

ALASKA AELS BOARD

November 2003

Quarterly Board Meeting

November Meeting Summary

Quarterly Board Meeting

Proposed Regulation Changes Adopted

Public Comment

Proposed Statutory Changes Requested

Subgroups

Proposed Statutory Changes

What's New

Other Updates

Applicant Files Reviewed

AELS Deadlines

Staff Reports

*Board of Registration for Architects,
Engineers, and Land Surveyors
PO Box 110806*

Juneau, AK 99811

*Phone: (907) 465-1676; 465-2540;
465-2691*

Fax: (907) 465-2974

BOARD STAFF:

Nancy Hemenway

Executive Administrator

nancy_hemenway@dced.state.ak.us

Julie Adamson

Licensing Examiner

julie_adamson@dced.state.ak.us

Eleanor Vinson

Licensing Examiner

Eleanor_vinson@dced.state.ak.us 465-2691

AELS Quarterly Board Meeting

The Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) held its quarterly board meeting on November 13-14, 2003 at the Atwood Building, 550 7th Avenue, Suite 1270, Anchorage, AK 99501.

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

Some highlights of the meeting:

Proposed Regulation Changes Adopted for Public Noticing

The Board voted to adopt proposed regulation changes and to public notice several proposed changes to interested parties (several small projects will be lumped together and public noticed in order to reduce postage costs):

1. Technical changes to Architect Education Requirements, 12 AAC 36.061(a)(2):

The purpose of this proposed change is to reflect the revised NCARB education standards publication 2003-2004, of the annual NCARB publication updated annually, available at:

<http://www.ncarb.org/Forms/educstand.pdf>

2. Technical change to Engineering Table, 12 AAC 36.063 (a)(3)(A):

An addition to the Table for combined education and experience requirements for engineers.

The portion of the table would allow an:

ABET Accredited B.S. degree in engineering not in the branch of engineering applied for listed in 12 AAC 36.990 (17), and a masters or doctorate in engineering acceptable to the Board.

The purpose of this proposed addition is to allow a one year education credit for a masters or doctorate degree for those applicants who are applying for licensure but hold an ABET accredited degree in a discipline other than the one for which they are seeking licensure. The Board noticed that some applicants have this combination of undergraduate degree and advanced degree and there was not currently a provision for adequate education credit allowance in the current table.

3. LARE retake deadline, 12 AAC 36.040:

The Board voted to public notice a proposed regulation change (adopted in May 2003) to change the **LARE retake deadline**.

The Board staff is required to order examinations for the LARE examinations and is charged full fees for examinations 60 days prior to the LARE examination being offered. Currently, the exam retake deadline is 45 days prior to the examination. Staff currently assesses who will retake the exam prior to ordering the exam by contacting failed applicants. Applicants are under no obligation to comply and loss of exam funds can occur under the current circumstances.

4. Sealing Specifications, 12 AAC 36.185:

The Board seeks to clarify submission of specifications attached to sealed plans. By sealing the plans, the registrant assumes responsibility for any specifications attached and submitted with the plans, with respect to the registrant's discipline, without requiring the registrant to manually seal each page of the specifications. Nothing prohibits the registrant from choosing to seal each page, if desired.

Public Comment

Grover Johnson, Alaska Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) made comments about adding environmental engineers to the system. The practice falls under civil engineering and he has concerns that it may be difficult to monitor the practice within the scope of environmental engineering only. He spoke in opposition of non-discipline specific engineering.

Proposed Statutory Changes Requested

Legislative Requests (included in the FY03 Annual Report):

The Board has requested two new statutory changes in addition to the change to term limits, continuing education program authority, and clarification of specialty contractors exemption under AS 08.48.331(7).

The Board included a request for two additional statute changes and asked Pat Kalen to forward the request through the Alaska Professional Design Council:

1. Statutory Change to allow its investigator to issue stop work orders on projects due to unlicensed activity.
2. Statutory Change to restore its executive administrator to a partially exempt position (the position has recently been moved to a supervisory bargaining unit) and not to recruit for the position until the Legislature has an opportunity to act (late spring 2004).

