



THE PELS NEWS

An Official Publication of the Arkansas State Board of Registration For Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors

May 2009

Newsletter

Twenty-Fourth Edition

The President's Message

By Bill Ruck, PE, PS

NCEES – A WHOLE NEW WORLD

I used to contemplate the size of the Universe. How far is it to the very last constellation, and what do you get to when you pass it? It was a concept that my finite mind just could not deal with. Perhaps that's what you get for going to college....

Also near the end of the universe is another constellation of activity that I never knew existed, but have learned to appreciate - NCEES. It consists of all the boards of registration for engineers and surveyors in the 50 states plus remote territories like Puerto Rico and Guam. The world of NCEES is nearly as remote from the average engineer as the farthest star, yet they are charting the path of your professions light years into the future. Business meetings are well-orchestrated fiascoes of competing ideas.

The top issue confronting NCEES is commonly known as "B+30". The semester hours of coursework required for bachelor of science degrees has declined across the nation for many years, while the decrease is helped along by the competition for engineering students. ABET accreditation – which NCEES does not control – has become part of the debate. The debate this year will surely focus on the potential to simply require a Master's degree for licensure. It will easily be 2020 before the new requirements become effective.

A number of new engineering disciplines are emerging, and their licensure - or lack thereof – could become confused with traditional licensure. Sustainable design, stormwater management, technicians, public infrastructure managers, public fleet professionals, grounds managers, floodplain managers, and many others.

Foreign use of NCEES examinations is also a major new endeavor for consideration. Japan, Canada, China, and Saudi Arabia are all applicants for our examinations. Examination security has been breached in the recent past, and these new endeavors may provide an even greater challenge. Licensure of those with foreign college degrees provides each State Board a challenge already.

Two Cautions: Crossing state lines to obtain work and then seeking licensure is not legal in most states. Almost every state will levy fines or suspension for this unlicensed practice prohibit offering to practice without a license.

Many complaints considered by our Board involve unhappy clients, some of whom are involved in litigation against the professional. Good contracts and good service will keep these problems from your door.

Now that I know the universal truth about the size of the universe I have the presence of mind to endure even the longest and most complicated NCEES debates.

LICENSE RENEWAL EVERY TWO YEARS (BIENNIAL RENEWAL) BEGINS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2009!

The change begins with the Surveyor Interns and Professional Surveyors in June, applies to all licenses issued by the Board, take a couple of years before it will be fully implemented, and affect the timing for reporting continuing education hours.

"These changes start this June 2009 with the Surveyor Interns and Professional Surveyors...."

The Board voted to use an "odd license & year/even license & year" approach to determine when a license is to be renewed. What this means is that odd-numbered licenses will renew in odd-numbered years and even-numbered in even-numbered years. This year will be the first year odd-numbered licenses will pay for, and be renewed for, two years. Even-numbered licenses will also be renewed in 2009 but only for one year. In 2010 even-numbered licenses will again be renewed but this time for two years. Fee amounts for the two-year renewals will be double the annual amount.

The practice of reporting continuing education licenses will continue under the new procedures. This will ultimately mean reporting at least thirty Professional Development Hours (PDH) at each renewal. During the first two years, the hours will be reported according to the chart listed in the article titled "Biennial License Renewals Begin This year, 2009" in the Hot Topics Box.

Biennial Renewal will apply to all licenses including Engineer/Surveyor Interns, Professional Engineers/Surveyors and engineering and/or surveying firms with Certificates of Authorization. Dual registrants (those that hold both engineer and surveyor type licenses) will also be renewed every two years and the engineer license number will determine whether it is considered odd or even.

To view the chart which outlines the License Renewal Fees and Professional Development Hours (PDH) needed by year, please visit the Hot Topics box and review the article titled "**Biennial License Renewals Begin This year 2009**" on our home page. If you have questions, please call the Board at (501) 682-2824.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Steve Haralson, PE

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CHANGE....

