

Advancing P.E. Licensure

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Starting September 1, 2015, licensed Professional Engineers will no longer pay the \$200 Professional Fee associated with license renewals.

Every two years the Texas Legislature meets to consider issues important to the state of Texas. Often, legislation is passed that impacts the practice of professional engineering. Sometimes the changes are minor tweaks to the Engineering Practice Act, and sometimes they have a sweeping effect like the Sunset Legislation passed in 2013.

This session is no different. Several bills were passed that impact P.E.'s in Texas (see page 3 for a full list), but I would like to highlight one change that will have a significant positive impact on the profession – both for current P.E.s and new licensees. I'm excited to announce that effective September 1, 2015, licensed Professional Engineers will no longer pay the \$200 Professional Fee associated with license renewals, applications for new P.E. licenses, or reactivation of licenses in inactive status.

For many Texas P.E.s, this will mean the annual renewal will be reduced from \$240 to \$40

annually. This fee change will be a substantial savings for both individual P.E.s as well as companies that employ and reimburse engineers for their renewals, and may reduce cost concerns for new engineers considering licensure. The change will be reflected automatically on your renewal statement, starting with the September 2015 renewal cycle.

In addition to this reduction in renewal fees, other savings have been realized by TBPE due to operational efficiencies and fiscal responsibility. Based on these savings and the removal of the professional fee, the Board has voted to re-balance our fee structure and reduce the late renewal fee from \$75 to \$40.

In addition to implementing legislative changes, the Board is hard at work with a focus on advancing P.E. licensure. This builds upon the 2015 Strategic Plan goal of increased visibility of the profession, licensure, and the Board. During our strategic plan review this year, the Board reviewed comments and input from our stakeholders and a major theme was encouraging engineers to become licensed – including students fresh out of school, Engineers-in-Training (EITs), as well as engineers in industry that have not already become licensed. We will be working to expand our outreach

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From the Executive Director

Improvements and Innovation

As part of our ongoing Journey Toward Excellence continuous improvement program based on the national Baldrige framework, TBPE has been actively engaged in improving every aspect of our agency – Customer Communications, Organizational Resource Development, and Process and Product Improvements – and we think it shows. These initiatives have been integrated into our strategic planning for the last several years, and unlike many organizations, we actually use our Strategic Plan daily to direct our project teams. TBPE Board and staff have brainstormed ideas and action plans, and then actively participate in executing the solutions. In this way, we have engaged our entire staff in improving our service for our customers and making TBPE a better place to work.

During the past year, our primary goal has been to improve agency visibility, communications, and engagement across customer and stakeholder groups. This was

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*Dr. Daniel O. Wong, Ph.D., P.E.
Chairman*

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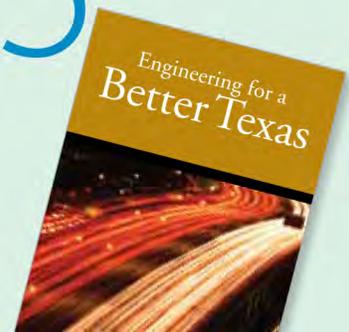
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and communications to these groups over the coming year, as well partnering with industry, universities, and engineering firms to encourage and promote professional engineering licensure and to understand the value of becoming a P.E.

To achieve this goal, the Board is considering several innovative programs to help address barriers to licensure while maintaining the high standards expected of Professional Engineers and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

These include decoupling of the PE exam and engineering experience (see page 7 for more information) and developing a new engineer advisory group to inform the Board on ways we can encourage licensure.

As I said in last year's newsletter, in order to continue to advance the profession of professional engineering and to better protect the public, we must make sure people know about the value engineers provide and the high standards that professional engineers represent. Encouraging engineers to become licensed is an important part of this process.

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a many-faceted goal with multiple audiences and messages. We explored many different methods and media, including expanding our very popular webinar program.

In 2013, TBPE experimented with delivering our ethics programs free and online to P.E.'s to meet their continuing education requirement. Since that time, we've added more and more events, providing 14 webinars and reaching over 9,500 P.E.s in FY15 alone. These webinars have been an excellent resource to communicate with engineers all over the state, the nation, and even Texas P.E.s that live abroad. In addition to the ethics webinars, we have added new offerings to target up-and-coming engineers – a webinar series aimed at engineering students that covers why to become licensed and provides information on the FE exam, and a webinar aimed specifically at Engineers-In-Training (EITs) that covers the details of how to fill out an application. More information on the TBPE webinar program can be found at <http://engineers.texas.gov/outreach>.

We have also developed high quality brochures that cover important information for our various constituencies (see page 15). These brochures can be downloaded at <http://www.engineers.gov/publications> and include items such as a flow-chart clarifying "When is a P.E. required on a project?," "How to Become a P.E.," and information on the Professional Services Procurement Act (PSPA). We can also send physical copies for distribution to your company or organization.

TBPE has also focused on other constituencies besides P.E.'s, EITs, and engineering students. During the last year, a primary audience was

governmental entities, such as municipalities and state agencies. These groups employ and engage with Professional Engineers on a regular basis. TBPE has been actively engaged in reaching out to cities, counties, and organizations through direct communications, presentations, and booth presence at events such as the TCEQ Annual Convention, Texas Municipal League Convention, and Building Officials of Texas Convention.

In addition to our outreach and visibility activities, TBPE staff have been working hard to improve our customer service, internal processes, and workplace engagement. Projects such as internal communications, performance measures, and online system improvements (see page 9), as well as our customer service and i3 (idea / innovation / improvement) teams have made substantial impacts on how TBPE operates and how we can better serve our customers.

While 2015 saw a number of improvements at TBPE, we have even bigger goals in 2016. As Dr. Wong mentioned in his article, the repeal of the \$200 professional fee, decoupling of the PE exam, an expansion of our webinar offerings, engagement with new engineers, and even more innovative improvements to our online systems should continue to enhance our service to our customers and the citizens of Texas.



—Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E.

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Legislative Summary



As with all odd-numbered years in Texas, 2015 brought with it a Legislative Session to Austin. The 84th Legislature of Texas made a few changes that will affect the engineering community. Unlike the 2013 session, we didn't have a Sunset Bill specifically for the Engineering Practice Act, but there were several bills that will have an impact on engineering in Texas:

ELIMINATED \$200 PROFESSIONAL FEE

- **House Bill 7** – Tax reduction was one of the popular efforts during this session. HB7 was aimed at reducing the financial burden on a number of professions. The great news for the engineering community is that effective September 1, 2015, engineers will no longer pay the \$200 Professional Fee associated with license renewals or initial licensure. All licensees will see the reduction automatically on renewal statements, starting with the September renewal cycle. In practical terms, this means that the renewal fee for all Texas P.E.s will be \$40. Several existing Board Rules will also be modified to accommodate the changes. The Board is excited to help implement this change which will have a significant effect on thousands of individuals and engineering firms in Texas.

OPTIONS FOR VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, AND MILITARY SPOUSES

- **Senate Bills 807 and 1307** – Another topic that was addressed with several bills this session was related to military and veteran licensure. The Legislature wanted to make sure that individuals who served the U.S. would receive as much benefit for that service as possible. These two bills will change the Board processes regarding licensing and renewal requirements for active duty military, veterans, and military spouses.

WINDSTORM PROGRAM CHANGES

- **House Bill 2439** – There were several bills this session related to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) Windstorm Insurance Program. Some of the other bills changed the structure and name of the program (it will be known as the Texas Coastal Insurance

Program), but this bill changed the Engineering Practice Act as well. Since the 2011 Texas Legislative session the Engineering Practice Act has contained a section regarding Windstorm Related Design Services. It established the process for the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to create and maintain a roster of engineers who are qualified to do Windstorm Design so those individuals could be appointed as inspectors by TDI. HB 2439 changed the Act by repealing the Windstorm Roster. There's ongoing discussion between TBPE and TDI about the implementation of the repeal. The change will require rule changes.

Some other bills that were passed that will have an effect on the engineering community, but won't require Board Rule changes include:

- **House Bill 2049** – This bill prohibits state and local government entities from issuing contracts with engineers that require a duty to defend.

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE LEGISLATION

- **House Bill 2167** – This bill modifies limitations regarding unmanned aerial vehicles to allow their use by engineers and surveyors in their professional practice as long as no people are visible in the images. This change will allow engineers and surveyors to safely access more remote locations.

STATE OF EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

- **House Bill 2358** – This bill contains provisions for exemptions from licensing during a declared state of emergency. It will allow faster response to imminent issues regarding infrastructure and public safety and welfare. Unlike many other bills, this law is effective immediately.

TIMELINE

Aug. 26-27, 2015	Necessary Rule Modifications Discussed by TBPE Board Members and Posted for Comments for 30 days at http://engineers.texas.gov/proposed.htm
Sept. 1, 2015	Statutory Changes Effective
Nov. 18-19, 2015	Earliest Adoption Date of Proposed Rules
Mid Dec., 2015	Earliest Effective Date of Proposed Rules

**Robert Lynn Spaw; Palacios, Texas;
Case Number: D-34673**

Violation: Spaw accepted employment and compensation from a homeowner to perform a windstorm inspection of the homeowner's residence at a time when he was not an appointed windstorm inspector by the Texas Department of Insurance. Despite repeated requests from the homeowner, Spaw refused to provide a refund and ultimately refused to communicate with the client. In addition, Spaw failed to respond to numerous Board inquiries about this matter. Following a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge of the State Office of Administrative Hearings, at which he failed to appear or respond, the Board issued a Final Order revoking Spaw's license.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.51(c), 137.57 (b) (1), (2) and (3), 137.63(a), 137.63 (b) (4) and (b) (5).

