

EAOR 39, Policy Advisory Opinion Regarding

On-Farm Energy Audits

November 19, 2015

Request: The Texas Board of Professional Engineers (Board) received a request from the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service that the Board consider whether On-Farm Energy Audits, as defined in the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Standard, ANSI/ASABE S612 Jul2009, Performing On-Farm Energy Audits (Standard), require the services of a Texas licensed professional engineer for Texas projects.

Background: The Standard defines a Type 1 and a Type 2 Audit. The Type 1 Audit is a report that provides a data summary of the farm energy use without addressing individual components or possible changes to individual activities that contribute to energy use. A Type 2 Audit is a more detailed evaluation and report of the farm energy use that considers all major activities and components. The standard defines an Energy Auditor as “A licensed professional engineer or other technically qualified individual who will certify that the audit report provided to the farmer/rancher meets the requirements outlined in the...” Standard.

Analysis and Conclusion: The Standard’s Annex A Commentary states that “There are certifications and licensing processes that do provide a level of assurance that an individual is qualified, if only ethically bound, to perform the audits ..., such as licensed engineers, Association of Energy Engineers (AEE)-Certified Energy Managers (CEM), ... Certified Energy Auditor (CEA), or a state certified/licensed farm energy auditors.” Texas does not certify or license farm energy auditors.

The Board has gathered information from individuals who responded to a request for comments, as well as the requesting agency, and based on that input the Board has determined that the knowledge and skills required to perform an energy audit in accordance with the Standard is not unique to licensed professional engineers. Any present or future requirements of an energy audit that are found to be included in the practice of engineering as defined in the Board’s statute §1001.003 would require that the person performing such work be licensed by the Board. The knowledge required to perform an energy audit is not necessarily the same as the knowledge required to analyze or design elements that may be necessary to implement recommendations resulting from an energy audit. Any engineering designs or analysis as defined by Texas Occupations Code §1001.003, that are included in or with an energy audit, or resulting from an energy audit, must be performed by a licensed Texas Professional Engineer. Qualified Texas licensed professional engineers who participate in such energy audits, or work ensuing from an energy audit, are subject to the professional oversight of the Board.