

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

Received
NOV 17 2015
By LAPELS Enforcement

IN THE MATTER OF:) CASE NO. 2015-22
)
R C H COMPANY, 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 R C H Company, 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 engineering firm, number EF-3036, and as a professional land surveying firm, number VF-530. At all times material hereto, Earthcore, LLC [hereinafter “Earthcore”] was not licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm. Earthcore was subsequently licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF-5778, effective June 17, 2015. Earthcore is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Respondent.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board’s receipt of information and documents which suggested that Earthcore may have engaged in the unlicensed practice of and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana. The investigation disclosed that between May 2014 and June 16, 2015 Earthcore admittedly provided and offered to provide engineering services on five (5) projects and used the word “engineering” to describe its services in Louisiana. Respondent admittedly negotiated and entered into the contracts with the clients for those projects on behalf of Earthcore.

La. R.S. 37:681 and La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1), (7) and (9), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2301(B), prohibit the practicing of and/or offering to practice engineering and the use of the words “engineer”, “engineering” or any modification or derivative thereof in a person’s name or form of business or activity in Louisiana without proper licensure. 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. 37:681, La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12), La. R.S. 37:698(H), La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1), (7) and (9), and LAC Title 46:LXI§2301(B) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that (a) between May 2014 and June 16, 2015 Earthcore was not licensed to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in Louisiana, (b) during this time period Earthcore practiced and offered to practice engineering and used the word “engineering” to describe its services in Louisiana without proper licensure and (c) Respondent aided or assisted Earthcore in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board.

By letter dated November 4, 2015, 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)(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 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 hundred (\$500.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of three hundred fifty-three and 37/100 (\$353.37) dollars, (c) have each of its supervising professionals successfully complete the Board’s online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz, (d) have each of its supervising professionals successfully complete the Board’s online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz and (e) 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 appeal; and he 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 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 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 hundred (\$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 fifty-three and 37/100 (\$353.37) 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 have each of its supervising professionals 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

4. Respondent shall have each of its supervising professionals 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

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: Jan 19, 2016

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

R C H COMPANY, INC., Respondent

DATE: 11.12.15

BY: Ronny C. Haisty, Jr.
RONNY C. HAISTY, JR., P.E., P.L.S., President

Witnesses to the signature of
R C H Company, Inc.

C. Morgan McElister
Print Name: C. Morgan McElister

Glenda Morris
Print Name: Glenda Morris