Resolution: Spaw's Texas engineer's license was revoked effective August 28, 2014.

**Thomas W. Keiss; Fort Worth,
Texas; Case Number: D-33982 and
D-35312**

Violation: Keiss failed to act as a faithful agent to his employer in that he used his employer's equipment and vehicle for his own business purposes, and, after his license was suspended over a different matter, he continued to practice engineering while he legally was unable to do so. To resolve the Board's case and because he no longer desired to hold a Texas engineer license, Johnson agreed to the voluntarily surrender and revocation of his Texas professional engineer license.

Section/Rule Violated: 1001.401 (c), 1001.405, 137.33 (n), 137.37(2), 137.77 (a) (d) and (h) and 137.63(b) (4).

Resolution: Keiss' Texas engineer license was revoked effective November 20, 2014.

**R. Kirk Gregory, P.E.; New
Braunfels, Texas; Case Number
D-34603**

Violation: Gregory prepared and presented to his client an engineering report/affidavit regarding the work of another engineer that contained misleading statements as well as unprofessional language in a comparison of the other engineers' experience.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.57(a) and (b), and 137.59 (c), 137.63 (b) (5).

Enforcement News Disciplinary & Administrative Actions

In the last fiscal year, the Board formally approved the following enforcement case actions during TBPE meetings based upon applicable rules in effect at the time of the violation. The Enforcement Staff and the Board considered each case and the ensuing sanction in light of case specific, unique facts and circumstances.

Resolution: Two years probated suspension added to an existing probated suspension, and a \$4,690.00 administrative penalty.

**James S. Barton, P.E.; Wylie, Texas;
Case Number: D-35122**

Violation: Barton was hired to prepare foundation repair and drainage plans by a client who became dissatisfied with the quality of the workmanship, and alleged that Barton had failed to personally supervise all of the repair/drainage work.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.57(b) (3), 137.63(b) (1), and 137.63(c) (6).

Resolution: Two year probated suspension, and a \$5,720.00 administrative penalty and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

**Joseph E. Tober, P.E.; San Antonio,
Texas; Case Number D-35313**

Violation: Tober failed to act as a faithful agent to his employer in that he used his employer's equipment for his own business purposes while still employed at the engineering firm, and thus failed to engage in professional business activities in an honest, truthful and ethical manner.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.63 (a) and 137.63 (b) (4) and (5).

Resolution: One year probated suspension, and a \$3,250.00 administrative penalty and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

**Ghassan M. Naddaf, Houston,
Texas; Case Number: D-35636**

Violation: Naddaf's Criminal History Record Check revealed a felony conviction with incarceration in 2010 which, under Chapter 53, Texas Occupations Code, requires mandatory revocation of his license. Naddaf signed an Order consenting to the revocation of his

license without any further procedural or substantive due process.

Section/Rule Violated: 139.43 (a) (3).

Resolution: Naddaf's Texas engineer license was revoked effective May 21, 2015.

**James C. Walter; Flower Mound,
Texas; Case Number: D-35587**

Violation: Walter used the designation "P.E." after his name and performed engineering work during a time when his license was expired. Because he no longer desired to practice engineering in Texas and to resolve a pending disciplinary case, Walter signed a Voluntary Surrender of his license which resulted in the revocation of his license.

Section/Rule Violated: Sections 1001.004(c)(2) (A) & (B) and 1001.301(a) of the Act and Board Rules 137.7(a) and 137.63(a).

Resolution: Walter's Texas engineer license was revoked effective May 21, 2015.

**Scott Jacobs; Las Vegas, Nevada;
Case Number: D-32235**

Violation: Jacobs, during a time when he was licensed to practice engineering in Texas, prepared engineering design work for the Dallas Cowboys Training Facility which subsequently collapsed during a violent weather event severely injuring several Dallas Cowboys personnel. The Board alleged several deficiencies in the engineering design, all of which Jacobs vigorously disputed. However, without admitting any wrongdoing, but desiring to resolve and end this disputed matter, Jacobs and the Board agreed to the terms and entry of an Agreed Board Order.

Section/Rule Violated: The Board alleged violations of Board Rules 137.55 (b), 137.57 (b) (3), 137.63 (b) (1) and 137.63 (b) (6).

Resolution: Jacobs agreed to pay

to the Board \$3,000.00 for the cost of the investigation and prosecution of the case, as well as a \$50,000.00 administrative penalty to the Board should Jacobs be found to have violated any states engineering rules or standards which involve the health, welfare or safety of such state's public during the ten year period following the entry of the Agreed Board Order and further agreed to not apply for licensure in Texas for five years following the entry of the Agreed Board Order.

**Atlas Foundation Repair; Houston,
Texas; Case Number: B-35566**

Violation: The Respondent applied the engineer seal and signature of a licensed Texas engineer to foundation plans without the engineer's knowledge or permission.

Section and Rule Violated: Sections 1001.004 (c) (2), 1001.301 (a), and 1001.405 of the Act and Board Rules 137.37 (b) and 137.77 (a), and (d).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$3,900.00 administrative penalty.

**DMA Sports Design Group; Lub-
bock, Texas; Case Number: B-35491**

Violation: The Respondent applied the engineer seal and signature of a licensed Texas engineer to engineering plans without the engineer's knowledge or permission.

Section and Rule Violated: Sections 1001.004 (c) (2), 1001.301 (a), and 1001.405 of the Act and Board Rules 137.37 (b) and 137.77 (a), and (d).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,800.00 administrative penalty.

**Phillip A. Townsend, AIA; Wichita
Falls, Texas; Case Number: B-35092**

Violation: Townsend, a registered architect, practiced engineering by signing and sealing with his Architect's seal engineering work on a parking lot design for storm water detention facilities. Townsend declined to sign any order with the Board, and, following a full contested hearing at the State Office of Administrative Hearings, the Administrative Law Judge found that Townsend had practiced engineering without a license and recommended a Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,000 administrative penalty. The Board accepted this recommendation.

Resolution: Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,000.00 administrative penalty.

Grenger Pei Yee Chang, P.E.; Sugar Land, Texas; Case Number D-35530

Violation: Chang falsely certified that he had completed the required Continuing Education credits on his last license renewal when he had not done so and failed to timely respond to Board inquiries.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.17(c), (m) and (p) (2) and (3), and 137.51 (c).

Resolution: Two years probated suspension, and a \$4,000.00 administrative penalty.

Phillip E. Johnson, P.E.; Houston, Texas; Case Number: D-35250

Violation: Johnson signed and sealed engineering work and failed to include his firm registration as well the fact that his firm registration had expired. Thus, Johnson aided and abetted another entity in the unauthorized practice of engineering.

Section/Rule Violated: 1001.401(c); 137.33(n), 137.51(d), 137.55(c), 137.63(a), 137.63(b)(2), and (b) (3) and 137.77 (a), (d), (e) and (h).

Resolution: Two year probated suspension, and a \$2,000.00 administrative penalty and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

Graham B. Luhn, AIA; Houston, Texas; Case Number B-35404

Violation: Luhn, a registered architect, practiced engineering by signing and sealing with his Architect's seal engineering work on building renovation plans.

Resolution: Cease and Desist Order and a \$3,000.00 administrative penalty.

Pro Select Foundation Repairs; Arlington, Texas; Case Number B-35150

Violation: Pro Select submitted foundation repair plans bearing the name and seal of a Texas licensed professional engineer who did not prepare or perform the work, and who did not authorize the use of his seal or signature on those plans.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.004(c) (2) (A) and (C), 1001.301(a) and (c), 1001.405 of the Act, and Board Rules 137.37 (b), and 137.77 (a), and (d).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$3,900.00 administrative penalty.

Stephen L. Butler, AIA; Canyon, Texas; Case Number B-34815

Violation: Butler signed and sealed numerous plan sheets for a school project which contained sheets that involved engineering work. Although Butler believed that engineers would sign and seal those sheets, this did not occur, and the plans were released with only his architect's seal.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.004(c) (2) (A), 1001.301(a), 1001.405 of the Act, and Board Rules 137.77 (a), and (d).

Resolution: \$2,600.00 administrative penalty.

Dr. Curtis L. Lewis, PhD.; Arlington, Texas; Case Number E-35262

Violation: Lewis caused and/or allowed to be prepared a website and business cards/office stationery listing himself as a "P.E." able to perform engineering services when he was not licensed by the Board as a professional engineer.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.004 (c) (2) (B) and (c), and section 1001.301 (b) and (c).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$3,250.00 administrative penalty.

Adam Jones; Dallas, Texas; Case Number B-34834

Violation: Jones allowed and/or caused to be prepared numerous design/plan sheets for electrical engineering work bearing a rendition of the Texas engineer seal of a licensed Texas P.E. who had not done the work or given any person permission to use a likeness of her engineer seal. The plans were submitted to the City of Dallas for permitting purposes

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.004(c) (2) (A) and (C), 1001.301(a) and (c), 1001.405 of the Act, and Board Rules 137.33(a), 137.37 (b), and 137.77 (a), and (d).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,600.00 administrative penalty.

