

ALASKA AELS BOARD

June 2004

Quarterly Board Meeting

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AELS Quarterly Board Meeting

The Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) held its quarterly board meeting on June 3-4, 2004 at the UAF campus, Natural Sciences Building, Runcorn Room #300.

Board members in attendance were: Iverson, Chair; Robert Gilfilian, Secretary; Boyd Brownfield, Craig Fredeen, Richard Hughes, Scott McLane, Kenneth Maynard, Kimberly Mills, and Patricia Peirsol.

AELS Staff in attendance were:

Nancy Hemenway, Executive Administrator; and Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner.

Absent: Linda Cyra-Korsgaard, Vice-Chair.

Some highlights of the meeting:

The Board has five new members appointed and confirmed during the 23rd Legislature.

Proposed Regulation Changes Adopted

Sent to the Department of Law:

The Board voted to adopt proposed regulation changes and to send to the Department of Law for its final review:

Provisions to remove portions of the tables for examinations for engineers and land surveyors that no longer apply since the date for application has passed; and for landscape architects to count certain experience towards registration (12 AAC 36.062, .063, .064, .065, and .068).

One additional proposed regulation change would allow credit for advanced degrees for landscape

architect applicants in 12 AAC 36.068. Currently, no provision was made to allow for credit for advanced degrees, and this allowance is consistent with the credit for advanced engineering or land surveying degrees.

Other Proposed Regulation Changes:

The Board will continue to consider comments on environmental engineering and non-discipline specific licensure.

Public Comment

Dr. Bob Carlson, Ph.D., PE, University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) stated the University is creating a new Department of Engineering and Mining in the School of Engineering (SME) on July 1, 2004. All of the engineering departments will be under the College of Engineering and Mining, including an engineering research institute, responsible for oversight of the research centers and labs formerly under the Institute of Northern Engineering and SME. The UAF is in the process of conducting a national search for the new Dean and he recommends the new Dean be qualified for licensure or eligible to be qualified for PE licensure in Alaska.

He also mentioned there are many engineering students in the masters level programs that do not have an ABET accredited undergraduate program and he expects this to continue, so the Board should take this into consideration in its combined education and experience tables.

He expressed concern of the professors who have assisted the Board with exam administration will not be able to participate in review courses for students due to the NCEES signed

statements that ban proctors from teaching review courses.

He advised that the arctic engineering video course is being phased out once several students currently enrolled have completed the course. The UAF is currently working on an on-line web-based course, which will be offered for college credits and continuing education credits.

As past-president of the Alaska Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), he provided a handout and website address www.asce.org for ASCE. The site includes information and support for continuing education, and specialty certification for civil engineers. There is also a task force for the Civil Engineering Body of Knowledge for the 21st Century. He expressed support for a mandatory continuing education program for license renewal, and for engineers to hold a minimum of a master's degree or its equivalent for PE licensure.

Legislation

HB 252 (Rep. McGuire) contains provisions for Continuing Education (CE), Term Limits, and partially exempt Executive Administrator.

HB 252 passed the Legislature was signed by the Governor on 6/16/04 with a 9/14/04 effective date. The bill gives the Board the statutory authority to develop a mandatory CE program. The model the Board is considering for the CE regulatory program is based on the NCEES recommended guidelines for CE. CE would likely be phased in for the 2007 renewal cycle (in order to allow registrants time to comply with the new requirements).

Term Limits: Partial terms of less than two years would not count towards Board member Term Limits (two terms, 4 years each).

The bill provides statutory authority for the Board's administrator as a partially exempt employee (reclassified as supervisory last year).

HB 268, (Rep. McGuire):

Specialty Contractors HB268 died in the House Rules Committee. The companion bill (SB206, introduced by

the Senate Judiciary Committee) died the Senate. The bills were introduced to clarify the current exemption in AS 08.48.331(7).

The Board continues to have concerns about the current exemption under AS 08.48.331 (7) for specialty contractors. The Board's Investigator reports that some specialty contractors perform unlawful design work under the auspices of the specialty contractor exemption. A provision in the bill would have made clear that design work must be done under a registered professional (AELS).

The Board may pursue this again in its legislative requests in the Annual Report to the Legislature.

Subgroups

The AELS Board met in two informal subgroups **Engineering Disciplines, and Incidental Practices**. The subgroups reported back to the Board. The Engineering Disciplines subgroup held over a PNWER resolution since legislation was not necessary to accomplish the requested parity between Canadian P-Eng and Alaskan PE engineering licensure. The subgroup will meet on July 13, 2004 to further discuss the resolution.

The subgroup also decided not to pursue adding Control Engineering as an engineering discipline.

The subgroup will continue its review of Engineering Comity issues and will consider if work experience under a registered Canadian engineer to meet U.S. engineering education requirements; will review the Fundamentals of Engineering Examination (F.E.) Waiver (12 AAC 36.090) and consider reducing the requirement from 20 years of professional work experience to a lesser requirement, so long as the applicant holds an ABET accredited degree or its equivalent.

