

# ALASKA AELS BOARD

May 2003

## Quarterly Board Meeting

# May Meeting Summary

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**Board of Registration for Architects,  
Engineers, and Land Surveyors**

**PO Box 110806**

**Juneau, AK 99811**

**Phone: (907) 465-1676; 465-2691**

**Fax: (907) 465-2974**

#### **Board Staff:**

**Nancy Hemenway**

**Executive Administrator**

[nancy\\_hemenway@dced.state.ak.us](mailto:nancy_hemenway@dced.state.ak.us)

**Julie Adamson**

Licensing Examiner

[Julie\\_adamson@dced.state.ak.us](mailto:Julie_adamson@dced.state.ak.us)

**Elton Engstrom**

Licensing Examiner

[Elton\\_engstrom@dced.state.ak.us](mailto:Elton_engstrom@dced.state.ak.us)

### AELS Quarterly Board Meeting

The Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) held its quarterly board meeting on May 21-22, 2003 at the International Arctic Research Center, UAF campus, 930 Koyukuk Drive Room 417, Fairbanks, AK.

Board members in attendance were: Robert Miller, Chair; Kathy Gardner, Vice-Chair; Robert Gilfilian; Ernie Siemoneit, Secretary; Daphne Brown; Linda Cyra-Korsgaard; Don Iverson; Pat Kalen; Scott McLane; Kimberly Mills; and Patricia Peirsol.

Some highlights of the meeting:

#### Applicant Files Reviewed

The board reviewed 54 applicant files for examination or comity licensure for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects. The Board approved 51 applicants for comity and examination, found 2 applications incomplete, and denied 1 applicant for licensure by exam or comity.

#### Building Official

Steve Shuttleworth, Fairbanks Building Official spoke to the Board about issues he has with respect to plan reviews. There is some confusion about the requirements, particularly with small commercial projects. All commercial projects (larger than a 2- story 4-plex) requires a professional architect, engineers (civil, electrical and mechanical) landscape architect, and land surveyor to stamp plans.\*

The Board appreciated the input from Mr. Shuttleworth and agreed that it would be beneficial to have other Building Officials participate at future board meetings.

The Board will work to address some of the Fairbanks Building Official's concerns by adding to the Frequently Asked Questions in the Building Officials Manual (BOM\*\*).

\*\* (the manual is posted on the AELS website).

#### Public Comment

Bob Carlson, Ph.D., P.E., UAA Fairbanks, strongly supported the arctic course review process, and offered assistance of the Alaska Section of ASCE as a resource to the Board's subcommittee on Arctic Engineering (charged with evaluating the Board's requirement for applicants to complete an arctic course).

Dr. Carlson thought the Board's direction on a professional engineering license versus discipline specific licensure is not well understood in the engineering community, and that ASCE would like to offer input into that process.

Dr. Carlson felt that continuing education is strongly supported by the national professional societies. He also noted he appreciated the Outreach to Professional Societies agenda item on the AELS agenda.

Peter Beardsley, an environmental consultant, commented that he would like to get registered in Alaska but that his degree is in environmental engineering and he would need to apply as a civil engineer since Alaska does not offer "environmental"

engineering as a discipline. He briefly outlined his education and experience. He has compared his degree to a BS degree in civil engineering and found he is lacking in structures and transportation. The Board encouraged him to apply as a civil engineer.

Other Comments during the meeting:

Dale Nelson, Alaska Professional Design Council and Alaska Section, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He would like to be a point of contact and outreach for the Board through the professional societies (APDC, and the Alaska Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)). A national affiliate of ASCE is the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). He also would like to work to assist the Board in reaching its goals and is interested in reconciling education and registration requirements.

Jack Wilbur, President, Design Alaska, discussed discipline specific registration issues. He supports the current licensure system. He felt the public is better served by practitioners that have a broad view of an engineering discipline. Incorporation of more narrow disciplines would make it more difficult for design firms to offer the same range of services that they currently offer. He was also concerned about its effect on small proprietors.

Currently he can offer fire protection services or control systems engineering services under his Mechanical Engineering license, but if there were a specific discipline for fire protection he would probably need a dual license because requests for proposals (RFPs) frequently stipulate that the respondent must be a registered fire protection engineer.