Joel Boado; Missouri City, Texas; Case Number B-35096

Violation: Boado allowed and/or caused to be prepared numerous design/plan sheets for engineering work bearing a rendition of the Texas engineer seal of a licensed Texas P.E. who had not done the work or given any person permission to use a likeness of his engineer seal. The plans were submitted to the City of Texas City for permitting purposes

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.004(c) (2) (A) and (C), 1001.301(a) and (c), 1001.405 of the Act, and Board Rules 137.33(a), 137.37 (b), and 137.77 (a), and (d).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,600.00 administrative penalty.

Karl Koppany; Arlington, Texas; Case Number E-33738

Violation: Koppany recklessly allowed a listing of himself in his firm's material as a "qualified engineer" when he was not licensed by the Board as a professional engineer.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.004 (c) (2) (B) and (c), and section 1001.301 (b) and (c).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$1,590.00 administrative penalty.

Clay Schlinke; San Antonio, Texas; Case Number B-34352

Violation: Schlinke submitted numerous city forms for residential inspections to the City of San Antonio bearing the name and seal of a Texas licensed professional engineer who did not prepare or perform the work and who did not authorize the use of his seal or signature.

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,600.00 administrative penalty.

Everett A. Horton; Huntersville, North Carolina; Case Number: D-34632

Violation: Horton was disciplined by another state in which he held an engineer license. Board Rule 137.65 authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against a Texas licensed engineer if the acts in the other state which resulted in a disciplinary action would also violate the Texas Engineering Practice Act or Board rules if done in Texas. To resolve the Board's disciplinary action against him, Horton agreed to the voluntary surrender and revocation of his Texas professional engineer license.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.65.

Resolution: Horton's Texas engineer's license was revoked effective May 21, 2014.

Norman A. Ofstad; Dallas, Texas; Case Number D-34692

Violation: Ofstad falsely certified that he had completed the required Continuing Education credits on his last license renewal. Following an

audit in which he admitted to not have taken the Continuing Education because he thought he was exempt due to his age, he agreed to the voluntarily surrender and revocation of his Texas professional engineer license.

Section/Rule Violated: 137. 17 (p)
Resolution: Ofstad's Texas engineer's license was revoked effective May 21, 2014.

Thomas P. McDill, P.E.; Austin, Texas; Case Number: D-34318

Violation: McDill's firm registration expired on August 31, 2012 and his personal license expired on December 31, 2012. During the expired period after December 31, 2012, McDill signed and sealed engineering work when he was not authorized to do so. Following a hearing at the State Office of Administrative Hearings, the Board approved a Final Board Order imposing a one year probated suspension of McDill's Texas engineer's license, and a \$1,500.00 administrative penalty. This Order is on appeal in District Court.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.77 (a) (2), and 137.77 (d) and 137.33(n).

Resolution: One year probated suspension, and a \$1,500.00 administrative penalty.

Raul P. Flores, P.E.; Harlingen, Texas; Case Number: D-33569

Violation: Flores' professional engineer's license expired on December 31, 2009. During the expired period after December 31, 2009, Flores signed and sealed engineering work when he was not authorized to do so.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.77 (a).

Resolution: One year probated suspension, a \$1,000.00 administrative penalty, and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

Mark E. Berg, P.E.; Los Angeles, California; Case Number D-34817

Violation: Berg failed to timely notify the Board of a misdemeanor conviction and indicated on his renewal form that he had not been convicted of an offense since his last renewal.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.5 (c), and 137.63 (a).

Resolution: Formal Reprimand effective May 21, 2014, and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

Marcus C. Gibson, P.E.; Charlotte, North Carolina; Case Number D-34539

Violation: Gibson was disciplined by another state in which he held an engineer license. Board Rule 137.65 authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against a Texas licensed engineer if the acts in the other state which resulted in a disciplinary action would also violate the Texas Engineering Practice Act or Board rules if done in Texas. **Section/Rule Violated:** 137.65. **Resolution:** Formal Reprimand effective May 21, 2014.

Jason Seaverson; Fuquay Varina, North Carolina; Case Number D-35069

Violation: Seaverson was disciplined by another state for performing engineering work in that state while his engineer license was expired. This involves Rule 137.65 which authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against a Texas licensed engineer if the acts in the other state which resulted in a disciplinary action would also violate the Texas Engineering Practice Act or Board rules if done in Texas. To resolve the Board's case and because he no longer desired to hold a Texas engineer license, Seaverson agreed to the voluntarily surrender and revocation of his Texas professional engineer license. **Section/Rule Violated:** 137.65 (b) **Resolution:** Seaverson's Texas engineer's license was revoked effective August 28, 2014.

Ricky D. Herring, P.E.; Ft. Worth, Texas; Case Number: D-35268

Violation: Herring certified that he had completed the required hours of continuing education on his license renewal form; however upon being selected for a random audit, Herring could not produce any documentation of courses taken and admitted that he had taken none. **Section/Rule Violated:** 137.17 (p) (2), and 137.17 (p) (3). **Resolution:** Two year probated suspension, and a \$4,000.00 administrative penalty.

Victorio B. Tan, P.E.; Spring, Texas; Case Number: D-34694

Violation: Tan certified that he had completed the required hours of continuing education on his license renewal form; however upon being selected for a random audit, Tan could not produce any documentation of course taken and stated that

since he was over 65, he thought he was exempt.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.17 (p) (2), and 137.17 (p) (3), 137.51 (c) and 137.63(a).

Resolution: Two year probated suspension, a \$2,100.00 administrative penalty.

Jameel Z. Hattab, P.E.; Houston, Texas; Case Number D-35282

Violation: Hattab failed to timely notify the Board of a criminal conviction and indicated on his renewal form that he had not been convicted of an offense since his last renewal.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.5 (c), 137.57(c) and (d), and 137.63 (a), 137.63 (b) (4) and (b) (5).

Resolution: One year probated suspension, and a \$3,380.00 administrative penalty and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

Paul Adeyeoluwa, P.E.; Mesquite, Texas; Case Number: D-34906

Violation: Adeyeoluwa was contacted by another engineer whose personal engineer license was suspended and asked to seal work done by the first engineer. After being assured by the first engineer that such action was legal since Adeyeoluwa was working part-time for the first engineer, he did so. However, the first engineer's firm registration was inactive, although Adeyeoluwa mistakenly thought it was active, and therefore the registration number could not legally be used. Further, since Adeyeoluwa was only working part-time (as work was presented) and was not a full-time employee, he could not seal the work of the first engineer. **Section/Rule Violated:** 137.33 (n), 137.57(b) (3), 137.63(b) (3), and 137.63(c) (1).

Resolution: One year probated suspension, and a \$1,300.00 administrative penalty and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

Andrew J. Osborne, Jr., P.E.; Duncanville, Texas; Case Number D-34697

Violation: Osborne failed to timely notify the Board of a criminal conviction and indicated on his renewal form that he had not been convicted of an offense since his last renewal.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.5 (c), and 137.63 (a).

Resolution: Formal Reprimand effective August 28, 2014, and

completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

Sam C. Joe, P.E.; Ft. Worth, Texas; Case Number D-35076

Violation: Joe signed and sealed engineering plans but failed to put his firm title block and registration number on the plans.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.33 (n) and 137.77(a).

Resolution: Formal Reprimand effective August 28, 2014, a \$975.00 administrative penalty and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

Jen-Gwo Chen; Sugarland, Texas; Case Number: D-34046

Violation: Chen certified that he had completed the required hours of continuing education on his license renewal form; however upon being selected for a random audit, Chen could not produce any documentation of courses taken, and aside from one brief contact with the Board, failed to respond to numerous Board inquiries about this matter. Following a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge of the State Office of Administrative Hearings, at which he failed to appear or respond, the Board issued a Final Order revoking Chen's license.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.17 (p) (2), and 137.17 (p) (3).

Resolution: Chen's Texas engineer license was revoked effective November 20, 2014.

Brian W. Johnson; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Case Number: D-35138

Violation: Johnson was convicted of a felony in the State of Colorado, and was sentenced to four years in Community Corrections (a non-incarceration setting) and 20 years to life of intensely supervised probation. To resolve the Board's case and because he no longer desired to hold a Texas engineer license, Johnson agreed to the voluntarily surrender and revocation of his Texas professional engineer license.

Section/Rule Violated: 139.43(b).

Resolution: Johnson's Texas engineer license was revoked effective November 20, 2014.

Octavio N. Guerra, P.E.; Houston, Texas; Case Number D-35334

Violation: Guerra failed to act as a faithful agent to his employer in that he used his employer's equipment for his own business purposes while still employed at the

engineering firm, and thus failed to engage in professional business activities in an honest, truthful and ethical manner.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.63 (a) and 137.63 (b) (4) and (5).

Resolution: One year probated suspension, and a \$2,800.00 administrative penalty and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

William Dahlin, P.E.; Arlington, Texas; Case Number D-35398

Violation: Dahlin was disciplined by another state in which he held an engineer license. Board Rule 137.65 authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against a Texas licensed engineer if the acts in the other state which resulted in a disciplinary action would also violate the Texas Engineering Practice Act or Board rules if done in Texas.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.65.