Engineering Disciplines subgroup is led by Gilfilian (Chair), and members are Iverson, Hughes, Fredeen, and McLane.

The Incidental Practices subgroup will gather information from other

jurisdictions and will work on identifying incidental practice of minor importance (architects/engineers); landscape architectural work and any overlaps between landscape architecture and other design professions; and land surveyor and engineering functions within subdivisions.

The Incidental Practices subgroup is led by Maynard, Chair, and members are Brownfield, Baker, Mills, and Cyra-Korsgaard.

The Western Zone Host Subgroup did not meet. The subgroup is led by Mills, Chair, and members are Iverson, Brownfield, and Fredeen, with assistance from former Board members Miller and Kalen.

All subgroups plan meetings during the interim prior to the August 19-20, 2004 AELS quarterly Board meeting.

What's New

AKLS Exam:

The Board will offer the Alaska Land Surveyor Examination state specific exam (AKLS) on April 16, 2005 in conjunction with the NCEES PLS exams. Future exams will be offered annually in April, in conjunction with the national exams, unless otherwise indicated on its website.

Landscape Architect Registration Exam (LARE):

Graphic sections of the exam (C, E) will continue to be administered by the Board in June and December 2004. The deadline to apply for the December LARE is August 9, 2004.

Candidates must apply directly with CLARB to take the multiple-choice sections of the CLARE exam, (A,B, and D) offered as computer administered exams in August and March.

Candidates should contact CLARB (clarb.org) for application deadlines. CLARB candidates do not need to submit their qualifications but need to agree to the affidavit, which indicates that they meet the requirements to sit for the computer-administered sections. Multiple-choice sections will be given at LaserGrade testing

locations and there are currently 8 centers in Alaska.

NCEES Exam Security- Calculators Banned

Beginning with the April 2004 exam administration, the national organization banned the following calculators:

- Casio CFX9850+
 - Hewlett Packard:
 - HP 41 series
 - HP 42 S
 - HP 48 Series
 - HP 49G
 - Texas Instruments:
 - TI-83 Plus & TI-83 Plus Silver Edition
 - TI-85, TI 86, TI 89 TI 92, and
 - Voyage 200
- Land Surveying data collectors, for example:
- Trimble Ranger 200C and Topcon Ranger or Husky models.

More information is posted to our website at the URL:

[http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pub/NCEES April 2004 Exams.pdf](http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pub/NCEES_April_2004_Exams.pdf)
or refer to NCEES.org.

Other Updates

The Board was not able to meet with the Division Director, Rick Urion, as planned at this meeting. The Board discussed and reiterated its strong support for:

- site investigations by the agency investigators (to ensure compliance to protect the public health and safety);
- control over its spending authority; and
- ongoing travel to regional and national meetings for board members and the Board's administrator (in order to participate in discussions and keep abreast of emerging national issues).

Applicant Files Reviewed

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The board reviewed and approved 40 applicant files for examination or comity licensure for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects.

AELS Deadlines

All applications for comity and any supporting documents are due in the *Juneau office* no later than **August 9, 2004** to be considered at the next AELS meeting scheduled for August 19-20, 2004 meeting. The meeting will be held at the Kenai River Center, 514 Funny River Road, Soldotna, AK.

All exam applicants for the NCEES, LARE, and AKLS Exams must apply by August 3, 2004 in order to sit for the October 2004 NCEES and AKLS exams, or the December LARE exams.

Hearing Officer Decision on Applicant Appeal

The AELS Board accepted the Hearing Officer Decision on a land surveyor by comity applicant, who was denied due to minimum education requirements as a result of a 1999 regulation change that went into effect on January 1, 2002.

Regional and National Participation

The Board will send representatives to NCARB annual meeting June 23-25, 2004 to be held in Portland, OR; and the NCEES annual meeting August 11-14, 2004 to be held in Cleveland, OH.

Bob Gilfilian volunteers on a national NCEES Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers.

Linda Cyra-Korsgaard serves as a "grader" to score the LARE exams for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB).

Patricia Peirsol serves on the NCARB Professional Development Committee.

Kenneth Maynard, FAIA, serves on the ARE Construction Document Subcommittee.

Former AELS Board members serve as **emeritus members** on the following committees:

Lance Mearig, PE, serves on the NCEES Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP) Committee.

Robert Miller, Ph.D., PE, serves on the NCEES Task Force: Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force (ELCOG); and

Pat Kalen, PLS, serves on the NCEES Committee for Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines (UP & LG) and on the Western Zone as Chair of the Nominating Committee

Staff Reports

Investigator's Report

John Clark, Occupational Licensing Investigator for the AELS Board, reported the status on the investigative cases and actions. The report is located on our website at:
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pael21.htm>

Board Administrator's Report

The AELS Executive Administrator reported on statistics of registrants and exams. Staff reports are posted to the AELS website at:
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pael21.htm>

Building Officials Manual

The Building Official's Manual is posted to the AELS Website at <http://www.dced.state.ak.us>. The Board considers it to be a working document, anticipates ongoing changes to the Building Officials Manual, and welcomes comments.