If non-discipline specific licensure is adopted the approach should be one of true general licensure where the licensed engineer decides which fields they are qualified to practice. Engineering ethics should then be relied upon to deter engineers from practicing out of their area of expertise.

Draft prepared by Nancy Hemenway

## Legislative Update

Updates on Legislation:

HB 252, **Continuing Education & Term Limits** was introduced by Rep. McGuire in April 2003 and that bill is currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee. (A companion bill, SB 207 was introduced by Senator Seekins). The bill had several hearings and was amended in Senate Labor & Commerce Committee at the request of the Director. The amendment would give the Board more authority in deciding when CE is required, for example, when reactivating retired status registrants.

Currently, a Board member who serves any part of a term is considered to have served a full term and is eligible for one reappointment. This change would allow a Board member filling a partial term to serve the partial term, plus two 4-year terms.

With respect to continuing education, initially a mandatory program would be developed only for land surveyors. The other professions (architects, engineers, and landscape architects) strongly support ongoing professional development but have not yet expressed uniform support for a mandatory continuing education (CE) program.

HB 268, **Specialty Contractors** was introduced by Rep. McGuire and is currently before the House Rules Committee (a companion bill, SB 206 was introduced by Sen. Seekins). That bill was heard and is currently in House Rules Committee. The Board continues to have concerns about the current exemption under AS 08.48.331(7) for specialty contractors. The Division of Occupational Licensing Investigator reports that some specialty contractors perform unlawful design work under the auspices of the specialty contractor exemption.

## Subgroups

The AELS Board did not meet in subgroups to discuss Canadian

Reciprocity, Design Competition, and Engineering Disciplines as planned but will take those issues up at the August 2003 AELS meeting.

## Canadian Reciprocity and Work Experience Verifications:

The Board will continue its focus on Comity issues and compare the Canadian experience, education, and examinations to the U.S. system. One member attended a meeting of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) meeting in February. Under consideration is:

- 1) To consider work experience under a registered Canadian engineer to meet engineering education requirements;
- 2) To review the regulation (12 AAC 36.090) for Fundamentals of Engineering Waiver, and perhaps consider reducing the requirement from 20 years of professional work experience to 10 or 12 years of professional work experience.

## Expand to add some or all NCEES engineering (exams) as disciplines:

Still under consideration is a proposal to expand or define additional engineering disciplines licensed in Alaska to the six currently offered (civil, chemical, electrical, mechanical, mining and petroleum).

One possibility is adding specific disciplines most frequently requested such as environmental, fire protection, and control systems. The Board will continue to work on this issue, with input from the professional societies. Any changes would be to require regulations to be public noticed.

## Design Competition:

The Board is considering specifically identifying requirements of design professionals seeking to compete in "design competitions" if not currently licensed in Alaska. That item should be on the agenda in August 2003.

## Regulation Changes

### Proposed Regulation Changes:

#### LARE fees:

The fees for examination for the Landscape Architect Registration Examination will increase to reflect the current cost to the Board for the exam (plus a \$5 administrative fee). Public comment must be received by the Division no later than June 16, 2003.

#### LARE retake deadline:

The retake deadline will change to 60 days prior to the exam (instead of 45 days) to allow staff to meet the CLARB deadline for ordering exams. This change was adopted by the Board but has not yet been sent out for public noticing.

### New Regulations that are effective June 13, 2003:

Regulations filed with the Lt. Governor's office May 14, 2003, effective on June 13, 2003, are as follows:

- a) a technical change to reference the current NCARB education standards publication;
- b) a clarification in the engineering table of combined education and experience to ensure that the master's or doctorate degree is acceptable to the Board and that the BS degree is in the branch of engineering the applicant is applying for;
- c) deletes the requirement for architect by comity applicants to submit the IDP council record (since the NCARB council record ensures that experience has been satisfied); and
- d) requires registrants to date the final plans (within or in close proximity to the seal).

### Other Regulations Adopted in 1999:

#### Engineer Requirements for FE/PE exam applicants:

Experience only is being phased out for engineering exam applicants (the regulations were adopted in 1999).

Draft prepared by Nancy Hemenway

Effective January 1, 2004, new regulations will go into effect for educational requirements to sit for the Fundamentals of Engineering and Principles of Engineering examinations (12 AAC 36.063-064\*).

