

## Welcome to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers' (TBPE) Quarterly Board e-Newsletter!

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve communication between TBPE and license holders, an email notice will be sent out after each Quarterly Board Meeting with news, highlights, and updates on Board activities. This e-Newsletter is in addition to the yearly paper newsletter. Please let us know if there are additional topics you would like to receive by emailing: [priscilla.pipho@engineers.texas.gov](mailto:priscilla.pipho@engineers.texas.gov)

- **Newsletter – Engineering Express**

The latest newsletter from TBPE is will be in the mail soon with a new look and feel. The agency has adopted a new logo and design as well as a new web address that reflect changes underway at the Board. We hope you'll take the time to read it and offer your feedback on how the Board is doing – either to the email address above or by taking our online survey:

<http://engineers.texas.gov/feedback>

- **Recent Rule Adoptions**

- One rule adopted at the November 18, 2011, Board meeting requires that all inquiries from this Board should be responded to within 21 days. The new rule formalizes a policy that was already in place. Whether you received a notice of a continuing education audit requesting documentation, request for your firm association, or a request to respond to a complaint investigation, requests for information require prompt attention.
- Another rule that was adopted at the same meeting is regarding Texas Windstorm Inspectors, laying out a process for a PE to be listed on a roster related to windstorm design. For more information, you can visit our windstorm page at <http://engineers.texas.gov/windstorm.html>.
- In conjunction with the new Texas Windstorm related changes to our statute the Sanctions and Penalties tables have been updated to show suggested penalties for those new requirements as well as other minor updates to the tables.
- The rule which created the Joint Advisory Committee for the Overlap of Architecture and Engineering was repealed to align with recent legislation. A new Task Force for with a similar purpose will be created sometime in the coming year.
- Rules adopted at the board meeting have been posted to the Texas Register and are now in effect. <http://engineers.texas.gov/downloads.htm>

- **Architects and Engineers:**

The recent law defining the overlapping responsibilities of engineers and architects also allows engineers who have been practicing architecture to apply to the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners to continue to do so. The deadline for this application is December 31, 2011.

For more details visit: <http://engineers.texas.gov/overlap.html>

- **Texas Windstorm Inspectors:** TBPE and the Texas Department of Insurance have conducted two presentations along the coast to explain the new windstorm requirements resulting from recent legislation. The meetings had more than 250 attendees and plans for future presentations, including South Texas, are in the works. For more information please visit:

<http://engineers.texas.gov/windstorm.html>

### **Other Board Highlights**

- To view the meeting agenda and to listen to recordings of the November 2011 meeting visit <http://engineers.texas.gov/vid/111711/111711.html>. Note that you can earn continuing education credit as self-study for watching Board meetings. Just print out the agenda and keep it in your records which you may need to produce if audited.
- Also, several enforcement actions were taken against individuals and engineering firms. For more information about these cases, go to <http://engineers.texas.gov/da/da111711.html>.
- Don't forget that if your firm or organization would like to have a presentation on engineering ethics or licensure, TBPE is happy to help arrange a presentation. Please contact Outreach Coordinator Dorothy Gonzales to make your request at [outreach@engineers.texas.gov](mailto:outreach@engineers.texas.gov).
- In keeping with our efforts to modernize and increase communication with our licensees and the public, you can now follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and via an [RSS feed](#). Join today!

\*\*\*

You received this message because you are a Texas licensed professional engineer and have indicated that you wish to receive electronic correspondence from the Board. If you wish to discontinue receipt of this e-Newsletter and other messages from the Board, you can change your preferences online using the ECHO system: <http://engineers.texas.gov/echo>