Resolution: Formal Reprimand effective November 20, 2014.

James J. Porebski, P.E.; Pompano Beach, Florida; Case Number D-35260

Violation: Porebski was disciplined by another state in which he held an engineer license. Board Rule 137.65 authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against a Texas licensed engineer if the acts in the other state which resulted in a disciplinary action would also violate the Texas Engineering Practice Act or Board rules if done in Texas. **Section/Rule Violated:** 137.65. **Resolution:** Formal Reprimand effective November 20, 2014.

Desmond C. Sprawls, P.E.; Shreveport, Louisiana; Case Number D-35492

Violation: Sprawls was disciplined by another state in which he held an engineer license. Board Rule 137.65 authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against a Texas licensed engineer if the acts in the other state which resulted in a disciplinary action would also violate the Texas Engineering Practice Act or Board rules if done in Texas. **Section/Rule Violated:** 137.65. **Resolution:** Formal Reprimand effective November 20, 2014.

Continued on page 10

Engaging New Engineers - Decoupling PE Exam and Experience

The system of licensing and regulation of Professional Engineers protects the health, safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring the technical competency and professional and ethical behavior of practitioners. Because of the increased accountability, ethics expectations, and continuing education requirements, among other things, it is generally held that the public is better protected if more practicing engineers are licensed under this framework. Therefore, it is important to consider ways to encourage and facilitate engineering students and new engineers to pursue licensure.

Based on recent national data from the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), we know that many engineering graduates start on the path toward licensure but do not complete the process. The data indicates that only 45% of civil engineering graduates of six of the largest engineering programs in the US actually take the PE exam for licensure. The number decreases sharply to only 15% for Electrical and Mechanical graduates and is even lower for other disciplines. This may be due in part to the combination of waiting to take the PE exam as the “final hurdle” of the licensing process and other factors such as industrial exemptions. Promoting licensure of qualified engineers at early stages of an engineering career will keep a larger number engaged in the process.

In an effort to address this, several states in the US have implemented a concept being referred to as “decoupling” – separating the PE examination and experience requirements for licensure. Decoupling allows the PE exam to be taken during the time that engineering experience is being obtained instead of after. By allowing the process to be more flexible, potential licensees could take the PE exam at a self-selected, optimum time instead of only after a set period of time. The hope is that this flexibility will keep more engineering graduates and Engineers-In-Training engaged in the

licensure process and result in more qualified licensed engineers.

In 2013 / 2014, the member boards of NCEES voted to change the Model Law requirements to allow states that wish to do so, to offer the PE exam to be taken prior to meeting the normal four year experience requirement. During the discussions at that time, there were questions raised about the concept.

It is important to consider ways to encourage and facilitate engineering students and new engineers to pursue licensure without reducing the requirements for licensure.

Jerry Carter, Chief Executive Officer for NCEES, addresses some of those issues in an article he wrote entitled Decoupling Experience: an evolution of the model for Licensure Exchange, August 2014:

For a number of years, several NCEES member boards have been allowing candidates to take the PE exam before completing the four years of required progressive engineering experience. Candidates may take the PE prior to gaining the required experience, but licensure is not awarded until all three elements (education, experience, and examination) have been attained. Anecdotally, we have heard that few candidates take the PE exam immediately upon successful completion of

the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam and that most generally obtain two to three years of experience before tackling the PE. Certainly, there are candidates who might be able to take and pass the PE prior to gaining actual experience, but the experience element is still required prior to a candidate obtaining a license as a professional engineer.

There were a number of compelling reasons for the Council to approve this action, but the most significant one to me was the number of missed opportunities by so many candidates who successfully completed the FE exam but never took the PE exam. Upon graduation, many candidates enter fields that do not traditionally require licensure as a professional engineer or obtain jobs with companies that do not support licensure. Allowing candidates to take the PE exam after completion of the FE exam but prior to obtaining the four years of experience will keep more candidates in the licensure pipeline.

The PE exam remains one of the essential qualifying credentials for licensure as it measures technical competence in a given field. Equally important are engineering experience and professional references which support an applicant’s professional practice, ethics, and character. With decoupling, all of these will remain in place. It is critical to point out that this change would not result in a reduction of the requirements for licensure – it is not a shortcut. All three components for licensure - Education, Experience and Exams - must still be completed prior to a license being granted. The goal is to allow the applicant some flexibility in how those components are obtained.

If implemented, this change could be in place and affect applicants in 2016. Rule changes would be required and are on the following schedule: The Board will be considering this new model again at its November 2015 meetings and may approve the associated rule changes to be published in the Texas Register for an official comment period. The earliest possible adoption date would be at the Board’s February 2016 meetings with a potential effective date of mid-March.



FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED— Benefits to Becoming a Professional Engineer

In a strategic planning session with management, the TBPE Board Members emphasized a main objective for the next year is to encourage the licensure of qualified licensed professional engineers in Texas. A recent study by NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying) revealed that many engineering graduates choose to not take the first step towards licensure by taking the fundamentals of engineering (FE) exam. A subset of those that pass the FE exam choose to obtain an EIT certification. Fewer still eventually take and pass the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam to become a licensed professional

engineer. In order to encourage more qualified individuals to become licensed P.E.s, the Board has directed TBPE staff to increase its outreach to new engineers and Engineers-In-Training (EITs), including reminders about the benefits of licensure.

The overarching benefit to licensure is the expectation of professionalism. By having the qualifications and obtaining the license, you have demonstrated your capabilities and obligated yourself to a higher technical, ethical, and professional standard of excellence. You are expected to pursue continued education in the profession and an ethical code of conduct that is enforced by

rule of law.

Many employers demand this level of excellence, even when it is not a legal requirement. At a recent NCEES meeting, the director of engineering at a nuclear power generating station addressed the represented engineering and surveying state boards. He stated the electric utility he works for requires all engineers to have or obtain their P.E. licenses even though there is no legal obligation. In addition to the desire for a very high level of technical expertise, the management team wants employees that expect more of themselves and choose to be held to a higher standard.

In response to the Board's charge, TBPE staff has reached out to targeted groups, e.g. college students, recent engineering graduates, and those preparing to the PE exam, through online webinars and live presentations. TBPE staff has also made live presentations at college campuses and professional conferences around the state. New informational brochures giving an overview of the Board history and function as well as what it means to be a licensed PE are provided to attendees to reinforce the message. We encourage you to download these brochures from our website and share them with engineering students or new engineers. (<http://www.engineers.texas.gov/publications.html>)

In the last year, the TBPE has developed and piloted several new webinars. One webinar is tailored to upper-level engineering students and recent engineering graduates

explaining what professional licensure is and what doors are opened as a result. For those that are closer to qualifying for licensure, a customized webinar and presentation have been developed as guidance through the licensing application process. The material clarifies many of the requirements and addresses many of the myths and misconceptions regarding completing and submitting the necessary materials.

The webinars are free and open to anyone. The webinar schedule is on our website at <http://engineers.texas.gov/webinars.html>. You can also book an on-site presentation by one of our staff at <http://engineers.texas.gov/outreach.html>.

Another barrier to licensure has been addressed thanks to the conversion of the FE exam to a computer based testing format. The FE exam is offered throughout the year and exam results are provided much quicker.

Lastly, TBPE is also working on decoupling the PE exam and engineering experience, thereby allowing engineering applicants to take both required exams when they are ready while still requiring the same high standard of experience and reference statements prior to licensure (see page 7 for more information.)

By reaching out to thousands of potential licensees annually, TBPE staff hopes to encourage more qualified candidates to make the choice to hold themselves to a higher standard. As licensure increases, the profession grows in stature and society as whole benefits. TBPE encourages all licensed P.E.s and E.I.T.s to encourage others to move towards this goal.

TBPE Upgrades Online Renewal System

Now you can renew your license easily from your desktop at work or from your smart phone.

As part of our ongoing customer service improvement projects, TBPE has made improvements to the Engineer's Cash Handling Online (ECHO) system in order to make the license renewal experience streamlined and easier to use. The new look allows for better accessibility, and the improved process flow guides the customer to update contact and personal information. The enhancements employ responsive design so whether you access your ECHO account from your desktop, tablet, or mobile device, the interface makes the adjustments for your ease and convenience. Now you can renew your license easily from your desktop at work or from your smart phone.

The online renewal process prompts users to review and update current contact and employment information. There is no need to email TBPE staff or fill out a paper form. Just enter the information once in the online system.

After reviewing and making any necessary changes to contact and employment information, the user is guided to select communication preferences. This lets the Board know how you would

like to receive updates on engineering news, important announcements, or information about your license or account. The customer can select to receive information electronically, via mail, or any combination. For example, you can opt to receive the TBPE annual newsletter electronically, saving on resources and mailing costs. You may also download and printout a paper pocket card at any time, or you can opt to continue to receive a physical pocket card in the mail.

As in the previous system design, before the user can complete the license renewal process, he or she is guided to a set of attestation statements that must be reviewed. This is the last step before the license renewal payment process is initiated.