One of the first things my predecessor, Joe Clements, Jr., asked of me was to read a little book titled *Who Moved my Cheese?* written by the same guys that authored the classic *The One Minute Manager*. The book is about change and adapting to it. Joe was wise enough not to tell me all the reasons he wanted it read, but after about a year and half on the job it is very apparent.

Joe guided the Board through a lot of changes while he was Director, knew more was coming and wanted the "new guy" to be ready for it. So far we have changed a number of things including the way the newsletter is distributed (by downloading from the internet), the license renewal frequency (from one to two years) and are about to start sending out postcard notices for license renewals rather than the traditional renewal form and envelope. By the end of the year, we hope to be accepting electronic applications and allowing license holders to print pocket cards from the internet.

One might ask why all the change is necessary and the answer is so that we can hopefully put off at least some other changes and that is to our fee structure. Those of you licensed in other states know our renewal fees are comparatively very low. Our fees are also low when compared to other professions in our state. We hope to keep it that way.

So when we change something, it isn't to demonstrate we don't mind our "cheese" being moved but instead because we are trying to keep our fees low and still maintain a high level of customer service. We always appreciate suggestions for improvement and feel free to call me anytime with your ideas.

2009 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AMENDMENTS BECOME LAW

The proposed amendments to the Engineer and Surveyor laws have been approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, and is now Act 444 of 2009. Notice of the proposed amendments were previously provided to all license holders and have been posted on the Board's website (www.arkansas.gov/pels) since late 2008.

The changes were termed as "clean up" and amended various things like license reinstatements, temporary engineering permits, fee establishment and application references. All bring these more in line with NCEES Model laws and rules and Board practices. The agency name will also change to Arkansas Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors.

The Act will not become effective until 90 days after the legislature adjourns so we believe it will be in full force sometime around the middle to end of July. The Act is posted on and can be downloaded either from the Board's or Arkansas Legislature's website (www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

LAW PASSES TO ADD EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEYOR LICENSING

Another law passed in this legislative session, Act 392, changes the education requirements for future Surveyor Intern and Professional Surveyor applicants. Beginning January 1, 2017, an applicant for original registration for either must have:

A four (4) year baccalaureate degree from a curriculum with 30 hours in surveying, mapping or real estate; or

An associate of science (AS) or associate of applied science (AAS) degree in surveying. Experience requirements in order to take the professional exam are 3 years for those possessing the four (4) year degree and six (6) years for those with the AS or AAS degrees. The Act is posted on and can be downloaded either from the Board's or Arkansas Legislature's website.

STATE SURVEYOR'S LAW AMENDED

A final law that may be of interest to some license holders is Act 694 that restored wording in the State Surveyor's law that had been amended in the previous legislative session. The primary change is that it again allows the State Surveyor to receive complaints instead of referring all to the Board. This Act is also posted on and can be downloaded from the Board's or Arkansas Legislature's website.

THE COMPLAINT CORNER

By James Atchley, PE

REPORT ON DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

by the Board since October 2008

11/12/2008 In the matter of Todd Vinje

Charged with practicing or offering to practice engineering in Arkansas without registration, and without a valid COA. The Board accepted a Consent Agreement which provided for an admission of violation and a civil penalty of \$1,000.

11/12/2008 In the matter of Hoffman, Inc

Charged with providing or offering to provide engineering services in Arkansas without a valid COA. The Board accepted a Consent Agreement which provided for an admission of violation and a civil penalty of \$500.

1/13/2009 In the matter of Terri Lynn Johnson

Charged with practicing or offering to practice engineering in Arkansas without registration, and without a valid COA. The Board accepted a Consent Agreement which provided for an admission of violation and a civil penalty of \$1,000.

1/13/2009 In the matter of Lyon and Associates

Charged with providing or offering to provide engineering services in Arkansas without a valid COA. The Board accepted a Consent Agreement which provided for an admission of violation and a civil penalty of \$250.

3/19/2009 In the matter of Jimmie D. Ramey, Jr.

Charged with two counts of unregistered engineering practice. After a hearing by the Board, found guilty and assessed a civil penalty of \$50.

