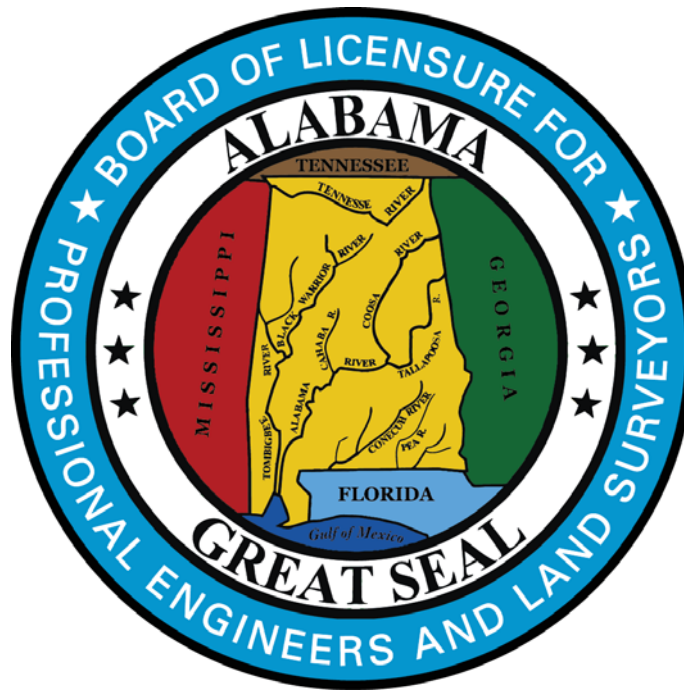


2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors

Oct. 1, 2013 - Sept. 31, 2014

Phillip Santora / PE & PLS
Earl Foust / PE
Marc Barter / PE
Charles Willis / PE
Gerald Wilbanks / PLS
Frazier Christy / PE & PLS
Nathan Johnson / PLS
Liz Hyde / PE
Richard Grace / PE & PLS
Regina Dinger / *Executive Director*



The RSA Union
100 North Union St. Suite 382
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3762

To The Honorable Robert Bentley
Governor of the State of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Governor Bentley:

We hand you herewith the 2013 Annual Report of the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors as provided under Title 34, Chapter 11 *Code of Alabama* 1975.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Santora, Chair, 2013-2014
Alabama State Board of Licensure
For Professional Engineers and
Land Surveyors

our **BOARD**



Phillip Santora, PLS/PE *
Chairman
Dothan



Earl Foust, PE
Vice Chairman
Birmingham



Marc Barter, PE
Secretary
Mobile



Daniel Turner, PE/PLS *
Tuscaloosa



Charles Willis, PE
Brookwood



Gerald Wilbanks, PE *
Trussville



Frazier Christy, PE/PLS
Birmingham

The board consists of five professional engineers and two land surveyors. The five professional engineers are appointed by the Governor from a list of three persons nominated for each appointment by a committee, and the two land surveyors are appointed by the Governor from a list of three persons nominated for each appointment by the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors.

Each member of the board must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Alabama. They must be a licensed professional engineer or licensed professional land surveyor, hold a current license, be engaged in the practice of engineering or land surveying, respectively, for at least 12 years, and have been in responsible charge of important engineering or land surveying, respectively, work for at least five years.

* - Denotes midyear change



our **MISSION**

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was established by a legislative action in 1935. Its charter is to protect the public by helping to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare by providing for the licensing and regulation of persons in the practices of engineering and land surveying.

This purpose is achieved through the establishment of minimum qualifications for entry into the professions of engineering and land surveying, through the adoption of rules defining and delineating unlawful or unethical conduct, and through swift and effective discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.

WHO WE ARE

The Board reviews applications, administers the national licensing examinations, develops and administers the state specific licensing examination, licenses qualified applicants, and regulates the professional practice of licensees throughout the State. They also have the power to discipline those individuals who are not licensed in the State but who are performing engineering or land surveying in the State.

Board meetings are held at the Board offices in Montgomery, and are open to the public. We ask that persons wishing to bring matters for the Board's consideration submit written notification or request to be placed on the agenda 20 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2014 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- The Department of Public Examiners completed the Sunset/Compliance Audit (Report No. 15S-006) and all the Board members and senior staff appeared before the Joint Legislative Sunset Committee. No findings were identified and no issues were raised during the legislative hearing.



Richard Grace PE/LS
Decatur

• Mr. Richard Grace replaced Dr. Daniel Turner on the Board. Grace fills Turner's Professional Engineer position and was appointed July of 2014. He comes to BELS a 1970 graduate of Auburn University. He currently serves as the director of the Madison County Public Works Department. He has been a licensed Professional Engineer since 1976 and a licensed Professional Land Surveyor since 1985.

