

The South Carolina EXAMINER

Board Members

Volume 1, No. 2

Board of Registration for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors

June 2000

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PE
Member

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South Carolina
Department of
Labor, Licensing
and Regulation

FIRE

Protection Sprinkler Systems

The Board continues to receive reports of violations by professional engineers involving the design and preparation of plans for fire protection sprinkler systems. It is the responsibility of the design professional who undertakes such projects to know and fully comply with the provisions of the Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Act (Title 23, Chapter 45, SC Code of Laws, Ann.).

The completed fire sprinkler system specification sheet is required for every fire protection sprinkler system installed in South Carolina. The specification sheet, designed by the State Fire Marshal, must be properly completed, sealed/signed and dated by either the SC licensed PE or the SC licensed sprinkler contractor, depending on the requirements of contract or statute (size/occupancy classification) See Title 25, Chapter 45, Section 145 (B) SC Code of Laws.

For new construction, the completed fire sprinkler system specification sheet is required as part of the bid documents. The sprinkler contractor bidding the project needs the design specifications by the PE just as the electrical and mechanical contractors require the design specifications to construct the electrical and mechanical systems. The sprinkler contractor will prepare shop drawings from the data specified on the bid documents and the fire sprinkler system specification sheet. The shop drawings, with the fire sprinkler system specification sheet, must be submitted to the PE who prepared the fire sprinkler system specification sheet,

Fire Protection continued on page 8

Two New Board Members Appointed

Governor Jim Hodges appointed two new members to the Board to replace those who rotated off this year.

Deborah J. Livingston was appointed to the position of public member on 3/23/2000 for a term that expires 7/1/2003. Ms. Livingston is currently the Executive Director of the Columbia Housing Development Corporation. She received a degree in banking from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. W. Kenneth Humphries was appointed on 5/4/2000 for a term that expires 7/1/2003. Dr. Humphries, a civil engineer, is a former Dean of the University of South Carolina College of Engineering and is currently President of GAGE Group, Inc.

Welcome to you both, and we look forward to working with you!

CPC UPDATE

At the May 2000 meeting, the Board revisited its original policy regarding the three hour limitation on CPC credit for video-taped courses. It was determined that successful completion of a video or audio taped course, where the course includes an examination, or is presented in a group setting, with a facilitator, is acceptable. If a course meets these criteria, there is no limit on the number of hours a licensee may obtain.

The Board determined that for a course to meet CPC requirements:

1. there must be a provider who maintains records; **OR**
2. there must be a facilitator (audio/video group course, presenter at a seminar, or professor in a course/classroom); **OR**
3. there must be an examination.

We'll Miss You!

Both Jim Dominick and Jack McCormac rotated off the Board this month. Jim has served the Board since 1983 as our public member. Jack has served since 1991 as a civil engineer, as well as a representative from the field of education.

We appreciate their many contributions and efforts on behalf of the Board. Their many years of service have made a tremendous impact on the engineering and land surveying professions in our state. We wish them success in their future endeavors.

Be sure to look for more comprehensive information on the accomplishments and contributions of these two long-term Board members in our next issue!

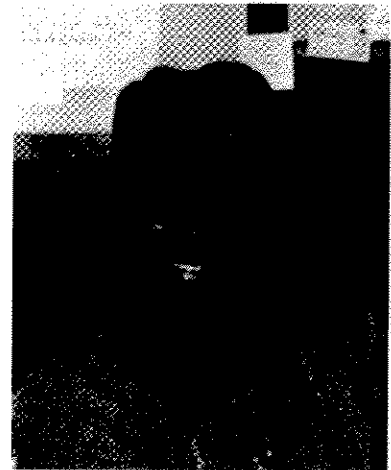
Cheryl Jelks Promoted to Data Coordinator

Cheryl Jelks was promoted to the position of Data Coordinator effective May 17, 2000. Cheryl has been serving in the capacity of Administrative Specialist II since she transferred from DHEC to our Board in November 1999. As the Data Coordinator, she will have primary responsibility for license renewals, database maintenance and for recommending new computer hardware and software purchases.