TBPE always looks to improve our customers' experience with our website, staff interaction, or with the Board. We hope the recent improvements in the ECHO system interface achieve that goal. We rely upon your input to continue in that direction. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can make improvements, please feel free to let us know.



TBPE New Staff. Five new smiling faces recently joined the staff at TBPE. Pictured in clockwise order from the left are: Jeff Rodriguez, programmer; Morgen Cuming, J.D., staff attorney; Ranitra Johnson, licensing specialist; Jessica Hernandez, licensing specialist and Robert Opiela, P.E., director of licensing.



TBPE Recognized Employees. Several times each year, employees are recognized for exemplary service to the Board. Recently recognized employees pictured from left to right are Val Olfers, investigator; Mason Schoolfield, lead systems developer; Jessica Hernandez, licensing specialist; and Delia Ramirez, receptionist.



TBPE Recognized for Donations to Charity. On February 12, 2015, TBPE staff members Dorothy Gonzales, executive assistant (center) and Suzanne Retiz, PHR, HR specialist (left), accepted the Highest Percent Participation Award for State Agencies with 26-50 Employees from Janette Gibreal, chair at the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC). SECC was created by Texas Legislation in 1993. Through the efforts and generosity of state employees, the campaign donated over \$9 million to charitable organizations in 2014.

Continued from pg 6

William T. Manning, Jr., LaPorte, Texas; Case Number: D-35405

Violation: Manning's Criminal History Record Check revealed a felony conviction with incarceration in 2005 which, under Chapter 53, Texas Occupations Code, requires mandatory revocation of his license.

Section/Rule Violated: 139.43 (a) (3).

Resolution: Manning's Texas engineer license was revoked effective February 12, 2015, and by the same Order, he was issued a new license on February 12, 2015.

Kent D. Tompkins, Carrollton, Texas; Case Number: D-35103

Violation: Tompkins issued an engineer's letter certifying that foundation repairs had been made in accordance with the contract between the home owner and the foundation repair company. However, not all the certified repairs had been made to the property.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.33(f), 137.57(a), 137.57(b)(3), 137.63(b)(5) and 137.63(b)(6).

Resolution: Three year probated suspension, a \$3,000.00 administrative penalty and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

Humberto A. Garcia; Houston, Texas; Case Number: D-35267

Violation: Garcia falsely certified that he had completed the required Continuing Education credits on his last license renewal when he had not done so and failed to timely respond to Board inquires. Because he no longer desired to practice engineering in Texas and to resolve a pending disciplinary case, Garcia signed a Voluntary Surrender of his license which resulted in the revocation of his license.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.17(c), (m) and (p) (2) and (3), and 137.51 (c).

Resolution: Garcia's Texas engineer license was revoked effective May 21, 2015.

Thomas H. Eikel, P.E.; Houston, Texas; Case Number: D-35576

Violation: Eikel signed and sealed engineering work certifying that the work had been completed as designed which was incorrect and thus misleading.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.57(b) (3).

Resolution: One year probated suspension, and a \$1,000.00 administrative penalty.

Edward L. Sample, P.E.; Corpus Christi, Texas; Case Number: D-35571

Violation: Sample signed and sealed a Windstorm Inspection Form, WPI-2-BC-5 engineering work certifying that a roof repair meet all requirements to be certified as eligible for insurance through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association. However, upon inspection by the Texas Department of Insurance, it was determined that the work had not been completed as designed and was not eligible for certification and thus Sample's certification was misleading.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.57(b) (3).

Resolution: Formal Reprimand, and a \$1,950.00 administrative penalty.

William R. Edwards, III, P.E.; Dallas, Texas; Case Number: D-35614

Violation: Edwards failed to notify in a timely manner (with 30 days as required by Board Rule 137.5 (c)) of his conviction for misdemeanor offenses and on his license renewal indicated he either had no convictions or had reported any such convictions to the Board which statement was false.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.5 (c) and 137.63(a).

Resolution: Formal Reprimand, and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

John D. Johns, P.E.; Evergreen, Colorado; Case Number: D-35621

Violation: Johns failed to properly seal engineering work for a Texas project by allowing his seal to be placed on repetitive plan sheets used by a builder to build multiple different houses.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.33 (f) and (n) and 137.35.

Resolution: A \$500.00 administrative penalty, and completion within six months of an engineering ethics course.

OSG Materials Consultants; Houston, Texas; Case Number: B-35620

Violation: The Respondent's website exhibited the words "Materials Engineering" and "Welding Engineering" which represented that the Respondent was able to offer engineering services to the public of Texas when Respondent was not registered with the Board as an engineering firm nor did it have a licensed Texas professional engineer as a full time employee.

Section and Rule Violated: 1001.405 of the Act and Board Rule and 137.77 (a), and (d).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$3,000.00 administrative penalty.

ACW Engineering and Consultants; Houston, Texas; Case Number B-35251

Violation: During a period of time when the firm's registration was expired the firm offered to and did perform engineering work for the public of Texas.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$1,500.00 administrative penalty.

Site and Field Engineering; Houston, Texas; Case Number B-34067

Violation: During a period of time when the firm's registration was expired the firm offered to perform engineering work for the public of Texas.

Section and Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$250.00 administrative penalty.

Jason Blevins; Houston, Texas; Case Number E-35354

Violation: Blevins prepared and submitted to an electronic media site a profile that included "P.E." after his name. While Blevins had previously been a professional engineer in Virginia, he no longer was, nor was Blevins licensed in Texas and therefore his use of "P.E." after his name was improper.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.004(c) (2) (B) and (C), 1001.301(b) and (c).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,250.00 administrative penalty.

Reddy Engineers and Constructors, Inc.; Houston, Texas; Case Number B-34982

Violation: During a period of time when the firm's registration was expired the firm offered to perform engineering work for the public of Texas.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A \$250.00 administrative penalty.

Time Marine; Houston, Texas; Case Number B-35211

Violation: Time Marine accepted, performed and provided engineering services for eight Texas engineering projects at a time when it did not have a current firm regis-

tration or a currently licensed Texas P.E. as a full-time employee.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and Board Rules 137.37 (b), and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,600.00 administrative penalty.

David Kizer; Carrollton, Texas; Case Number B-34944

Violation: Kizer altered retaining wall plans drawn by a Texas P.E. by substituting the name of a new and different project onto those plans and submitting the altered plans to building officials. Kizer was not licensed by the Board nor was his firm registered with the Board.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.004(c) (2) (A) and (C), 1001.301(a) and (c), 1001.405 of the Act, and Board Rules 137.37 (b), and 137.77 (a) and (d).

Resolution: A \$2,680.00 administrative penalty.

Mark Adas; Gilmer, Texas; Case Number B-35257

Violation: Adas caused and/or allowed to be prepared a resume and business cards listing himself as a "P.E." when he was not licensed by the Board as a professional engineer although he did hold a professional engineer license in another state.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.004 (c) (2) (B) and (c), and section 1001.301 (b) and (c).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,500.00 administrative penalty.

Spectrum Engineering; Amarillo, Texas; Case Number B-34759

Violation: During a period of time when the firm's registration had expired the firm offered to perform and did actually perform engineering work for the public of Texas.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A \$750.00 administrative penalty.

Bruno Maciejewski dba Big M Constructors; Houston, Texas; Case Number B-34983

Violation: During a period of time when the firm's registration was expired the firm offered to perform and did actually perform engineering work for the public of Texas.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A \$750.00 administrative penalty.

The Brandt Companies, LLC;
Carrollton, Texas; Case Number
B-34918

Violation: During a period of time when the firm's registration was expired the firm offered to perform engineering work for the public of Texas.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A \$250.00 administrative penalty.

Berg-Oliver Associates, Inc.;
Houston, Texas; Case Number
B-35188

Violation: During a period of time when the firm did not have a full time licensed engineer employee the firm offered to perform engineering work for the public of Texas through its website.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A \$250.00 administrative penalty.

Kastel Consulting; Austin, Texas;
Case Number B-34945

Violation: During a period of time when the firm's registration had expired the firm offered to perform engineering work for the public of Texas.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A \$250.00 administrative penalty.

A-Tec Engineers and Contractors;
Friendswood, Texas; Case Number
B-34984

Violation: During a period of time when the firm's registration had expired the firm offered to perform engineering work for the public of Texas.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A \$250.00 administrative penalty.

SpecPro, Inc., Inc.; San Antonio,
Texas; Case Number B-34824

Violation: During a period of time when the firm did not have a full time licensed engineer employee the firm offered to perform engineering work for the public of Texas through its website.

Section/Rule Violated: Section 1001.405 and 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: A \$250.00 administrative penalty.

William Campbell; Houston, Texas;
Case Number B-34566

Violation: Campbell's firm registration expired on September 31, 2011. During the expired period after September 31, 2011, the firm continued to offer to perform engineering work when it was not authorized to do so.

Section/Rule Violated: 137.77 (a), (d) and (e).

Resolution: \$650.00 administrative penalty.

Strat Core dba Pinnacle Environ-
mental; Ft. Worth, Texas; Case
Number E-34762

Violation: Strat Core performed or provided unlawful engineering services for the public of Texas through its submittal of at least three Limited Subsurface Investigation Reports (LSIR) without having a regular full-time employee licensed as a Texas professional engineer, and by allowing or permitting an unlicensed person to sign such engineering work, and by being registered as a Texas engineering firm without having a regular full-time employee licensed as a Texas professional engineer.