- The final Fundamentals of Engineering and Fundamentals of Land Surveying tests were given the traditional way (pencil and paper) in October 2013. Beginning Jan. 1 2014, both fundamentals examinations will be given on-demand in a computer-based format. Intern candidates will apply for certification upon graduation and the passing of the fundamentals examination. The application is the final step in the process instead of serving as the initial step.



Elisabeth Hyde PE
Birmingham

• Mrs. Elisabeth Hyde replaced Gerald Wilbanks in April of 2014. Hyde is the sole principal of Hyde Engineering and is a two-time graduate of UAB. In her career, she has worked for the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California-based Norbert Engineering before returning to Birmingham to eventually found Hyde Engineering in 1995.

Since that time, her firm managed or coordinated the design of more than 200 projects ranging from the Auburn University Student Center to the Birmingham Crossplex.



Nathan Johnson PLS
Huntsville

• Mr. Nathan Johnson replaced Phillip Santora and fills BELS empty Professional Land Surveyor position effective August 2014. Johnson is a graduate of Mississippi State University and has 26 years experience in the industry and has served as President of Johnson & Associates, Inc., since 1989. Johnson & Associates, Inc., is based in Huntsville and has offices in Auburn and Montgomery. He has served a multitude of industry-based clubs and organizations including American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers and the Boys Scouts of America.

MEETINGS

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors met seven times during FY 2014.

All six of the meetings were held inside the boardroom at the BELS office in Montgomery.

LAW & RULE CHANGES

Legislation was passed that changed the Licensure Law. The change removed references to the number of hours required for each examination. The language was needed since the number of hours in the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exams had decreased when NCEES converted from paper and pencil to the computer-based format.

The legislation also changed the process for selecting nominees to fill PE and PLS board member positions. The nominating committee will recommend names to the Governor for the PE positions and the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors will recommend names to the Governor for the PLS position.

The Board undertook a total review of the Administrative Rules. Changes were needed based on the passage of the law changes and the changes of the national testing format.

OPINIONS ISSUED

The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors offered no declaratory opinions during Fiscal Year 2014.

However, a position paper was issued that encouraged professional engineering applicants to take the discipline of the PE exam which is closest to the discipline in which they are working.

BOARD ELECTION

The following Board members were elected to serve as leadership in Fiscal Year 2014:

- Chairman - Earl Foust PE
- Vice Chair - Marc Barter PE
- Secretary - Frazier Christy PLS/PE

ENGINEERING

	Engineer Interns
Applications Received	30
Certifications Issued	258
Renewed	1,916
Total	2,174
LOSS	192

An Engineering Intern is a person who has passed a Board approved examination in the fundamental engineering subjects, pursuant to the law and who has been certified by the Board as an engineering intern.

Due to the changes in the Interns application process, it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in the number of interns being certified.

EXAM INFORMATION

	Number Given	Number Passed	% Passed	Number Failed
FE Exam <i>(Only exam results from October as Computer-Based Testing began January 2014)</i>	441	238	54	203
PE Exam	440	223	51	217

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

The practice of engineering is defined as any professional service or creative work, the adequate performance of which requires engineering education, training, and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences to such services or creative work as a consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, design and design coordination of engineering works and systems, planning the use of land and water, performing engineering surveys and studies, and the review of construction or other design products for the purpose of monitoring compliance with drawings and specification; any of which embraces such services or work, either public or private, in connection with an utilities, structures, buildings, machines, equipment, processes, work systems, projects and industrial or consumer products; equipment of a control, communications, computer, mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic, or thermal nature, insofar as they involve safeguarding life, health or property.

	Comity	Examination
Applications Received	607	236
Licensed	543	218

	Professional Engineers
Renewed	14,658
Licensed	761
Reinstated	42
Total	15,399
Total from FY 2013	15,170
GAIN	129

LAND SURVEYING

	Land Surveying Interns
Applications Received	0
Certifications Issued	3
Renewed	29
Total	32
LOSS	3

A Land Surveying Intern is a person who has passed a Board approved examination in the fundamental land surveying subjects, pursuant to law and who has been certified by the Board as a land surveying intern.

Due to the changes in the Interns application process, it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in the number of interns being certified.

