISTORINO & RAMSEY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Rebecca Valentine, Paralegal