

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF:</b>	)	CASE NO. 2014-14
	)	
<b>TOMMY J. AVANT, P.E.</b>	)	
	)	
<b>RESPONDENT</b>	)	
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**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 Tommy J. Avant, 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-34226. At all times material hereto, Larry R. Harper was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineer, number PE-36872; however, his license has been in an expired status since October 1, 2012. At all times material hereto, Integrated Management Services, P.A., Inc. [hereinafter “IMSPAI”] was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF-2662. At all times material hereto, Respondent was an employee, Vice President and supervising professional of IMSPAI. At all times material hereto, Mr. Harper was an employee of IMSPAI.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board’s receipt of information and documents which suggested that Mr. Harper may have practiced and/or offered to practice engineering in Louisiana during which time his license was expired. The investigation disclosed that since October 1, 2012 Mr. Harper (on behalf of and in the name of IMSPAI) has admittedly offered to provide engineering services in Louisiana and provided engineering services on three (3) projects in Louisiana.

La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16) prohibit licensees from practicing and/or offering to practice engineering in 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)(12), 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) Mr. Harper's license to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in Louisiana has been in an expired status since October 1, 2012, (b) during this time period Mr. Harper has practiced and offered to practice engineering in Louisiana and (c) Respondent aided or assisted Mr. Harper in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board by failing to recognize that Mr. Harper's license had expired and to take appropriate supervisory action.

By letter dated September 2, 2014, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that he may have violated 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 five hundred (\$1,500.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of three hundred twenty-one and 53/100 (\$321.53) dollars, (c) ensure that Mr. Harper immediately ceases and desists the practicing of and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana until such time as his expired Louisiana professional engineer license is renewed by the Board, (d) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz, (e) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz and (f) 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 his 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 he will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of his right to appeal; and he states affirmatively that he has been afforded all administrative remedies due him 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 his right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses on 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 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 five hundred (\$1,500.00) 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 three hundred twenty-one and 53/100 (\$321.53) 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 ensure that Mr. Harper immediately ceases and desists the practicing of and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana until such time as his expired Louisiana professional engineer license is renewed by the Board; and
4. Respondent shall successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz 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

5. Respondent shall successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz 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

6. 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

7. 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: 28 January 2015

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

DATE: 11/14/14

[Signature]  
TOMMY J. AVANT, P.E., Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of  
Tommy J. Avant, P.E.

[Signature]  
Print Name: Rock Hill

[Signature]  
Print Name: John D. Gibson

Approved by:  
[Signature]  
Victor J. Franckiewicz, Jr.  
Butler Snow LLP  
201 St. Charles Ave., Suite 3310  
New Orleans, LA 70170  
Telephone: (504) 299-7750

Attorneys for Tommy J. Avant, P.E.