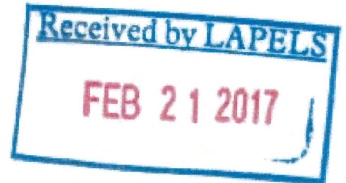


LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING  
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD  
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1443  
(225) 925-6291



IN THE MATTER OF:

CASE NO. 2016-4

BLANDCO, L.L.C.

RESPONDENT

Received

FEB 21 2017

By LAPELS Enforcement

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 Blandco, L.L.C. [hereinafter "Respondent"], by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was not licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm and, therefore, was not authorized to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana. Respondent subsequently became licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF-5969, effective April 28, 2016.

At all times material hereto, Melanie V. Gaspard, P.E. was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineer, number PE-30171. At all times material hereto, Gaspard was an employee of Respondent. Gaspard is now the supervising professional of Respondent.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of information and documents which suggested that Respondent may have engaged in the unlicensed practice of and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana. The investigation disclosed that between May 2014 and April 27, 2016 (a) Respondent admittedly offered to provide engineering services in Louisiana and provided engineering services on approximately forty-nine (49) projects in Louisiana and (b) Gaspard (on behalf of and in the name of Respondent) prepared, sealed, signed and issued to the client engineering plans in connection with each of those projects.

The investigation also disclosed that since at least 2016 Respondent has (a) represented on its website that it offers services which include "designing and engineering" and "engineer

stamped blue prints”, (b) maintained offices in Cut Off, Louisiana and (c) employed individuals in Louisiana.

La. R.S. 37:681 and 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 without proper licensure. La. R.S. 37:700(C) permits the Board to take enforcement action against a firm if one or more of its officers, directors, managers, employees, agents or representatives is found by the Board to be guilty of any of the acts or offenses listed in La. R.S. 37:700(A). 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), (7) and (9), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2301(B), and La. R.S. 37:700(C), 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), (7) and (9), La. R.S. 37:700(C) and (H), and LAC Title 46:LXI§2301(B) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that between May 2014 and April 27, 2016 Respondent was not licensed to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in Louisiana and that during this time period Respondent practiced and offered to practice engineering and used the words “engineer” and “engineering” in describing its services in Louisiana without proper licensure.

By letter dated November 18, 2016, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that Respondent may have violated La. R.S. 37:681, La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1), (7) and (9), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2301(B), and La. R.S. 37:700(C), relative to practicing and/or offering to practice engineering and using the words “engineer”, “engineering” or any modification or derivative thereof in a person’s name or form of business or activity 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 its 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 and no/100 (\$2,000.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of four hundred twenty-one and 05/100 (\$421.05) dollars and (c) 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 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, 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. 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 that (a) it fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) 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) 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 and no/100 (\$2,000.00) 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 four hundred twenty-one and 05/100 (\$421.05) 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. 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

4. 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: 3/13/17

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

BLANDCO, L.L.C., Respondent

DATE: 2/16/17

BY: Wesley R. Bland  
WESLEY R. BLAND, Member

Witnesses to the signature of  
Blandco, L.L.C.

Melanie Gaspard  
Print Name: Melanie Gaspard

Samuel Gaspard  
Print Name: Samuel Gaspard