Meet the Complaint Committee

Previous newsletters have outlined the complaint resolution process and promised more details about what happens after a complaint is received. The subject of this column is the Complaint Committee of the Board.

The Complaint Committee is an *ad hoc* committee, that is, its make-up is not specified by law or rule, and meetings are convened on an as-needed basis. Under the provisions of Article 15 of the Rules of the Board, the Complaint Committee is appointed by the president of the Board, and by custom it consists of a Professional Member, a Consumer Member, and the Executive Director. These three are advised during the meeting by the Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Board, who does not vote. As the number of complaints before the Board has increased, it has become necessary for the Complaint Committee to meet fairly often (more or less bi-monthly), and it has taken on some of the aspects of a standing committee.

The Complaint Committee is very much in charge of the complaint resolution process. While the staff of the Board may receive complaints and gather evidence, it is the Complaint Committee which evaluates the evidence and determines whether there is cause to believe a violation has occurred, and what should be done about it.

After review of a complaint file, the Complaint Committee may:

- 1) Conclude that more information is required to make a decision, and require the staff to undertake further specific investigation.
- 2) Conclude that no violation has occurred or the matter is unsupported by the evidence, and recommend dismissal of the complaint.
- 3) Conclude the matter is outside the jurisdiction of the Board, and recommend dismissal of the complaint. (For example, the Board does not take sides in contract disputes, choose between professional opinions, or hear matters which have already been decided in civil court.)
- 4) Conclude there is sufficient evidence that a violation has occurred, and recommend the matter be set for a hearing before the Board. In that case, the Complaint Committee must also approve the statement of charges which will become the basis for the Notice of Hearing.

Only the Board can decide the disposition of a complaint. The Complaint Committee's actions are only advisory, in the form of a recommendation to the Board, but it is rare that the Board does not adopt the recommendation. If a matter is set for hearing before the Board, the Complaint Committee members are not allowed to participate, since they have already seen the evidence, discussed the case, and made a decision.

NCEES ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW 16 HOUR STRUCTURAL EXAMINATION TO REPLACE EXISTING 8-HOUR EXAMS

NCEES will introduce a new 16-hour Structural PE exam in April 2011. The exam will replace the current Structural I and Structural II exams, which will be administered for the last time in October 2010.

NCEES Director of Exam Services Tim Miller, PE, explained the need for the revision: "NCEES currently offers two 8-hour structural exams, and some licensing boards also use state-specific exams. NCEES wanted to provide one exam that could be used by any state requiring specialized structural licensure, even a state with high-seismic activity."

To develop the new exam, NCEES surveyed licensed structural engineers from across the United States to find out what knowledge areas are most relevant to current professional practice. NCEES brought together representatives from state licensing boards and national structural engineering organizations to analyze the survey results and set the specifications, or content areas, for the new exam.

Miller is confident that the exam will be an effective measure of minimal competence for any state. "We've gone through a deliberate and rigorous process to develop the specifications, and the state boards that currently license structural engineers have been included in this process," he said.

The new 16-hour Structural exam is divided into two 8-hour components, which will be offered on successive days. The Vertical Forces component focuses on gravity loads and incidental lateral loads. The Lateral Forces component focuses on wind and earthquake loads.

Each component of the exam has a breadth module that contains questions covering a comprehensive range of structural engineering topics. Each component also has a depth module that focuses more closely on a single area of practice. Examinees will choose whether they want to concentrate on buildings or bridges for this module.

To pass the exam, examinees must pass both the Vertical Forces and Lateral Forces components, but these components may be taken and passed in different exam administrations.

The [specifications](#) for the new exam are posted on the NCEES Web site. NCEES will also publish a book of sample questions and solutions in 2010 to familiarize examinees with the new exam's format and content areas.

"The changeover is still two years away, but it's an important transition," Miller said. "We want to give people as much advance notice as possible."

ONLINE PRACTICE FE EXAM AVAILABLE

NCEES introduces the FE Online Practice Exam, an online, timed practice exam designed to help examinees evaluate their readiness for the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination. The online practice exam includes questions that have been used on actual FE examinations and provides valuable information about the FE exam format, style, and level of difficulty.