Cheryl is a resident of Sumter, where she lives with her children, Sabrina and William. Her other son, David, is in the Army, stationed in Germany. Her

husband, Al, is currently serving on a civilian tour in Korea in the Army. In addition to her work and family responsibilities, Cheryl managed to complete a bachelor's degree in Business Management at Morris College on May 13, 2000.

Cheryl's drive, ambition and organizational skills are clear in the performance of her duties with the Board. She is a real asset and we wish her well in her new position.



Meet Janice Bradford

One of our more experienced staff members - she transferred from the Medical Board in September 1998 - is our Exams Coordinator, Janice Bradford. Janice is originally from Georgia but now resides in Gilbert with her husband, William, and their two children, Heather, 16, and Scott, 12. Janice feels that she actually has two full-time jobs, one is with us and the other keeping up with her two very active children. She is on the go from high school football games where her daughter is a cheerleader, to the B- team football games where her son plays. When football season

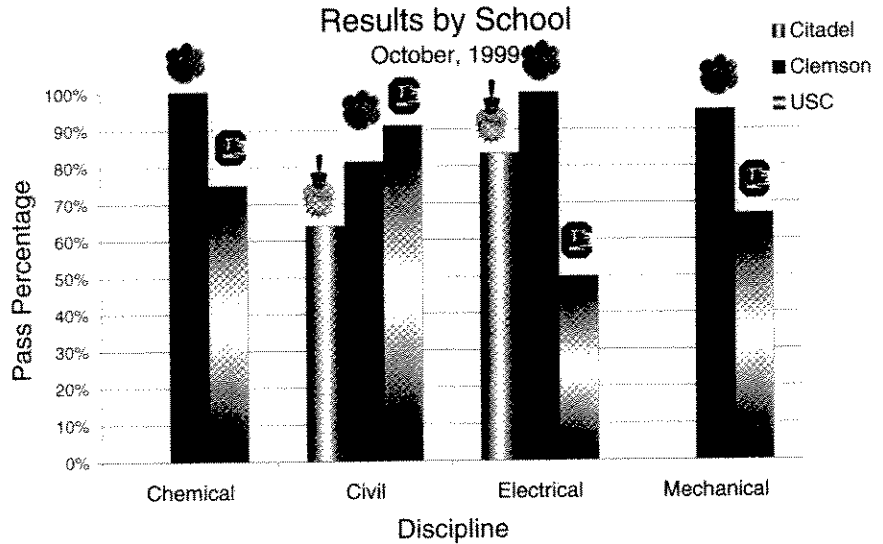
is over, Heather will play varsity basketball and shortly after that, Scott will play baseball. Now that their school is adding soccer to the athletic program, they both want to play soccer, too!

Janice is primarily responsible for administering the FE and PE exams in October and April. She processes the applications, orders the exams, and then distributes the results. All the experience she gets from juggling her children's diverse schedules proves invaluable in meeting the deadlines inherent to exam administration.



