

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
GEORGE A. ALDRETE, P.E. RETIRED)
)
RESPONDENT)
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)
)

CASE NO. 2017-45

Received
NOV 04 2019

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 George A. Aldrete, P.E. Retired [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-7761; however, his license has been in a retired status since February 16, 2011. At all times material hereto, Aldrete & Sons Shoring Co., Inc. [hereinafter “ASSCI”] 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. At all times material hereto, Respondent was an employee, officer, owner and representative of ASSCI.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board’s receipt of an Affidavit of Complaint and documents which suggested that Respondent may have committed violations of the Board’s laws and/or rules. The investigation disclosed that since February 16, 2011 Respondent has admittedly (a) offered to provide engineering services in Louisiana and provided engineering services on projects in Louisiana which included preparing, sealing with his Louisiana professional engineer seal and issuing to clients and governmental agencies engineering documents containing pile foundation designs and (b) represented on ASSCI’s letterhead, building/permit applications and other documents in Louisiana that he was a “professional engineer”.

The investigation also disclosed that since at least October 2014 ASSCI has admittedly (a) offered to provide engineering services in Louisiana and provided engineering services on projects in Louisiana which included preparing, sealing (with Respondent’s Louisiana

professional engineer seal) and issuing to clients and governmental agencies engineering documents containing pile foundation designs, **(b)** represented on its letterhead, on building/permit applications and on other documents in Louisiana that it could provide “professional engineering” services and/or that Respondent was a “professional engineer” and **(c)** Respondent provided engineering services for and on behalf of ASSCI in Louisiana in connection with said projects.

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 without proper licensure. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2103(A), allow a professional engineer in a retired status to represent himself to the public as a “P.E. Retired”, but prohibit him from otherwise practicing or offering to practice engineering. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16) prohibit licensees from practicing and/or offering to practice engineering with a license in a retired status. 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)(6), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2103(A), and La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9), (12) 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. 37:681, La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), (9), (12) and (16), La. R.S. 37:698(H), La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1), (7) and (9), LAC Title 46:LXI§2103(A) and LAC Title 46:LXI§2301(B) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that **(a)** all times material hereto Respondent was licensed in Louisiana as a professional engineer; however, his license has been in a retired status since February 16, 2011, **(b)** at all times material hereto ASSCI was not licensed in Louisiana as a professional engineering firm and, therefore, was not authorized to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in Louisiana, **(c)** at all times material hereto Respondent was an employee, officer, owner and representative of ASSCI, **(d)** since February 16, 2011 Respondent has admittedly practiced and offered to practice engineering and represented that he was a “professional engineer” in Louisiana, **(e)** since at least October 2014 ASSCI has admittedly practiced and offered to practice engineering and used the words "engineer" and "engineering" in describing its

services and in connection with Respondent's name in Louisiana, (f) Respondent provided engineering services for and on behalf of ASSCI in Louisiana in connection therewith and (g) Respondent aided or assisted ASSCI in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board.

By letter dated October 22, 2019, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that Respondent may have violated (a) La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), (9) and (16), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2103(A), relative to practicing and/or offering to practice engineering and referring to oneself as a "professional engineer" with a license in a retired status; and (b) La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12), relative to aiding or assisting 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 Two Thousand and No/100 (\$2,000.00) Dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of One Thousand Six Hundred Forty-One and 16/100 (\$1,641.16) Dollars, (c) pay past unpaid renewal fees of Two Hundred Forty and No/100 (\$240.00) Dollars, (d) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz, (e) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz, (f) immediately cease and desist practicing and/or offering to practice engineering and using the words "engineer", "engineering" or any modification or derivative thereof in connection with his name or in describing or promoting his business, activities or services in Louisiana (except to state that he is a "P.E. Retired") until such time as his retired Louisiana professional engineer license is reactivated by the Board, (g) ensure that ASSCI immediately ceases and desists practicing and/or offering to practice engineering and using the words "engineer", "engineering" or any modification or derivative thereof in connection with its name or in describing or promoting its business, activities or services in Louisiana until such time as it is duly licensed by the Board and (h) 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 an informal conference, 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 his own behalf, he hereby waives this right and 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 an informal conference, 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 that (a) he fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) he 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 One Thousand Six Hundred Forty-One and 16/100 (\$1,641.16) 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 Two Hundred Forty and No/100 (\$240.00) 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 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. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist practicing and/or offering to practice engineering and using the words "engineer", "engineering" or any modification or derivative thereof in connection with his name or in describing or promoting his business, activities or services in Louisiana (except to state that he is a "P.E. Retired") until such time as his retired Louisiana professional engineer license is reactivated by the Board; and
7. Respondent shall ensure that ASSCI immediately ceases and desists practicing and/or offering to practice engineering and using the words "engineer", "engineering" or any modification or derivative thereof in connection with its name or in describing or promoting its business, activities or services in Louisiana until such time as it is duly licensed by the Board; and
8. 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
9. 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: 11/18/19

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

DATE: 10/31/2019

George A. Aldrete
GEORGE A. ALDRETE, P.E. RETIRED, Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of
George A. Aldrete, P.E. Retired

Brod Aldrete
Print Name: Brod Aldrete

George A. Aldrete
Print Name: George A. Aldrete