The FE online exam includes 90 total questions. The first 60 questions are drawn from all 12 topics covered during the morning session of the FE examination. These questions are the same for all disciplines. The last 30 questions address one of the following disciplines offered during the afternoon session of the FE examination: chemical, civil, electrical, environmental, general, industrial, and mechanical.

Each online practice exam contains half the number of questions on the actual examination. Two hours are provided to complete the first 60 questions and two hours to complete the last 30 questions. Questions can be worked through to completion or stored for later use.

Immediate detailed feedback is provided about performance once each set of questions is submitted. The online practice exam is accessible for 1 year from the date of purchase.

Examinees who passed October 2008 exams

AR 2 Hour Law Exam

Salyer, John Kyle
Beckwith, Kenneth Olin
Brixey, Chad Nelson
Brown, Steven Alexander
Ellington, Danny Edward
Ford, Tobias Paul
Hall, Jamie April
Jenkins, Dan
Ness, Kelly Dale
Schrader, Nicholas S
Shipp, Steven Earl
Wiseman, Joe Sidney

Fundamentals of Surveying

Carroll, John Robert
Dennis, John Chandler
Hall, Ronnie David
Hogan, Michael Ryan
McNeese, Michael Patrick
Miller, Allen Wayne
Mills, David Jeremy
Moseley, Andrew Edward
Parker, Alison Leann
Spurlock, Darby Lyn
West, Justin Randall
Wilson, Tyler Kirr

Principles of Surveying

Barnett, James Keith
Brixey, Chad Nelson
Brown, Steven Alexander
Ellington, Danny Edward
Grayham, Jason Herbert
Hall, Jamie April
Shoffner, William Corbett R
Sledge, Kirt Lawrence
Carroll, John Robert
Dennis, John Chandler
Hall, Ronnie David
Hogan, Michael Ryan
McNeese, Michael Patrick
Miller, Allen Wayne
Mills, David Jeremy
Moseley, Andrew Edward
Parker, Alison Leann
Spurlock, Darby Lyn
West, Justin Randall
Wilson, Tyler Kirr

Fundamentals of Engineering

Allen, Stephen Russell
Armstrong, Trevor Michael
Barnhill, Brooke Natasha
Beckford, Samuel George
Bhupathiraju, Leelasoujanya
Bishop, Steven Y
Brantley, Caleb H
Cameron, Thomas Cary
Campbell, Preston Clay
Cole, Aaron Allen
Dalton, Aaron Thomas
Davison, George William
Dutton, Emmalyn Susan
Eoff, Shane Nicholas
Finnegan, Andrew David
Flagg, Brian Collins
Font, Alexander Michael
Fort, Jeffrey Lamarris
George Jr, Daniel Lynn
Gerard, Thomas Michael
Graves, William Michael
Haub, Ashley Rene
Holden, Benjamin Michael
Hudson, Charles Logan
James, Mainey
Jeans, Rebekah Kaye
Jones, Matthew Allen
Kuenzel, Lauren Margaret
Lewis, Allen Daniel

Lyle, James Dean
McDaniel, Adam Cole
McFadden, David Michael
Meier, Robert James
Melhorn, Christopher Jacob
Mitsch, Michael Gregory
Moore, Zach Tyler
Mullins, Boyd Ray
Nichols, Mark Andrew
Pannell, Thomas Oliver
Payne, Zachary Robert
Peña, Diego
Pifer, Ashley Dale
Porter, Annette Michelle
Qiu, Minghua
Ransom, Chase Michael
Rogers, Dameron Gene
Sattler, Michael Scott
Schirmer, Christopher C
Short, Aaron Bruce
Springer, Richard Scott
Talley, Linsey Nicole
Tounsand, Alton R
Twardowski, Andrew Thomas
Vangilder, Daniel Alan
Wiles, Ralph A
Wise, Charles Gilbert
Wylie, Joshua F