Violation: 1001.004(c) (2)(A), (B), and (C), 1001.301(a) (b) and (c) and 1001.405 of the Act and Board Rules 137.77(a) (b) and (d).

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$1,000.00 administrative penalty.

Gary L. Ragsdale; Humble, Texas;
Case Number E-33839

Violation: Ragsdale allowed or caused to be prepared a resume that included "P.E." after his name, and that listed himself as a "professional engineer" licensed in the state of Texas which he was not.

Resolution: A Cease and Desist Order and a \$2,760.00 administrative penalty.

2W3 Consulting Engineers;
Ft. Worth, Texas; Case Number
B-34705

Violation: During a period of time when the firm's registration had expired the firm offered to perform and did actually perform engineering work for the public of Texas.

Resolution: A \$750.00 administrative penalty.

CRIMINAL HISTORY Record Check Update

From March of 2014 and continuing through the last renewals in December, roughly 46,000 P.E.s had their fingerprints taken for the CHRC. Also during that year, approximately 4,200 new applicants went through the process. Almost 91% of those individuals had no criminal records at all.

As most of you know, the Texas Legislature just finished a session on June 1, 2015. This seems like an appropriate time to look back at the previous session and give an update on the implementation activities since then. One of the most significant bills for the Texas Board of Professional Engineers during the 2013 legislative session was Senate Bill 204, which was the Sunset bill for the agency. The bill reauthorized the agency for another 12 years and made some changes to the Board's enforcement authority. The most contentious change made by the Sunset Bill was the requirement for all active license holders and new applicants to obtain a fingerprint-based Criminal History Record Check (CHRC) beginning January 1, 2014.

After the bill was effective, the Board developed the implementation process and communicated with the 59,000 licensed Texas Professional Engineers through direct emails, quarterly eNewsletters, a printed newsletter and many one-on-one outreach events.

The bill required the Board to use the existing process through the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and its vendor, MorphoTrust. TBPE staff worked directly with DPS and MorphoTrust to develop the necessary processes and procedures. Once these were established, the step-by-step instructions and forms were posted on the website.

Starting with the first renewal quarter in March of 2014 and continuing through the last renew-

als in December, roughly 46,000 P.E.s had their fingerprints taken for the CHRC. Also during that year, approximately 4,200 new applicants went through the process. Almost 91% of those individuals had no criminal records at all.

For the remaining 9% or 4,300 records, TBPE was able to view the records in the online DPS system. For security reasons, TBPE did not import the criminal record data. As the records were reviewed, each conviction was compared to a Board approved policy to determine required action. A similar process was performed for each new license applicant with judgments.

Of the 50,000 individuals that went through the CHRC process, there were 6 enforcement cases opened against licensees and over 30 applicants who had to satisfy additional requirements prior to approval.

The Board appreciates the cooperation of the professional engineering community in implementing this legislative requirement. While this process is still in place for new applicants and reactivation of inactive licenses, the overwhelming majority of the record checks have been completed.

Please note, the CHRC process is a one-time requirement. If you have submitted your fingerprints for a PE license renewal or for a PE application, you have met the requirement.



Profiles in Professional Engineering

Becoming licensed as a Professional Engineer is an important milestone an engineer's career. In our outreach presentations, we are often asked why it is important to become a P.E. We have found that the best answers to these questions come from practicing Professional Engineers themselves – folks who are in the field doing engineering on a day-to-day basis. So we have asked a cross section of P.E.'s for their insight into why someone should become a licensed Professional Engineer. Here's what they have to say.

**Jose Guerra, P.E.,
TBPE Emeritus Board Member**
*Licensed in 1963 –
Structural Engineering –
Austin, TX*



Why did you become a P.E.?

"As a student, I started working part-time for a consulting structural engineer as a draftsman and learned that all of our projects had to be signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer. Also, most of my professors were licensed Professional Engineers and they encouraged their students to pursue a license. Six years after graduation, I felt that I had the required experience, so I submitted my application and I received my license. At that time, the Texas Engineering Practice Act did not require the FE or PE exams."

How has being a P.E. been a benefit / helped you in your career?

"My career as a consulting engineer would not have been possible without a P.E. License. All of our clients, both public and private, require that all our documents be signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer."

What does being a P.E. mean to you?

"I am proud to have a credential in a profession that adheres to the highest standards of honesty and integrity, and is dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare."

What advice would you give a young engineer considering licensure?

"Your work experience is very important in the application for your license. Keep a detailed log of all your work and the names of references. You will be required to show in your application at least 4 years of credible design work experience under the direction of a P.E."

Paula deWitte, Ph.D., P.E.
*Licensed in 2005 – Software
Engineering – Houston, TX*



"At the time I graduated from high school, women – such as myself – with high math SAT scores were encouraged to become mathematics teachers. I did not know an engineer – beyond my high school algebra teacher who left aeronautical engineering to become a teacher. I did not know what engineers did. I knew very few female engineering students at Purdue University although now, Purdue University leads the nation in graduating female engineers."

When I was studying for my Ph.D. in Computer Science in the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University, I worked in an industrial engineering laboratory researching the next generation of expert or knowledge based systems in manufacturing and logistics, unarguably engineering domains. The common thread throughout my life-long work experience is that I actively work with engineers—mechanical, electrical, industrial, aerospace, software, and civil. Yet, I constantly hear that "software engineers aren't real engineers." That motivated me to obtain my Professional Engineering license.

As one of a handful of licensed P.E.s in SWE (Software Engineering), I want software engineering to be a solid engineering discipline supported with professional standards required for all Software Engineers. The mission of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers is to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of Texas citizens. Software "glitches" such as those on July 8, 2015, which caused United Airlines to ground its entire fleet and the New York Stock Exchange to suspend trading or the recent cyberattacks, are indicative of the need for professionally licensed software engineers. The software underlying our infrastructure is critical to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens—in both Texas and the U.S.

Honor your profession and join the team of professionally licensed engineers!"

Drew Harnish, P.E.
*Licensed 2015 – Industrial
Engineering -Ft. Worth*



Why did you become a P.E.?

"For three reasons: first, to obtain a credential that is transferrable and recognizable regardless of my company, profession, or industry; second, because it was a personal goal to set myself apart from my peers; and third, because my grandfather was a P.E."

How has being a P.E. been a benefit / helped you in your career?

"It has added additional element credibility in my interactions with leaders in my company. The designation shows that I understand the subject matter and have demonstrated competency within my field. Maintaining licensure will ensure

that I keep my skills sharp without forgetting the fundamentals of industrial engineering."

What does being a P.E. mean to you?

"Aside from the obvious professional "stamp of approval," being a P.E. marks licensees as stewards of the engineering profession and signifies them as having a continued desire for personal development. Personally, being licensed proves to me that I'm ready to take the next step in my career."

What advice would you give a young engineer considering licensure?

"Whether seeking a traditional engineering path or other field, obtaining a P.E. opens doors that would otherwise be unavailable and is widely recognized as a serious professional credential across many industries."

Marco Gonzalez, P.E.
*Licensed 2015 –
Civil Engineering –
Pharr, TX*



Why did you become a P.E.?

"It's something I've wanted to do since college. I had almost given up into pursuing it but one day I made the decision this was in my best interest and started studying. I didn't take my FE until 7 years after graduation and I was really rusty in solving any type of math problem. Having to go back and relearn everything was tough. But it's like riding a bike, things start coming back and it gets easier."

How has being a P.E. been a benefit / helped you in your career?

"Obviously the pay raise is nice but it's more than just that. The added job security feels good. In case of layoffs, it'll make it easier to find a job wherever life leads. Engineers are always in demand."

What does being a P.E. mean to you?

"To me, it means being in charge of a project. When I place my signature and seal on a plan, it is my responsibility to make sure all reasonable steps were taken to ensure the project was done correctly. When something goes wrong on a project (and things will), they look to the engineer to solve it."

What advice would you give a young engineer considering licensure?

"Don't consider it. Do it."

There's always a ton of excuses you can give yourself to not get your license and they may be really good excuses too. (You have a newborn and kids, the exam and study materials are expensive, I don't have time for studying, etc...) There's a bunch of reasons to not invest the time, effort, and money but the lifelong benefits you'll receive from getting your license far outweigh the inconveniences you have in preparing for your exams. Just try."

Texas Science and Engineering Fair – 2015

TBPE Awarded the first ever “Texas Board of Professional Engineers Future Engineer Award” to recognize exceptional projects demonstrating the principles and practice of engineering.



Future engineers were honored with the first ever “Texas Board of Professional Engineers Future Engineer Award”. Pictured from left to right are: Dr. Lance Kinney, P.E., Kate Rutherford, Sarah Hancock, Rishabh Thakkar, Karthik Velayutham, Karan Jerath, and Alberto Garcia.

As part of our eWeek activities and ongoing outreach program, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers has been working to engage with young engineers and to encourage science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. This year, TBPE partnered with the Texas Science and Engineering Fair (TXSEF – www.txsef.org) to sponsor the senior level engineering divisions for the state science fair. The science fair was held March 26-29, 2015, in San Antonio.