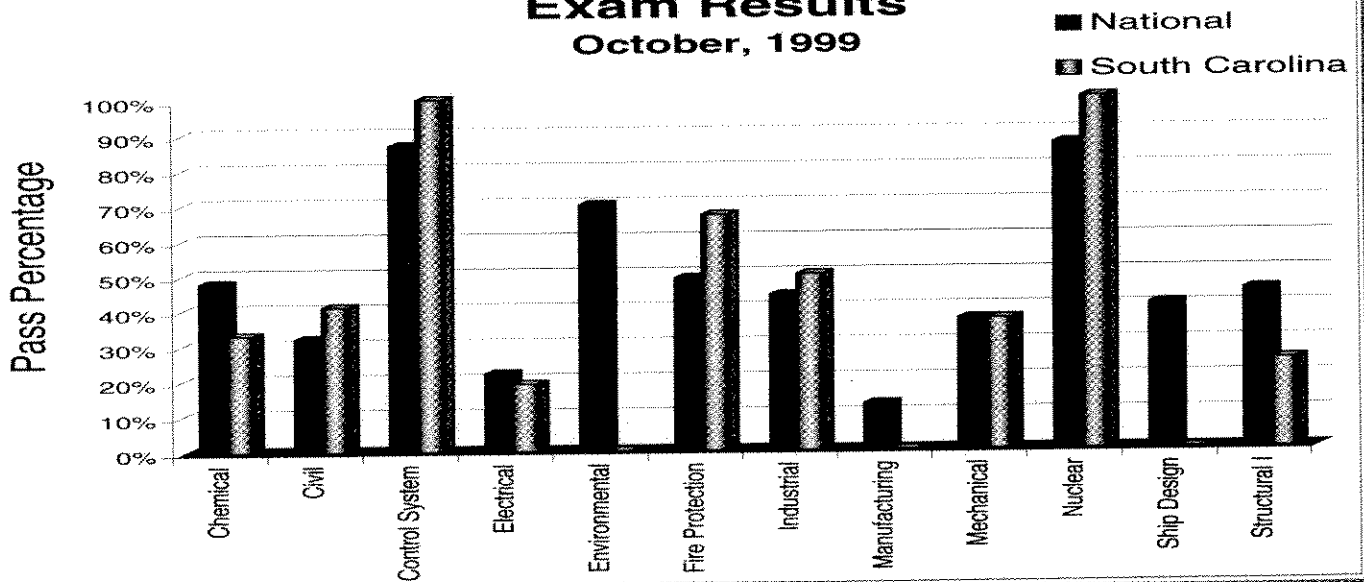
Exam Results

Fundamentals of Engineering Exam



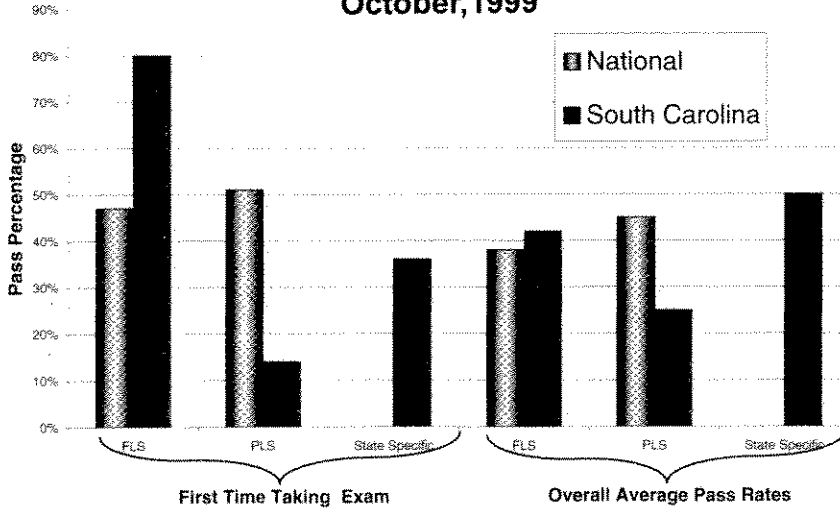
Principals & Practices of Engineering Exam Results

October, 1999



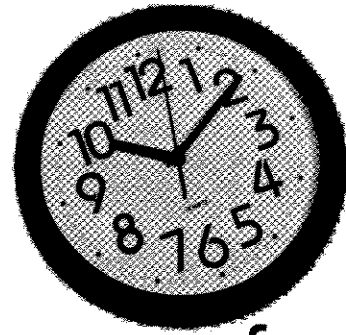
LSIT Results

October, 1999



Exam Results

It's Renewal Time Again,



and we have another new form!

INSTRUCTIONS

Last year, the new CPC requirements necessitated a new format for renewal forms. Unfortunately, we had to return about 15% of the forms that were submitted because of incomplete information.

