

**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. 2014-33
)	
KEITH B. COOK)	
)	
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 Keith B. Cook [hereinafter “Respondent”], hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was not licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineer and, therefore, was not authorized to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board’s receipt of information and documents which suggested that Respondent may have unintentionally engaged in the unlicensed practice of and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana. The investigation disclosed that between 2012 and July 2013 Respondent unintentionally provided and offered to provide engineering services on nine (9) projects in Louisiana, including the use of his Oklahoma professional engineer seal on some or all of the documents issued by him in connection with said projects.

La. R.S. 37:681 and 37:700(A)(1) prohibit the practicing of and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana without proper licensure. La. R.S. 37:700(H) permits the Board to take enforcement action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:681 and 37:700(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. 37:681, La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1) and La. R.S. 37:700(H) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that at all times material hereto Respondent was not licensed to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in Louisiana and that between 2012 and July 2013

Respondent unintentionally practiced and/or offered to practice engineering in Louisiana without proper licensure.

By letter dated August 7, 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. 37:681 and 37:700(A)(1), relative to practicing and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana without proper licensure.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further enforcement 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 two thousand five hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of three hundred seventy-nine and 17/100 (\$379.17) dollars, (c) immediately cease and desist the practicing of and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana until such time as he is duly licensed by the Board and (d) 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 unintentional 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 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 two thousand five hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, with an initial payment of eight hundred thirty-three and 33/100 (\$833.33) dollars due upon the signing of this Consent Order and the balance due on or before December 23, 2014; and
2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of three hundred seventy-nine and 17/100 (\$379.17) 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 immediately cease and desist the practicing of and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana until such time as he is duly licensed by the Board; and
4. 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
5. 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: 11/18/14

Keith B. Cook
KEITH B. COOK, Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of
Keith B. Cook

Tisa Smith
Print Name: Tisa Smith

Alicea Walley
Print Name: Alicea Walley