In addition to the sponsorship, TBPE also awarded the first ever “Texas Board of Professional Engineers Future Engineer Award” to recognize exceptional projects demonstrating the principles and practice of engineering. TBPE Board and staff members acted as special award judges and reviewed 58 of the top regional projects. These projects were all researched, designed, and built by high school students from all over the state of Texas. From that group, the following four projects were recognized with the Future Engineer Award.

• **Holes Can Lift: A Continuing Study of the Aerodynamic Efficiency of Angled Airfoil Slots - Sarah Hancock and Kate Rutherford**

• **RMRduino: A 3D Room Mapping Robot Using A Distance Sensor and an Arduino Uno Microcontroller to Plot an Area - Rishabh Thakkar and Karthik Velayutham**

• **Robo F-Pads - Alberto Garcia**

• **International Oil Spill Remediation The Numerical Simulation of an InSitu Subsea Separator Part II - Karan Jerath**

As part of the judging process we had a chance to speak with each of these amazing young engineers. Their stories are as inspiring as their projects.

Hancock described her inspiration and interest in engineering. “Having been an avid Lego builder growing up, I have always been interested in how things are put together and how they work. Coupled with my love of science and mathematics, engineering was a natural field in which to pursue my interests. In particular, I am especially eager to study forensic engineering. As a forensic engineer, I will be able to help

the public by detecting the mechanical flaws of a mechanism, if there are any, before it is released to the public and has the chance to harm any unaware person utilizing the mechanism. By detecting anomalies early, the flawed mechanisms can be corrected to save many people who would have been at risk while using it.”

Garcia’s project, Robo F-pads, addressed a real-world safety problem. “As a child I was always determined to find out how things functioned and what made them work. If they didn’t work, I would spend countless hours trying to solve the problem. This curiosity has followed me all the way into my high school career, and now I want to solve the major problem that we have in so many contact sports; concussions.”

Velayutham and Thakkar worked together on their room mapping robot. Velayutham described his interest electronics and robotics as coming from his father who is an engineer. “[My] dad first exposed me to these elements, and I slowly picked up on creating robots and other devices. I also learned how to program with my dad’s help and I slowly picked up the other bits

and pieces myself.” Mr. Thakkar explained how his team chose their project. “We chose to do an engineering project because we felt like it was a field of study with countless real-world applications. The project outlined my long going interest in engineering since 6th grade. I was introduced to engineering, in more detail, during a seminar at school in 6th grade and from then on I knew I wanted to become an engineer of some sort. As my experience in working with computers and engineering rose, I found that my favorite field of study would be in the mixture of those two: Artificial Intelligence. Our project certainly helped me get lots of experience working with the engineering process and learn a lot of things of which I may have never thought of before. It has certainly inspired me to continue my path in engineering and computer science.”

Jerath also went on to the 2015 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), winning the Intel Young Scientist Award and a \$50,000 scholarship. He was also the recipient of the Intel and Indo-US Science & Technology Forum - Visit to India, an all-expense paid week-long scientific and cultural exchange visit to India.

In Memoriam

The following P.E.'s, though no longer with us, left their mark through their service to the engineering profession.

Carl Viggo Aalund, P.E.; Lola, TX
 George Abikhaled, P.E.; West Lake Hills, TX
 William E. Adams, P.E.; San Saba, TX
 Foy E. Alexander, P.E.; Victoria, TX
 Alba Royce Alford, Jr., P.E.; Tyler, TX
 Richard Keith Allred, P.E.; Cypress, TX
 Richard Reaves Allred, P.E.; Glenpool, OK
 James Robert Anderson, P.E.; Benbrook, TX
 Ben Daniel Atchley, Jr., P.E.; Shreveport, LA
 James L. Bain, P.E.; Needville, TX
 William Duncan Baker, P.E.; Amarillo, TX
 Eli F. Barker, P.E.; Newburgh, N
 Alan Wayne Bates, P.E.; Borger, TX
 Eric Arthur Bayley, P.E.; Midland, TX
 Trent E. Beighle, P.E.; Lebanon, OH
 William Sterling Bennett, P.E.; Tulsa, OK
 Paul Edward Bergstrom, P.E.; Terrell, TX
 William Marshall Bland, Jr., P.E.; Houston, TX
 Richard Mayne Bonyata, P.E.; Kingwood, TX
 James D. Bradley, P.E.; San Antonio, TX
 Abdon Joseph Bray, P.E.; Wilmette, IL
 Sean Patrick Brennan, P.E.; Westfield, MA
 W. R. Brinkoeter, P.E.; Houston, TX
 James Edward (Jimmie) Burson, P.E.; Austin, TX
 J. E. Burton, P.E.; Ames, IA
 Howard D. Butter, P.E.; Houston, TX
 Lloyd R. Calaway, P.E.; Franklin, TX

William F. Callejo-Borges, P.E.; Dallas, TX
 Edwin Williams Cameron, P.E.; Vero Beach, FL
 Robert Lawrence Cangelosi, Jr., P.E.;
 Baton Rouge, LA
 Cyrus Duncan Cantrell, III, P.E.; Richardson, TX
 Robert D. Carter, P.E.; Sand Springs, OK
 Michael Mun-Bun Chan, P.E.; Houston, TX
 V. G. Chetty, P.E.; Tyler, TX
 Dean Alden Christy, P.E.; Granbury, TX
 Raymond G. Clarke, P.E.; Las Cruces, NM
 Rodolfo Clarke, P.E.; West Sacramento, CA
 Don E. Claxton, P.E.; Lafayette, LA
 Alfred Gene Clement, P.E.; Pleasanton, TX
 Paul R. Clevenger, P.E.; San Antonio, TX
 George M. Cloyd, P.E.; Arlington, TX
 William Joseph Coad, P.E.; St. Louis, MO
 Kelly Vincent Coffman, P.E.; Houston, TX
 George Thomas Cox, Jr., P.E.; Schulenburg, TX
 Leon Wesson Cox, P.E.; Allen, TX
 Russell D. Crall, P.E.; San Antonio, TX
 Daryl Paul Cravey, P.E.; Henderson, TX
 William K Daily, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Douglas Glenn Danaher, P.E.; Kansas City, MO
 Thomas M. Daniel, P.E.; Garland, TX
 Donald D. Davis, P.E.; Red Boiling Springs, TN
 Phillip Ernst De Palm, P.E.; Houston, TX
 H. E. Decker, P.E.; San Antonio, TX
 Hubert Edward Dorsett, P.E.; Tyler, TX
 Richard P. Doss, P.E.; Houston, TX
 Lawrence Craig Dublin, P.E.; Schertz, TX
 Jennings Bryan Dubois, Jr., P.E.; Fulshear, TX
 William Ehinger, P.E.; Green Valley, AZ
 Kenneth L. Enoch, P.E.; Cypress, TX
 Richard R. Evans, P.E.; Purcell, OK
 James Frank Fagan, P.E.; Kingwood, TX
 Paul Keith Farmer, P.E.; Houston, TX
 Charlie M. Farr, P.E.; Kailua, HI
 Gerald Wayne Fenley, P.E.; Lago Vista, TX
 Arthur H. Fieser, P.E.; Wexford, PA
 William Anderson Forshey, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Lyle Francis Gabrielson, P.E.; San Diego, CA
 William Edward Gallagher, P.E.;
 North Richland Hills, TX
 Owen Darryl Gallagher, P.E.; Houston, TX
 R. E. Gattis, P.E.; Groves, TX
 David Gordon Gerard, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Adil Minoq Godiwalla, P.E.; Spring, TX
 Lorenzo Gonzalez, P.E.; Corpus Christi, TX
 Robert L. Goodman, P.E.; Houston, TX
 James Freelan Groce, P.E.; Midland, TX
 Anthony John Gschwend, P.E.; Hillsborough, CA
 Wayne A. Hahne, P.E.; Houston, TX
 M. L. Hammons, P.E.; Bryan, TX
 Walter Lee Hampton, P.E.; Courtland, AL
 Oliver P. Harlan, Jr., P.E.; Lubbock, TX
 Stephen Douglas Harris, P.E.; Edmonds, WA
 Richard Kent Harsh, P.E.; Ravenna, OH
 Ronnie Ray Hart, P.E.; College Station, TX
 John M. Hassler, P.E.; Ft. Worth, TX
 Harvey E. Hawkins, P.E.; Houston, TX
 William D. Helpenstell, P.E.; Sandia, TX
 Robert O. Hinds, P.E.; Benbrook, TX
 Douglas Edward Holcomb, P.E.; San Marcos, TX
 Glen Holmes, P.E.; Houston, TX