Both examinations will require a minimum of at least three years of post-secondary education credit hours in a board-approved curriculum of engineering to qualify to sit for the exams. Less than three years of course work or a degree in Engineering Technology will no longer be considered to meet the education requirement.\*

\*Refer to the full text and tables of the regulation to see the combination of education and experience required, and also check FAQs.

#### Land Surveyor Requirements for FLS/PLS exam applicants:

On January 1, 2002, new regulations went into effect for educational requirements to sit for the Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FLS) and Principles of Land Surveying (PLS) examinations (12 AAC 36.064-065\*).

Both examinations require a minimum of at least two years of post-secondary education credit hours in a board-approved curriculum of land surveying to qualify to sit for the exams.

\*Refer to the full text and tables of the regulation to see the combination of education and experience required, and also check FAQs.

## What's New

### Building Officials Manual:

The Building Official's handbook has been posted to the AELS Website. The Board considers it to be a working document and anticipates ongoing changes to the Building Officials Manual. Any suggested changes are welcome and should be made to the administrator: [nancy\\_hemenway@dced.state.ak.us](mailto:nancy_hemenway@dced.state.ak.us).

## Exam Updates:

### AKLS Exam:

The Board will offer the Alaska Land Surveyor Examination (AKLS) on October 24, 2003 in conjunction with the NCEES PLS exams.

How often the examination is offered depends on the number of applicant requests, so candidates should check with the AELS Board staff, or the AELS website for 2004 exam dates.

### Landscape Architect Registration Exam (LARE):

The 2003 LARE Exams will only be offered in Anchorage unless otherwise posted on the website. Candidates should check with the AELS Board staff or the website for future LARE exam locations.

### NCEES Exams:

Exam security breaches have resulted in the development of a program by NCEES to administer exams.

The Board has been discussing using the NCEES exam services. This topic will be discussed by NCEES at the upcoming annual meeting.

## Issues and Other Updates

### Land Surveyor Model Law:

The Land Surveyor Board members continue to work on adoption of model law land surveyor by the NCEES. Once that work is complete, the Board anticipates adopting the new Model Law for Land Surveyors.

### On-Line Applications:

Until the issues surrounding the requirement for a notarized signature is addressed, the agency will focus its data processing efforts on the 2003 renewal cycle and postpone work on on-line applications.

### Outreach:

The Board began to publish information in February 2002 in yellow page directories, and online directories to alert the public of the necessity for professional licensure of architects, engineers, land surveyors,

and landscape architects. Some yellow page advertising has been eliminated as a result of policy changes, but the Board strongly supports reinstatement of webpage advertising as they believe this effort will help curb unlicensed activity.

#### **Retired Reinstatements:**

The Board has authorized staff to reactivate routine requests for reactivation of retired licensees of more than five years, so long as they have met the requirements under 12 AAC 36.115.

#### **Board Travel:**

The Board will send representatives to participate at the National Conference of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) to be held June 25-28, 2003, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) meeting to be held August 13-16, 2003.

The Board wishes to have their administrator's travel to conferences reinstated due to the education and outreach benefits derived from attendance. NCARB includes travel to regional, national conferences, and an MBA workshop in its dues.

#### **AELS Deadlines**

All applications for comity and any supporting documents are due in the *Juneau office* no later than **August 11, 2003** to be considered at the next AELS meeting scheduled for August 21-22, 2003 meeting in Juneau at the State Office Building.

The June LARE examinations will be given in Anchorage on **June 9-11, 2003**.

All applications for engineer and land surveyor exams for the October 24-25, 2003 exams must be received in the Division of Occupational Licensing *Juneau office* by **July 25, 2003**. Supporting documents for these applications can follow (**the deadline for comity applications and all supporting**

**documents** - exam or work verifications and transcripts - is August 11, 2003 for the August 21-22, 2003 AELS meeting.

#### **Staff Reports**

Staff reports are posted to the website at:

<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pael.htm>

#### **Investigator's Report**

John Clark, Occupational Licensing Investigator for the AELS Board, reported the status on the investigative cases and actions

The Executive Administrator Reported on quarterly activities.