

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1443
(225) 925-6291

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
FORENSIC ANALYSIS &)
ENGINEERING CORPORATION)
)
RESPONDENT)
_____)

CASE NO. 2020-16

Received

AUG 28 2020

By LAPELS Enforcement

CONSENT ORDER

The Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board [hereinafter the “Board”], by and through its Executive Director, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and Forensic Analysis & Engineering Corporation [hereinafter “Respondent”], by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF-5132.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board’s receipt of information and/or documents which suggested that Respondent may have committed violations of the Board’s laws and/or rules. The investigation disclosed that in July 2016 the Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors (hereinafter “Ohio Board”) took disciplinary action against Respondent for failing to report prior disciplinary actions on a reinstatement application to the Ohio Board. In a Consent Order dated July 11, 2016 and made final on July 19, 2016 in connection with Case No. 2016-058, the Ohio Board fined Respondent in the amount of \$500.

On or about March 17, 2017, Respondent submitted to the Board its 2017 Louisiana professional engineering firm license renewal, confirming thereon that (a) Respondent had not been subject to disciplinary action by the licensing authority in another jurisdiction since its previous license renewal in 2015, (b) all information provided on its renewal invoice was true and correct to the best of its knowledge, information and belief and (c) an omission or untrue response may constitute fraud, deceit, material misrepresentation, perjury or the giving of false or forged evidence under the Board’s licensure law.

La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1) prohibits licensees from committing any fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or the giving of any false or forged evidence, in applying for a renewal license with the Board. La. R.S. 37:698(H) permits the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1), upon a finding of guilt following the preferral of charges, notice and hearing and a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1) and La. R.S. 37:698(H) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that **(a)** at all times material hereto Respondent was licensed in Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, **(b)** in July 2016 Respondent was subject to disciplinary action by the licensing authority in another jurisdiction and **(c)** on or about March 17, 2017 Respondent mistakenly stated on its Louisiana professional engineering firm license renewal that it had not been subject to disciplinary action by the licensing authority in another jurisdiction since its previous license renewal in 2015.

By letter dated July 21, 2020, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that Respondent may have violated La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1), relative to fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or the giving of any false or forged evidence, in applying for a renewal license with the Board.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further disciplinary action and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent of its own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to **(a)** pay a fine of One Thousand and No/100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars, **(b)** pay administrative costs of Two Hundred Ten and 88/100 (\$210.88) Dollars, and **(c)** the publication of this Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary of this matter in the Board's official journal, the *Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal*, and the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent admits that its conduct as set forth above constitutes violations of the above referenced laws and/or rules as stated herein. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that it will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth.

Respondent has been advised of its right to an informal conference, to be represented by counsel before the Board and/or to appear at any hearing personally or by counsel and present witnesses and evidence in its own behalf, it hereby waives this right and its right to appeal, and it states affirmatively that it has been afforded all administrative remedies due it under the law.

Respondent further acknowledges awareness of the fact that the signed original of this Consent Order will remain in the custody of the Board as a public record and will be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order, Respondent does hereby waive its right to an informal conference, to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses on his behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent hereby represents that **(a)** it fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, **(b)** it has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with it by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument and **(c)** the sanctions set forth in this Consent Order do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board and Respondent agree that:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine of One Thousand and No/100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of Two Hundred Ten and 88/100 (\$210.88) Dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

3. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website and a summary of this matter shall be printed in the official journal of the Board, the *Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal*, and reported to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name; and

4. This Consent Order shall not become effective unless and until it is accepted and signed by and on behalf of the Board. Should the Board not accept and sign this Consent Order, it is agreed that presentation of this matter to the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its members, staff, attorneys or representatives from further participation, consideration, or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD

DATE: 10/26/2020

BY: Donna D. Sentell
DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Director

FORENSIC ANALYSIS & ENGINEERING
CORPORATION, Respondent

DATE: August 12, 2020

BY: Robert K. Kochan, President
Robert K. Kochan, President

Witnesses to the signature of
Forensic Analysis & Engineering
Corporation

Meagan McBride
Print Name: Meagan McBride

April Kochan
Print Name: APRIL KOCHAN