Lowell A. Holmes, P.E.; Harlingen, TX
 John Edward Hopkins, P.E.; Wayne, PA
 Charles Bruce Horne, P.E.; Seaford, DE
 Frank David Hutchinson, III, P.E.; Palm Coast, FL
 John Triche Irving, P.E.; Minden, LA
 Gene D. Jackson, P.E.; McKinney, TX
 Joe W. Jeanes, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Don Christian Johanson, P.E.; Pipe Creek, TX
 Curtis E. Johnson, P.E.; Austin, TX
 William T. Johnson, Jr., P.E.; San Antonio, TX
 Wm. A. Johnson, P.E.; Waco, TX
 Richard C. Johnston, P.E.; Alice, TX
 David Noel Jones, P.E.; Austin, TX
 J. K. Jones, P.E.; Richardson, TX
 James M. Jones, P.E.; Corpus Christi, TX
 Wm. A. Kelly, P.E.; Pasadena, TX
 Billy Ray King, P.E.; Hurst, TX
 J. R. King, Jr., P.E.; Ft. Worth, TX
 Harold I. Knight, P.E.; Southlake, TX
 Marshall H. Knox, P.E.; Ft. Worth, TX
 Arthur Ching-Jen Koo, P.E.; Dunwoody, GA
 M. F. Krch, P.E.; Friendswood, TX
 John F. Kubala, P.E.; Arlington, TX
 Sam. C. Lagow, P.E.; Odessa, TX
 Justin Dwain Landes, P.E.; Ft. Worth, TX
 Richard A. Landry, Jr., P.E.; Conroe, TX
 Charles Arthur Lane, P.E.; Isanti, MN
 Gary D. Laneman, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Robert James Lawrence, P.E.; Kemblesville, PA
 Steven Ross Lawrence, P.E.; Fulshear, TX
 Joseph Ray Leblanc, Jr., P.E.; Fulshear, TX
 Norris Lenamond, P.E.; Houston, TX
 William Theodore Lindemann, P.E.; Clermont, FL
 Steven Lyle Little, P.E.; Edmond, OK
 Samuel Renken Lyle, Jr., P.E.; Buda, TX
 Robert W. Magee, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Pat Mann, P.E.; Baytown, TX
 Michael Loy Marler, P.E.; Tyler, TX
 James H. Marsh, III, P.E.; Caldwell, TX
 David Wesley Marshall, Jr., P.E.; Montgomery, TX
 Robert Tollen Martin, P.E.; Ft. Worth, TX
 Alan Bruce Matejowsky, P.E.; Burnet, TX
 William Joseph Matthews, P.E.; Euless, TX
 Kevin Michael McCabe, P.E.; Coconut Grove, FL
 James Madison McDaniel, Jr., P.E.; Tulsa, OK
 Aloysius T. McLaughlin, Jr., P.E.; Pittsburgh, PA
 Charles L. Messler, P.E.; Houston, TX
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 Brad H. Mitchhart, P.E.; Austin, TX
 A. F. Moeller, Jr., P.E.; New Holland, PA
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 Phillip Morris, P.E.; Palestine, TX
 Frank G. Muller, P.E.; Fredericksburg, TX
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 John J. Nietmann, P.E.; Dallas, TX
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 Thomas M. Olcott, P.E.; Gilroy, CA
 Wayland D. Oradat, P.E.; Friendswood, TX
 Richard Steven Owens, P.E.; Valley Mills, TX
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 W. H. Parker, P.E.; Houston, TX
 Howell Runnels Patterson, Jr., P.E.; Boerne, TX
 James Garland Patterson, Jr., P.E.; Spring, TX

R. A. Payne, P.E.; Athens, TX
 Gregory John Petro, P.E.; Orcutt, CA
 Robert R. Petter, P.E.; Houston, TX
 Claud Dennis Pickard, P.E.; Katy, TX
 Thomas Randall Pickren, P.E.; Beaumont, TX
 John Oscar Pivin, P.E.; McKinney, TX
 John J. Polasek, P.E.; Houston, TX
 John T. Polk, P.E.; Vidor, TX
 Roy W. Porter, Jr., P.E.; Cedar Park, TX
 Richard C. Prater, P.E.; Salado, TX
 Richard Purcell, P.E.; Plainview, TX
 James M. Purdy, P.E.; Houston, TX
 Eugene Rudolph Reinhart, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Jesse O. Reiter, P.E.; Mexia, TX
 J. A. Reynolds, Jr., P.E.; Arlington, TX
 E. A. Ripperger, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Joe Rizo, P.E.; El Paso, TX
 Michael Nelson Rouen, P.E.; Houston, TX
 Carlos David Ruffino, P.E.; Lancaster, TX
 Gerardo Gustavo Salinas, P.E.; Laredo, TX
 R. S. Schechter, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Carroll Edward Schmidt, P.E.; Alabaster, AL
 Charles William Settles, P.E.; Victoria, TX
 Daniel Aloysius Shanahan, P.E.; Whitney, TX
 Donald Wardwell Shanklin, P.E.; Granbury, TX
 J. Riley Sheffield, Jr., P.E.; Houston, TX
 Jack Glen Sheppard, P.E.; Sierra Vista, AZ
 Anthony William Skeen, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Mark R. Sorenson, P.E.; Floresville, TX
 W. H. Sparger, P.E.; Colorado Springs, CO
 Philip Alden Spry, P.E.; Austin, TX
 Timothy Walton Stark, P.E.; Fort Worth, TX
 Frederick J. Stebbins, P.E.; Dickinson, TX
 Robert Dewitt Steele, P.E.; Dallas, TX
 Gerald Neal Steindorff, P.E.; Houston, TX
 James Lawrence Stephens, P.E.;
 Mineral Wells, TX
 William Leroy Stewart, III, P.E.; Longview, TX
 John B. Stokes, Jr., P.E.; Hempstead, TX
 Donald Steele Thomas, P.E.; San Antonio, TX
 H. Dale Thompson, P.E.; Houston, TX
 Richard Eugene Thorsten, P.E.; Missouri City, TX
 James Homer Tolar, P.E.; Houston, TX
 Ben H. Wagner, P.E.; Corpus Christi, TX
 Royce Dean Walker, P.E.; Abilene, TX
 Richard Reade Wallace, P.E.; Jacksonville, FL
 Edgar C. Wareing, P.E.; Lufkin, TX
 John Melvin Weaver, P.E.; Midland, TX
 Max James Weberling, P.E.; Friendswood, TX
 Charles R. Weeks, P.E.; Pensacola, FL
 Peter D. Weiner, P.E.; Pearland, TX
 Paul M. West, P.E.; Carrollton, TX
 Gayle W. Westmoreland, P.E.; Spring TX
 Robert Fredrick White, P.E.; Cypress TX
 James A. Whitson, Jr., P.E.; Houston, TX
 Henry Thomas Wiederhold, P.E.;
 Nacogdoches, TX
 Stanley Valentine Wielga, III, P.E.; Houston TX
 R. L. Womack, Jr., P.E.; Terrell, TX
 Alex Chi-Wang Wong, P.E.; Bedford, TX
 Michael Lyn Wortham, P.E.; Bullard, TX
 Jose Antonio Yrigoyen, P.E.; Montgomery, TX
 Alan Douglas Zunkel, P.E.; Vancouver, WA

The TBPE staff recently developed full color, professionally printed brochures. The brochures are designed to educate the public regarding the mission of the Board and the role of engineers. The brochures have been distributed at various outreach opportunities across the state. Topics include the following:

When Is a Professional Engineer Required on a Project? – This brochure includes an easy-to-use flowchart to help you determine if a P.E. is required on a Texas project. It is a great reference for engineers, owners, plan reviewers as well as city and county officials.

Engineering for a Better Texas – This brochure provides a general overview of the agency. It outlines the agency's core functions and initiatives.

How to Become a Licensed Professional Engineer – This brochure provides all the details regarding the necessary steps to obtain a P.E. license. It outlines the requirements, exam and application processes.

What are the Benefits of Being a Licensed Professional Engineer? –

This brochure outlines why P.E.s are vital in regards to safeguarding the public as well as personal benefits for the P.E. such as financial compensation, security, additional responsibility and a feeling of pride and accomplishment.

What is the Professional Services Procurement Act? – If governmental entities such as cities, counties, school districts, and state agencies in Texas want to hire the professional services of an Architect, Engineer, or Land Surveyor, they must follow the procedures set out in the Texas Government Code Chapter 2254, also known as the Professional Services Procurement Act (PSPA). This brochure outlines the PSPA process and includes an easy-to-read and relay flowchart.

If you haven't had the good fortune to pick one of these up in person, all of these brochures are available at: <http://engineers.texas.gov/publications.html>. They can be printed and shared or emailed. Limited professionally-printed copies are available upon request.

Over 50 years licensed -
**CONGRATS TO
ENGINEERS LICENSED
OVER 50 YEARS**

Each year the Board acknowledges individuals who have maintained their P.E. license for over 50 years by mailing them an honorary certificate and a letter from the Governor. This year's certificates were mailed out August 25, 2015. If you have been licensed over 50 years and did not receive a certificate, please send us an email to info@engineers.texas.gov. We will get one out to you. Additionally, the complete listing is located on our web site at: <http://engineers.texas.gov/50>.

*On behalf of the citizens
of the great State of Texas,
I would like to express my
gratitude to you as part of
this esteemed group of Profes-
sional Engineers who have
served and protected Texans
for 50 years or more.*

—Greg Abbott, Governor





Texas Board of Professional Engineers
Engineering For A Better Texas

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We want to hear from you!

In our ongoing commitment to improving agency services, TBPE is asking for your feedback. Drop us an email, pick up the phone, or go online to the customer service survey that takes about five minutes to fill out. It can be found at <http://engineers.texas.gov/feedback>.

Outreach Numbers - To date we have made 148 outreach presentations to over 18,500 people.

