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

Received

JUL 19 2012

By LAPELS Enforcement

| IN THE MATTER OF:           | )   | CASE NO.: 2011-92 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------|
|                             | )   |                   |
| NORRIS AND ASSOCIATES, INC. | )   |                   |
|                             | , ) |                   |
| RESPONDENT                  | )   |                   |
|                             | )   |                   |
|                             | )   |                   |

## 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 Norris and Associates, Inc. [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 land surveying firm, number VF – 216; however, its license has been in an expired status since October 1, 1991.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of information and documents which suggested that Respondent may have practiced and/or offered to practice land surveying in Louisiana with an expired license. The investigation disclosed that (a) since 2007 Respondent admittedly provided land surveying services on approximately 3,891 projects in Louisiana and (b) during at least a portion of this time Respondent advertised itself in the Shreveport-Bossier City, Louisiana AT&T Real Yellow Pages under the heading "Surveyors-Land".

La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16) prohibit licensees from practicing and/or offering to practice land surveying in Louisiana with an expired license. La. R.S. 37:698(H) permits the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) 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) and (16) and 37:698(H) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that Respondent's license to practice and/or offer to practice land surveying in Louisiana has been in an expired status since October 1, 1991 and that during this time period Respondent practiced and/or offered to practice land surveying in Louisiana.

By letter dated July 3, 2012, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that it may have violated La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16), relative to practicing and/or offering to practice land surveying in Louisiana with an expired license.

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 five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of two hundred thirty-six and 85/100 (\$236.85) dollars, (c) pay past unpaid renewal fees of one thousand four hundred twenty-five (\$1,425.00) dollars, (d) immediately cease and desist the practicing of and/or offering to practice land surveying in Louisiana until such time as its expired Louisiana professional land surveying firm license is renewed by the Board 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 laws and/or rules regarding the practicing of and/or offering to practice land surveying in Louisiana with an expired license. 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 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, and 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.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order,

Respondent does hereby waive its right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of

evidence and witnesses in its 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 it fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) that 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) 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 five thousand (\$5,000.00) 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 thirty-six and 85/100 (\$236.85) 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 thousand four hundred twenty-five (\$1,425.00) 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 immediately cease and desist the practicing of and/or offering to practice land surveying in Louisiana until such time as its expired Louisiana professional land surveying firm license is renewed by the Board; and
- 5. 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
- 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, staff, attorneys or representatives from further participation, consideration, or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

## LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD

| DATE: | 23 | July | 2012 |  |
|-------|----|------|------|--|
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BY: Alonna Senter
DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Director

NORRIS AND ASSOCIATES, INC., Respondent

DATE: 7/16/2012

BY:

AMES M. NORRIS II. President

Witnesses to the signature of Norris and Associates, Inc.

Print Name:

Print Name: RAND

RANDALL L. HILTON