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

IN THE MATTER OF:) CASE NO.: 2009-101
CLARENCE N. WATSON, P.E.)
RESPONDENT)
)

CONSENT ORDER

The Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board [hereinafter the "Board"], by and through its Executive Secretary, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and Clarence N. Watson, P.E. [hereinafter "Respondent"], hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineer, number PE – 26093; however, his license was in an expired status from April 1, 2008 through January 12, 2010. At all times material hereto, Watson Engineering, Inc. was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF – 2389; however, its license was in an expired status from April 1, 2008 through January 12, 2010. At all times material hereto, Spectro Chem, L.L.C. was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF – 3741; however, its license was in an expired status from April 1, 2008 through January 12, 2010. At all times material hereto, Respondent was the owner and supervising professional of Watson Engineering, Inc. and Spectro Chem, L.L.C.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of information which suggested that

(a) Respondent practiced and/or offered to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana during which time his Louisiana professional engineer license was expired and (b) Watson Engineering, Inc. and Spectro Chem, L.L.C. practiced and/or offered to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana during which time their Louisiana professional engineering firm licenses were expired. The investigation disclosed that between April 1, 2008 and January 12, 2010 Respondent, Watson Engineering, Inc. and Spectro Chem, L.L.C. admittedly practiced and/or offered to practice engineering in Louisiana. Additionally, during this period Watson Engineering, Inc. was listed as "Watson Engineering" in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana AT&T Real Yellow Pages and on its letterhead, business cards, brochures and other literature, and Watson Engineering, Inc. maintained a website which (a) listed its office address as being in Louisiana and its firm name as "Watson Engineering, Inc.", (b) identified its employees as including "engineers", "registered professional engineers" and "contact vibration engineers" and (c) identified Respondent as being a "P.E."

and having a "P.E. License" in Louisiana after the expiration of his professional engineer license.

Furthermore, during this period Spectro Chem, L.L.C. prepared metallurgical analysis reports for clients in Louisiana and was listed as "Spectro Chem, LLC" in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana AT&T Real Yellow Pages under the heading "Engineers-Professional-Metallurgical".

La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16) prohibit licensees from practicing and/or offering to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana with an expired license. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12) prohibits licensees from aiding or assisting another person in violating the laws and/or rules of 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)(9), (12) and (16), 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)(9), (12) and (16) and 37:698(H) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that (a) Respondent's, Watson Engineering, Inc.'s and Spectro Chem, L.L.C.'s licenses to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in Louisiana were expired from April 1, 2008 through January 12, 2010, (b) during this time period Respondent, Watson Engineering, Inc. and Spectro Chem, L.L.C. practiced and/or offered to practice engineering in Louisiana and (c) Respondent aided or assisted Watson Engineering, Inc. and Spectro Chem, L.L.C. in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board.

By letter dated February 25, 2010, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that he may have violated (a) La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16), relative to offering to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana with an expired license and (b) La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12), relative to the aiding or assisting of another person in violating the laws and/or rules of 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 his 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 (\$1,000.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of four hundred two and 69/100 (\$402.69) dollars, (c) pay past unpaid renewal fees of one hundred eighty (\$180.00) dollars, (d) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Examination and (e) the publishing 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 to violations of the referenced statutes and/or rules regarding the offering to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana with an expired license and the aiding or assisting of another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that he will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of his right 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 his own behalf, and he hereby waives this right to appeal; and he states affirmatively that he has been afforded all administrative remedies due him under the law.

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

Respondent hereby represents (a) that he fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) that he has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with him by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument and (c) that 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 (\$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
- Respondent shall pay administrative costs of four hundred two and 69/100 (\$402.69)
 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. Respondent shall pay past unpaid renewal fees of one hundred eighty (\$180.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and
- 4. Respondent shall successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules

 Examination with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and
- 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 <u>Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal</u>,

and reported to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name; and

6. 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 from further participation, consideration, or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD

DATED 5/10/2010

BY: Lonna L Senteu

DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Secretary

DATED 3/22/10

CLARENCE N. WATSON, P.E., Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of Clarence N. Watson, P.E.

Print Name:

CRYSTAL T. HEBERT

Approved by:

Richard S. Derbes LeClere Law Firm

11777 Justice Avenue, Suite B Baton Rouge, LA 70816 Telephone: (225) 769-5032

Attorneys for Clarence N. Watson, P.E.