This year, we have redesigned the form hoping to reduce the confusion. At the same time, we have just begun to use a new computer program to facilitate the process. Naturally, like with all "new and improved" processes, this one has a few bugs to be worked out.

One such "bug" is that the new system did not designate the proper fees for dual registrants. A letter was sent to everyone affected by this problem, but in case we missed you, please remit \$100 instead of the \$50 printed on the renewal form.

We also thought it might help if we provided you a few more details for completion of the form. The arrows indicate areas that are the most commonly overlooked or misunderstood. We hope this will help!

1. Sections One (1) and Two (2) must be completed. Incomplete forms will be returned unprocessed.
2. Make any corrections to address, phone number, and employer in the space provided.
3. Sign and date completed form. Unsigned forms will be returned unprocessed.
4. Make checks payable to: LLR-Engineers and Surveyors Board.
5. Return completed form and fee to:

LLR-Engineers and Surveyors
Board
PO Box 11597
Columbia, SC 29211-1597
6. All renewal forms must be post-marked by JUNE 30th.

DEADLINE - JUNE 30TH

ACTIVE LICENSE RENEWAL

JANE Q. PUBLIC
123 MAIN STREET
ANYWHERE, SC 29000

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| License Number | 00000 |
| Type of License | LS |
| Fee Due | \$50.00 |
| Due Date | 06/30/2000 |

WRITE LICENSE NUMBER ON YOUR CHECK
AND RETURN IT WITH THE FORM BELOW TO:
(PLEASE DO NOT USE STAPLES.)

LLR-ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS BOARD
ATTN: RENEWALS
PO BOX 11597
COLUMBIA SC 29211-1597

| RENEWAL FEES DUE BY JUNE 30 | |
|---|------|
| LATE PENALTIES (ADD TO RENEWAL FEE)* | |
| July | \$0 |
| August | \$10 |
| September | \$20 |
| *Penalties are doubled for dual license holders | |

THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE THAT WILL BE SENT.
PLEASE KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS.

SIGN AND RETURN THE PORTION BELOW WITH CORRECT FEE.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CHECK.

JANE Q. PUBLIC
123 MAIN STREET
ANYWHERE, SC 29000

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| License Number | 00000 |
| Type of License | LS |
| Fee Due | \$50.00 |
| Due Date | 06/30/2000 |

***After June 30, add penalty shown above or check will be returned. Penalty amount determined by date postmarked.**

PLEASE MAKE ADDRESS & EMPLOYER CORRECTIONS BELOW:

ADDRESS: _____

 EMPLOYER: _____
 PHONE: _____

Forms submitted without initials to indicate CPC compliance (or exemption as noted), will be returned. We cannot process the renewals until after continuing education requirements have been met.

THE FOLLOWING TWO SECTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED:

SECTION 1. CONTINUING EDUCATION STATEMENT (Initial applicable response.)

- I have met my continuing education requirement of at least ten (10) professional development hours.
- I am exempt because: (Check one of the following)
- I am physically disabled. (Attach explanation and supporting documentation.)
 - I have been on temporary Active Duty for the U.S. Military.
 - I am retired.
 - I was registered after June 30, 1999.

SECTION 2. HAS ANY STATE TAKEN ACTION AGAINST YOUR LICENSE SINCE YOUR LAST RENEWAL?

(Revoked, Suspended, Fined, or Reprimanded)

No. Yes.
 If yes, name state(s). _____
 Why? _____

Forms that are submitted unsigned ... or which do not indicate whether there have been disciplinary actions taken in another state, will be returned.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

INVESTIGATOR'S CORNER

By: Charles J. Ido

Code Uniformity

Why is there no uniformity of code requirements in South Carolina from locality to locality and from state agency to state agency?

It is true that various local jurisdictions and agencies of state government operate under different versions of building codes. We think uniformity is forthcoming however. There has recently been a vigorous effort to consolidate regulatory requirements and to require that state agencies adopt the latest building codes within specific time frames after the codes are made available.

