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From: Dale Beebe Farrow, P.E., Executive Director

HB 2649: Additional Certifications for Professional Engineers

During the 2009 Session, the 81st Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2649, which is in effect as of June 19, 2009. Section 3 of this bill amended the Texas Engineering Practice Act, Section 1001.401, as follows:

(e) A license holder shall not be required to provide or hold any additional certification, other than a license issued under this chapter, to seal an engineering plan, specification, plat, or report.

This new section affects the requirements for engineering work set by any public or private entity, including but not limited to cities, counties, school districts, state agencies, private businesses, or any other groups or individuals that require seals on engineering work. These entities can not require a professional engineer licensed in Texas to obtain or possess any certifications in addition to their professional engineer license in order to perform or offer to perform engineering services.

Any current or future rule, regulation, code, or other requirement should be reviewed and modified if necessary to comply with the new statutory requirement.

The Texas Engineering Practice Act (TEPA) and Board Rules require that a license holder only practice engineering in areas in which they can demonstrate competency. If any licensed Texas professional engineer practices in an incompetent manner, practices outside of their area of competency, does not meet/follow applicable codes or regulations, or in some other manner violates the TEPA or Board Rules, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers should be notified.

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