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## TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

February 24, 2006

Mr Rankin A Curtis, Jr , P E  
P O Box 630951  
Nacogdoches, TX 75963-0951

Dear Mr Curtis

RE Request for an Advisory Opinion  
EAOR #16

In response to your letter of November 21, 2005, the following information will address your question regarding engineers practicing in their area of competence

There is no requirement in the Texas Engineering Practice Act (Act) to practice engineering only in the area that was tested for during the Principles and Practice exam. Referring to the Act in §1001 308, you will notice that the Texas Legislature has only identified the licensing of an engineer, not specific disciplines. The Texas Board of Professional Engineers (Board) has authorized licensed engineers the ability to list additional areas of expertise by providing information regarding education, experience, or examination. Specific language from §133.97(k) of the Board Rules is as follows

*(k) A license holder may request the Board to indicate up to two additional branches of expertise by providing.*

- (1) a transcript showing an additional degree in the additional branch,*
- (2) a supplementary experience record documenting at least 4 years of experience in the additional branch verified by at least one PE reference provider that has personal knowledge of the license holder's character, reputation, suitability for licensure, and engineering experience; or*
- (3) verification of successful passage of the examination on the principles and practice of engineering in the additional branch*

All engineers are required under the Act to practice only in their area(s) of competence. Competency can be acquired in several ways as noted in our rules above. The requirements of §1001 302 in the Act outline the basic requirements for licensure, only

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one of which is examination. If engineers cannot demonstrate competence in an area in which they are practicing, enforcement action will be initiated. If you have information on such a case we encourage you to file a complaint. However, because your request for an advisory opinion is already answered in the existing law and rules we will not be pursuing the advisory opinion further.

If you have any further questions, please contact CW Clark, P E , Director of Compliance & Enforcement, at (512) 440-7723 or by email at cw.clark@tbpe.state.tx.us

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Beebe Farrow', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dale Beebe Farrow, P E  
Executive Director

DBF JWS dpt