This Board has been meeting with representatives of the boards that license architects, contractors and home builders, as well as building code officials, fire officials and representatives of the Department of Education, DHEC and the State Engineer's Office to make code compliance easier for design professionals all over South Carolina. The proposal is presently before the state legislature (S. 1214).

Certificate of Authorization Changes

If your firm has a change of "engineer in responsible charge," change of address, additions or deletion of branch offices, you must notify us in writing within 30 days. Failure to do so constitutes a violation of SC Code of Regulations, Section 49-207 and is punishable by a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than

Competitive Fees

Is it acceptable for engineers or land surveyors to solicit or accept work on the basis of competitive fees?

Regulation 49-305 is clear in its intent that engineers and land surveyors are to solicit and accept work only on the basis of their professional competency, qualifications, experience and reputation for maintenance of high ethical standards. Financial remuneration should not be used as a primary consideration, but should be negotiated after selection of the engineering or land surveying firm is made.

Professional Competency – The client should be satisfied that the firms being considered have on staff, and in responsible charge, design professionals and supporting technical/clerical personnel with adequate and appropriate expertise to execute the proposed project.

Qualifications – Consideration should be given to both technical and professional qualifications of all personnel to be involved in the proposed project.

Experience – The client should be satisfied that the design professional has a record of active participation in events or activities leading to the accumulation of knowledge or skill to successfully complete the proposed project and that he/she is properly licensed.

Reputation/Ethical Standards – The direct supervisory control of, and full responsibility for, all engineering

\$500 and/or by sanctions up to and including revocation of the COA to practice in South Carolina, or both, at the discretion of the Board.

Questions concerning COA renewals or registration may be directed to Miriam Berry, COA Coordinator, at (803) 896-4416.

or surveying work by a licensed engineer or land surveyor is a legal requirement. An offer to perform engineering or land surveying work by a firm not so staffed is a clear violation of law.

The Board recognizes that there is no specific law at this time to prohibit offering non-government design services on a fee basis. We are acutely aware, however, that the procurement of such services on a competitive fee basis has the potential of drawing down the quality of services. Therefore, we strongly encourage the selection of professional services through a qualification based (QBS) procedure.

Statute of Limitations

Is there a statute of limitations applicable to professional engineers and land surveyors in South Carolina?

YES. SC Code of Laws Ann., Sections 15-3-640, 15-3-660 and 15-3-670 restrict legal actions against professional engineers and land surveyors based upon or arising out of the defective or unsafe conditions of an improvement to real property no later than thirteen (13) years after completion.

In keeping with the generally accepted practice of other state regulatory agencies, this Board limits investigative inquiries with respect to alleged violations of the engineering and land surveying laws to 13 years from date of acceptance by the owner/client of the work product (i.e., plat, specification, plan, report, etc.). Allegations of misconduct against a registrant which extraordinarily affect the life, health, property, or welfare of the public will be regarded as an exception to the 13-year restriction and may be referred to investigation as deemed appropriate by a quorum of Board members.

PENALTY BOX



FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

January 1, 2000 – June 1, 2000

By: CHARLES J. IDO - Chief Investigator

Atlantic Engineering Services (PA) 5/3/2000 – Unlicensed practice (Columbia), \$500 fine, public reprimand.

Benchmark Surveying and Construction (SC) 3/20/2000 – Unlicensed practice (Charleston and Beaufort counties), \$500 fine, public reprimand.

William H. Dennis, PLS (SC) 4/5/2000 – Accepted payment and did not provide refund for surveys not performed. Ordered to make restitution, public reprimand, license revoked for minimum of five years.

Leland O. Drew, PLS (SC) 3/1/2000 – Violations of Minimum Standards Regulations in preparation of survey plats for property in Anderson, Pickens and Oconee counties, public reprimand.

Four Corners Surveying, Inc. (SC) 3/24/2000 - Unlicensed practice (Dorchester County), \$500 fine.