A summary of the legislation introduced during the legislative session in 2003:

Draft prepared by Nancy Hemenway
Last printed 01/22/04 2:18 PM

HB 252 (Rep. McGuire) contains a request for Continuing Education (CE) and Term Limits:

HB 252 passed the House and is currently before the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee. The companion bill, SB 207(Sen. Seekins), was referred to the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee.

The bill consists of two parts, CE and Term Limits:

Continuing Education

The Board initially requested in FY02 Annual Report legislative authority for a mandatory continuing education program, and if granted, regulations could be developed. Initially, a CE program would be developed only for land surveyors. The other professions (architects, engineers, and landscape architects) have not yet expressed adequate, uniform support for a mandatory CPC (or CE) program, and many registrants take courses offered by AIA, or through local

The model under consideration for the regulatory program is based on the NCEES recommended guidelines for CE. If statutory authority is granted, CE would likely be phased in for the 2005 or 2007 renewal cycle (in order to allow registrants time to comply with the new requirements).

Term Limits (HB 252, Rep. McGuire): The Board voted at its February 2002 meeting to support a change to the statutory requirement for term limits. Currently, if the Governor's process to appoint a Board member extends beyond two years, a Board member who serves 6 years is prohibited from being re-appointed. The Board has requested that a full term be considered two or more years. This change would allow a Board member filling a partial term to serve the partial term, plus a full 8 years (two 4-year terms).

HB 268, (Rep. McGuire): Specialty Contractors

This bill is currently before the House Rules Committee. The companion

bill (SB206, introduced by the Senate Judiciary Committee) is currently before the Senate Labor & Commerce committee.

This bill was introduced to clarify the current exemption in AS 8.48.331(7). 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. This bill clarifies that design work must be done under a registered professional (AELS).

Subgroups

The AELS Board did not meet in subgroups but plans to meet in February 2004 to discuss the practice of Landscape Architecture, the practice of Land Surveying, and Engineering Disciplines/Sub-Disciplines.

Work continues on Issues:

Engineering Disciplines: In May 2003, the Board voted not to adopt proposed regulation changes to add "Environmental Engineering" to the list of six disciplines it licenses.

Instead, the Board formed a subgroup to discuss accepting (for licensing by Comity) NCEES exams offered in disciplines related to the six disciplines for licensure it licenses. For example, those applicants successfully passing the NCEES examination in civil, environmental, or structural engineering would be eligible for licensure as a civil engineer provided they met all other requirements, and must work only in their area of expertise.

The subgroup consists of Iverson, Gilfilian, and Miller, and the group will report back at the February 2004 Board meeting.

Canadian Reciprocity and Work Experience Verifications:

The Board will continue its review of Comity issues and to compare the Canadian experience, education, and examinations to the U.S. system. Still under consideration:

- 1) To consider work experience under a registered Canadian engineer to meet U.S. engineering education requirements;
- 2) To review the regulation (12 AAC 36.090) for Fundamentals of Engineering Examination (F.E.) Waiver, and consider reducing the requirement to less than 20 years of professional work experience so long as the applicant holds an ABET accredited degree or its equivalent.

The Board will have a language drafted for its February 2004 meeting to consider changing the requirements of the FE Examination Waiver.

Building Officials Manual

The Board updated the Building Official's Manual with input by Building Officials in 2002. The publication has been posted to the AELS Website in December 2002. The Board considers it to be a working document, anticipates ongoing changes to the Building Officials Manual, and welcomes comments.

What's New

NCEES Exam Security

Beginning with the April 2004 exam Administration, the NCEES will ban the following calculators:
 Hewlett Packard, HP 48 GX
 Hewlett Packard, HP 49G
 Texas Instruments, TI-83 Plus
 Texas Instruments, TI-83 Plus Silver
 Texas Instruments, TI 9
 Texas Instruments 92, and Voyage 200

The Board staff will post information on its website to allow future candidates time to respond.