Principles of Engineering

Adams, Jason Christopher
Becknell, Nathan Lee
Berry, David Alan
Breakfield, III, James Wilkins
Brewer, Andrew Stephen
Burroughs, Christopher Dale
Campbell, Jr., Billy Edward
Carter, Jr., Larry Norman
DeVore, Daniel Duke
Earl, Mark Scott
Fleming, Johnny Ray
Foster, III, Joseph (Trey) Leslie
Grant, William Charles
Hesseltine, Terry Lee
Hill, Jacob Thomas
Iqbal, PhD, Kamran
Johnston, Jason Cabe
Jorgensen, Justin L
Kelly, Jr., Stephen D
Krentz, John Todd
Lawrence, Byron Ortiz
Lewis, Zane Spencer
McWherter, Clarissa Marie
Michael, Erica Renee
Nichols, Matthew Jaron
Perkins, Brooke Amber
Roberson, Blake William
Ryan, John Leonard
Safi, Ahmad A
Sneed, Sarah Elizabeth
Thurman, Wayman Dean
Turner, Brandon Lee
Van Lare, Paul Buchanan
Wierciak, Adam Edward
Wingfield, Bradley James
Xie, PhD, Haiyan

ELSEES Restructured to be a Division of NCEES

The NCEES Board decided to dissolve the LLC established for ELSEES and allow ELSEES to operate as a division of NCEES.

Examinees will not see a difference in the services provided by ELSEES. Please visit www.ncees.org for further information.

NCEES Makes Changes to Exam Format

Over the next couple of years, NCEES will be implementing several changes to exam format and specifications. Exams to be changed include Electrical and Computer PE Exam, Civil PE Exam, Mining and Mineral PE Exam, Mechanical PE and FE Exams and Structural I and II PE Exams.

The Electrical and Computer PE Exam currently has a morning breadth portion and afternoon depth portion (with choice of 3 sub-disciplines). Starting April 2009, they will be separated into 3 distinct exams, Electrical and Computer – Power, Electrical and Computer – Electrical and Electronics, and Electrical and Computer – Computer and there will no longer be a common morning breadth portion.

The Civil PE Exam in the afternoon depth portion will be split into 5 separate exam books beginning October 2009.

The Mining and Mineral PE Exam will be given under new specifications and will be known as the Mining and Mineral Processing PE exam starting October 2009.

The Mechanical PE and FE Exams in the afternoon depth portion will be split into 3 PE exam books and 7 FE exam books beginning October 2009.

The Architectural Engineering PE exam will have new specifications starting April 2010.

The Structural I and II PE Exam will be given as one 16-hour structural exam for the first time during the April 2011 exam administration. This exam will replace the current Structural I and Structural II exams, which will be administered for the last time in October 2010. The now 16-hour Structural exam is divided into two 8-hour components (Vertical Forces and Lateral forces), which will be offered on successive days.

When examinees register with ELSEES, they will have to pick which Electrical and Computer PE Exam they wish to take and which afternoon module of the Civil and Mechanical exams they wish to take. Examinees will no longer be able to make their decision on the day of the exam. For further information regarding exams (study material, exam specifications, practice tests etc.), please visit www.ncees.org.



LOOKING FOR YOUR POCKET CARD OR VERIFICATION OF YOUR LICENSE?



License Renewals are underway for 2009. Licensees may renew online at www.arkansas.gov/pels. Look for the link below the Hot Topics box titled "Online License Renewal".

Licensees may print the license renewal confirmation, and also print a **pocket card** at the last step of the online renewal process. An email will also be sent which has your confirmation, receipt and **pocket card** attached. You will no longer have to wait to receive your card in the mail. If you were unable to print this page, check your email confirmation and print your pocket card from the attachment. If you're still unable to print the card, please call the Board office at 501-682-2824.

Verification of your license can be done at any other time by using the Search feature on the Board's website, www.arkansas.gov/pels. Look for the link below the Hot Topics box titled "Online Roster Search". The results of your search can be printed and submitted as proof of licensure with bids or for other times you may need proof of your current license status. When using this feature, remember the least data entered provides the best results. For example, use just the license number OR the last name, and check the appropriate license type in the box.

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