Zyad A. Khalil (SC) 3/24/2000 – Violations of Minimum Standards Regulations in Beaufort County. Agreed to pay fine of \$1,000 and restitution to client, public reprimand. Fine waived upon payment of restitution within 30 days.

John Luther Engineers & Planners (SC) 5/17/2000 – Unlicensed practice (Simpsonville), \$500 fine, public reprimand.

Fredrick E. Landrith, PLS (SC) – Violations of Minimum Standards Regulations in Greenville County. Correct errors, provide revised plats, fine, public reprimand.

Lysaght & Associates, PA (NC) 1/24/2000 – Unlicensed practice (Horry County), \$1,000 fine, public reprimand.

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, before making decisions based upon it, please seek verification at (803) 896-4422. Listings do not reflect pending appeals for rehearing or information that occurs near publication date.

CPC Audit Status

What is the status of the Board's audit for continuing professional competency?

We are presently in the second year of our mandatory continuing education program. To renew your SC practice certificate for FY 1999-2000, you were required to have five (5) contact hours – or five (5) PDHs. To renew your practice certificate for FY 2000-2001, you must have ten (10) PDHs. We recently completed our first compliance audit, and I am happy to report that all of those audited were in compliance.



Tell us what you think!

Do you have questions, concerns or comments that you would like to see addressed in future issues of *The Examiner*? If so, just send them in, and we'll be happy to respond. You may send them to our mailing address, call 803-896-4428, or e-mail: tillley@mail.llr.state.sc.us. We appreciate your input.

FE Exam

I am a student in an accredited engineering curriculum and hope to one day be a professional engineer. When should I take the fundamentals exam?

As soon as you're eligible! The fundamentals exam is the first step toward professional licensure. The possibility of passing a comprehensive examination on subjects taught in school becomes more difficult the longer you are out of school. It is better to take and pass the exam, even if you don't need it now, than to find out years later that you need the exam and passing it has become more difficult.

COA Renewals Continue

Renewal notices for Certificates of Authorization were mailed February 1, 2000 to firms registered to practice engineering and land surveying in South Carolina. The renewal fee was due by April 1. For those who renew after April 30th the late fee adds \$9 for a total fee of \$54. After May 31st the late fee increases to \$18 for a total fee of \$62.

If you fail to renew by June 1, 2000, your firm will be in violation of SC Code of Regulations (Section 49-207). Reinstatement will then require filing a new application, a reinstatement form and application fee, and approval by the Board will be required. Don't delay! It is important that your Certificate of Authorization remain current.

Fire Protection

continued from page 1

or others, in accordance with Title 23, Chapter 45, Section 145(B) SC Code of Laws for compliance review and certification.

For existing structures, the fire sprinkler system specification sheet is required when the authority having jurisdiction requires permits.

Shop drawings must be prepared for every fire sprinkler system. The shop drawings and the fire sprinkler system specification sheet must contain sufficient information to show compliance with the NFPA standards to the degree required by the regulations of the State Fire Marshal (Division of Fire & Life Safety). The State Fire Marshal will not process packages that fail to include the fire sprinkler system specification sheet. Nor will the State Fire Marshal process packages in which the fire sprinkler system specification sheet is inaccurate or incomplete.

The Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Act directly affects the services offered by engineers, architects, contractors and public permitting authorities. Violations of the Act will subject individuals and/or firms to administrative sanctions by the Board.

Change of Address Notice

(Please print or type information)

NAME _____

Registration No. _____ Phone (____) _____

Business Address: _____

Residence Address: _____

Please indicate preferred mailing address and provide Zip+4.

All changes must be submitted in writing!

CONTACT US

Phone: 803-896-4422

Fax: 803-896-4427

E-mail: engls@mail.llr.state.sc.us



South Carolina Department of
Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Registration for Professional
Engineers & Land Surveyors
110 Centerview Drive
P.O. Box 11597
Columbia, SC 29211-1597

Bulk Rate
United States
Postage Paid
Columbia, SC
Permit No. 819