

MISSISSIPPI

Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors



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Fall, 2007

NEWSLETTER

Twenty-first Edition

Renew Your License for 2008 Online

This fall you'll be able to renew your license(s) for 2008 online. Go to the Board's web site at www.pepls.state.ms.us, scroll down to "Online Licensure Renewal" and begin. Online renewal will accept payment by Visa or Master Card. There will be a small convenience fee assessed (approximately \$3.32 for each license) to support credit card processing.

Online renewal is available for renewal of *individual* licenses *only* – NOT for renewal of Certificates of Authority. The state of Mississippi hasn't yet worked out that capability, but we do expect it to be available next year, as well as acceptance of additional credit cards.

The process will automatically assess the late payment penalty required by Mississippi law for renewals occurring after December 31. You will be able to use this online renewal process to renew your license(s) until June 30, 2008. After that date, Mississippi law requires a relicensure application; renewal is no longer an option. Upon completion of the online renewal process, the licensee will be furnished a detailed receipt, which should be printed and retained by the licensee.

Licensees are still required to certify compliance with the Continuing Professional Competency requirement (CPC) for 2007, or that they are exempt (new licensees or 60/20 licensees). Licensees requesting a medical or military CPC exemption cannot renew online, because supporting documentation is required; these renewals must be submitted by mail.

The online renewal process does not require completion of the PDH Activity Log, but mailed/manual renewals do require a completed log. *We encourage eligible licensees to take advantage of this new online licensure renewal process.*

Governor Barbour Recognizes 100 years of Engineering Licensure

Governor Haley Barbour recently issued the following proclamation:

“**WHEREAS**, this year, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying and all U.S. engineering licensure boards are celebrating the 100th anniversary of engineering licensure in the United States. As part of this celebration, the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors recognizes the work of NCEES in Mississippi as well as all of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1907 the state of Wyoming created the first U.S. engineering licensure law. Other states soon followed, and in 1920 they created the organization now known as NCEES; and

WHEREAS, today NCEES provides leadership in licensure for its members-the licensure boards in all U.S. states and territories-through excellence in uniform laws, licensing standards, and professional ethics. This nonprofit organization develops, produces, and scores the only national engineering licensure examinations, guards against exam fraud, and works to facilitate state-to-state licensure mobility.

NOW THEREFORE, I HALEY BARBOUR, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim February as

ENGINEERING LICENSURE MONTH

in Mississippi to officially recognize a Century of Engineering Licensure, 1907-2007.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Mississippi to be affixed this 26th day of February, 2007.

Joseph Edward Lauderdale, PE, appointed to the Board

Governor Haley Barbour has appointed Joseph “Joe” Edward Lauderdale, PE, to the Post 4 position on the Board of Licensure, representing the Central Supreme Court District of Mississippi. His term will run to July 1, 2011.

Joe has lived in Jackson with his family since 1971, having been born and raised in Vicksburg. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering.

He worked for Delta Industries, Inc. in Jackson immediately after college graduation, and then from 1972 to 1982 he was an Associate Engineer with Spencer Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc. based in Jackson. In 1982 Joe began his current business, Sunbelt Sealing, Inc. which is located in downtown Jackson.

From 1996-2000 Joe served as District 1 Hinds County Supervisor. He currently serves on the Metro Parkway Commission and is President of Two Lakes for Mississippi Foundation (a Pearl River flood control project). He is the Secretary/Treasurer and Director of the Mississippi Roadbuilders Association.

Joe is a Board member of Safe City Initiative and has also served as the Chairman of the Metro Crime Commission. He has served on the Mississippi Engineering Society Board of Directors and was the recipient of the Engineer of the Year award in 2001. He is on the Department Advisory Board for the Civil Engineering Department at Jackson State University.

He is married to the former Frieda Marion of Tupelo, and they have a son, John, and daughter, Allison.

Congratulations, JSU !

ABET has accredited all three engineering programs at Jackson State University: civil engineering, computer engineering, and telecommunications engineering, effective October 1, 2004.

April, 2007 Exam Results

Discipline	Tested	Passed	%
Architec. (1 st time taker)	1	0	0
Civil	40	19	48
1 st time takers	19	13	68
Electrical	6	2	33
1 st time takers	4	2	50
Environmental	11	4	36
1 st time takers	5	2	40
Mechanical	7	0	0
1 st time takers	4	0	0
FE	183	110	60
1 st time takers	168	104	62
FS	26	12	46
1 st time takers	17	10	59
PS	15	11	73
1 st time takers	11	8	73
Miss. Section	25	17	68

Regarding Continuing Professional Competency Compliance....

Compliance with the Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) rule is required **by December 31**. Each February and March, we are contacted by many lapsed licensees who say, “I didn’t get all my PDH’s by the end of last year, but I have them now and I’d like to renew my license.”

They are dismayed to discover that in order to renew their license, they will be disciplined for violation of the CPC rule; some of them have also been practicing on an expired license – a violation of state law.

The deadline to achieve all your PDH’s is December 31. **Plan accordingly**, better yet - finish early!

Also, the Board staff noted last year that many licensees aren’t aware that the maximum carryover is: 15 PDH for PE’s, 12 PDH for PS’s, and 18 PDH for “duals.” These PDH can be carried over *only into the very next year*. Ethics and Surveying Standards are the exceptions. Please see Rule 23.3-f for further information.

Exam Cheating/Collusion

As a tool to promote exam security, NCEES psychometricians have developed software to examine the commonality of incorrect responses on exam answer sheets. After each exam cycle and before scores are released, answer sheets are analyzed for irregularities. If answer sheets are flagged, state boards are notified and given information on where test takers sat and the number of incorrect responses answered the same way. They are also encouraged to investigate the possibility of cheating and/or collusion. Some state boards have barred candidates from ever taking the exam again, while other boards have required a candidate to wait a year or longer before applying again. The Mississippi Board will investigate each indication of cheating or collusion, and will take the appropriate action to keep the examination process secure.

Disciplinary/Legal Actions The Board office receives and processes complaints regarding engineering and surveying activities. Some investigations result in disciplinary actions while others result in administrative actions such as letters of education or closing unsubstantiated/insufficient complaints. Below is a recap of recent disciplinary actions.

Neil Hunter Shows, PE, and John Theodore Gore, PS, agreed to consent orders assessing PDH penalties and monetary assessments for not fully complying with the Continuing Professional Competency Rule in 2006

PE Allen Mitchell Young agreed by consent order to a fine for practicing on an expired license. The case has been resolved and his license has been reinstated.

Jeremy Bryan Tynes, PS, William Harrell Sommerville, III, PS, Aaron Earl Masters, PE/PS and William Patrick Isham Smith, PE/PS, were disciplined for violations of the Standards of Surveying. The penalties levied by these consent orders ranged from fines to probationary periods to required completion of a Standards course to submission of additional plats for Board review.