Engineer Requirements for FE/PE exam applicants:

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

Draft prepared by Nancy Hemenway
 Last printed 01/22/04 2:18 PM

engineering to qualify to sit for the exams. Less than three years of course work or a non-ABET accredited 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.

Arctic Engineering Course

The Board developed criteria for the minimum standards for Arctic Engineering Courses to meet the requirements of the Board approved arctic course under 12 AAC 36.110. The Board met by teleconference on September 30, 2003 to discuss the criteria, and reviewed all courses at the November 2003 meeting. All courses were approved. UAF dropped the Video correspondence course, and the Board did not get a response from Oregon State University, and will need a response by May 2004 if the course is to remain on the list. The Board would like the Northern Design course to add additional information on Arctic Hydrology and Arctic Roads by May 2004.

AKLS Exam

The Board will offer the Alaska Land Surveyor Examination (AKLS) on April 16, 2004 in conjunction with the NCEES PLS exams.

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

Other Updates

Occupational Licensing Director

The Director met with the Board and the Board outlined areas of interest to the Board:

1. **Public Outreach-** The Board wants staff to send a letter to contractors early next spring outlining the need for licensed

design professionals' involvement in commercial and public projects in order to curb unlicensed activity:

2. The Board requested reinstated advertising in the Yellow Pages.
3. **Legislative Requests:** The Board requested support for statutory authority for its investigator to temporarily stop work on projects due to unlicensed activity.
4. The Board requested specific statutory authority to place the executive administrator as a partially exempt position (the position has recently been moved to a supervisory bargaining unit).
5. **Enforcement:** The Board requested strong support for investigations to curb unlicensed activity.

Applicant Files Reviewed

The board reviewed 51 applicant files for examination or comity licensure for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects. The Board approved 47 applicants for comity and examination, found 3 applications incomplete and denied 1 applicant for PE Comity.

AELS Deadlines

All applications for comity and any supporting documents are due in the *Juneau office* no later than **February 9, 2004** to be considered at the next AELS meeting scheduled for February 19-20, 2004.

The meeting will be held in Juneau at the State Office Building, 330 Willoughby Ave. 9th Floor, Commissioner's Conference Room.

All exam applicants for the NCEES and AKLS Exam must apply by January 20, 2004 in order to sit for the April 2004 exams.

See notation for changes to the Engineering education and experience tables in 12 AAC 36.062 – 12 AAC 36.063 that will take effect 1/1/04.

Landscape Architect Registration Exam (LARE):

The December LARE examinations were given in Anchorage on **December 8-9, 2003** (Graphic Sections only –C,E).

The LARE multiple choice exams will be offered in August 2004 (through CLARB), and the Graphics sections will continue to be administered by Board staff and will be offered in June and December 2004. Applicants will apply directly to CLARB for LARE sections A,B, and D.

Board Travel:

If approved by the Division Director, the Board will send representatives to participate at the Western Zone meeting in May 2004, and the Region 6, WCARB meeting in March 2004.

Board Member Participation Regionally and Nationally:

Board Chair, Robert Miller, volunteers on a NCEES task force: Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force (ELCOG).

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

Board Member Pat Kalen volunteers on a NCEES Committee for Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines (UP &LG) and on the Western Zone as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Board Member Daphne Brown volunteers on the NCARB committee to look at changes to the ARE Exam and on the Regional Chairs Committee. She also has been Regional Chair for Region 6 (WCARB) of NCARB for the past two years and has been on the Executive Committee for WCARB for the past 4 years.

Board Member Linda Cyra-Korsgaard Volunteers as a “grader” to score the LARE exams for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB).

Former AELS Board member, Lance Mearig serves as an emeritus member for the NCEES Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP) Committee.

Staff Reports

Investigator’s Report

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

Board Administrator’s Report

The AELS Board administrator reported on statistics of registrants and exams. Staff reports are posted to the AELS website.