EXAM INFORMATION

	Number Given	Number Passed	% Passed	Number Failed
FS Exam	6	3	50	3
PS Exam	14	10	71	4
State Specific Exam	15	12	80	3

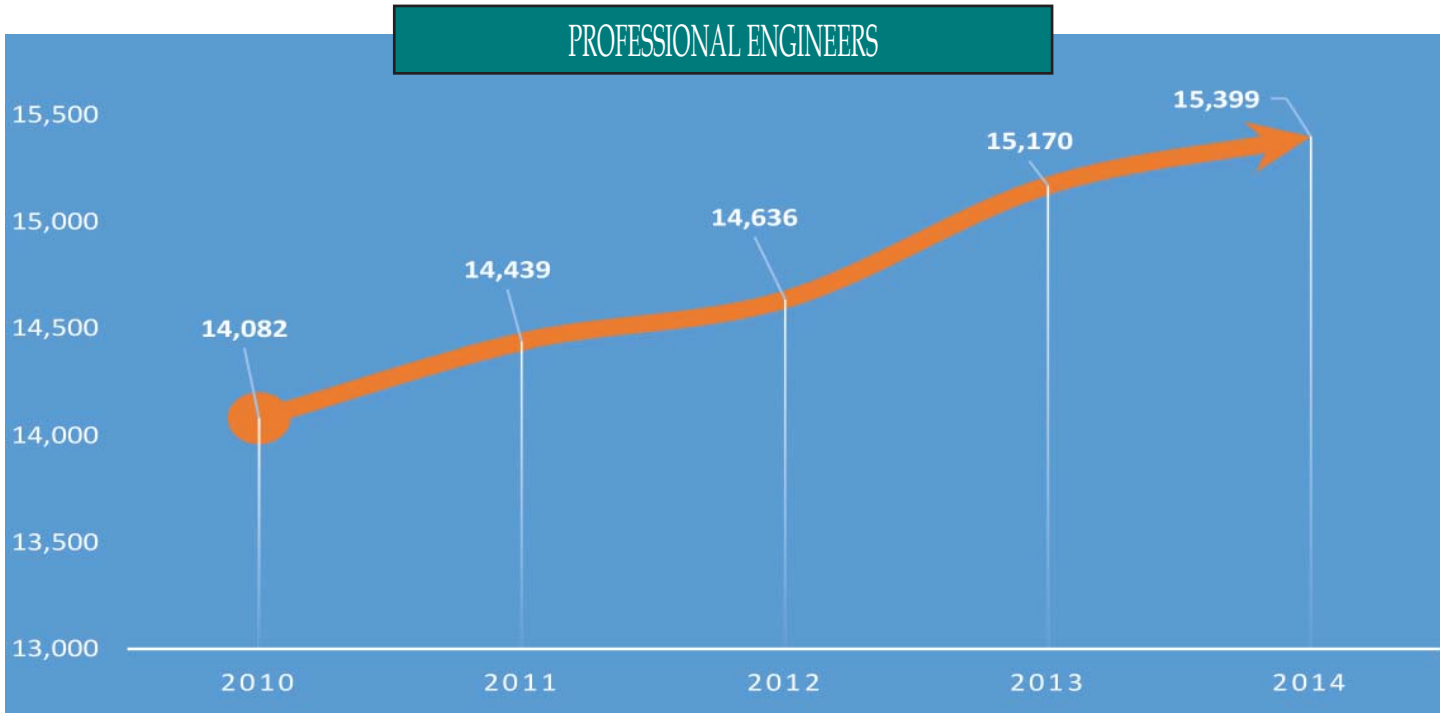
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS



The practice of land surveying is defined as a professional service that includes, but is not limited to, consultation, project coordination, investigation, testimony, evaluation, planning, mapping, assembling and interpreting reliable scientific measurements and information relative to the location, size, shape, areas, volumes, or physical features on the earth, or any part of the earth, and the utilization and development of these acts and interpretation into an orderly survey map, plan, report, description, or project.

	Professional Surveyors
Renewed	1,278
Licensed	27
Reinstated	2
Total	1,305
Total from FY 2013	1,310
LOSS	5

FIVE-YEAR LICENSING TREND



CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION

	Engineering	Land Surveying
Applications Received	218	31
Certificates Issued FY 2013	189	25

A company desiring to offer engineering or surveying services to the public is permitted to do so through individual licensed Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors.

Firms may also join together to offer engineering or land surveying services to the public as long as they meet the requirements of the Code of Alabama.



TOTAL NUMBER OF FY 13 CERTIFICATES

	Engineering Certificates
Renewed	2,417
Certificated	189
Reinstated	6
Total	2,612
FY 2013	2,476
GAIN	(+) 136

	Land Surveying Certificates
Renewed	461
Certificated	25
Reinstated	3
Total	489
FY 2013	467
GAIN	(+) 21

FIVE-YEAR CERTIFICATION TREND

ENGINEERING CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION



LAND SURVEYING CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION



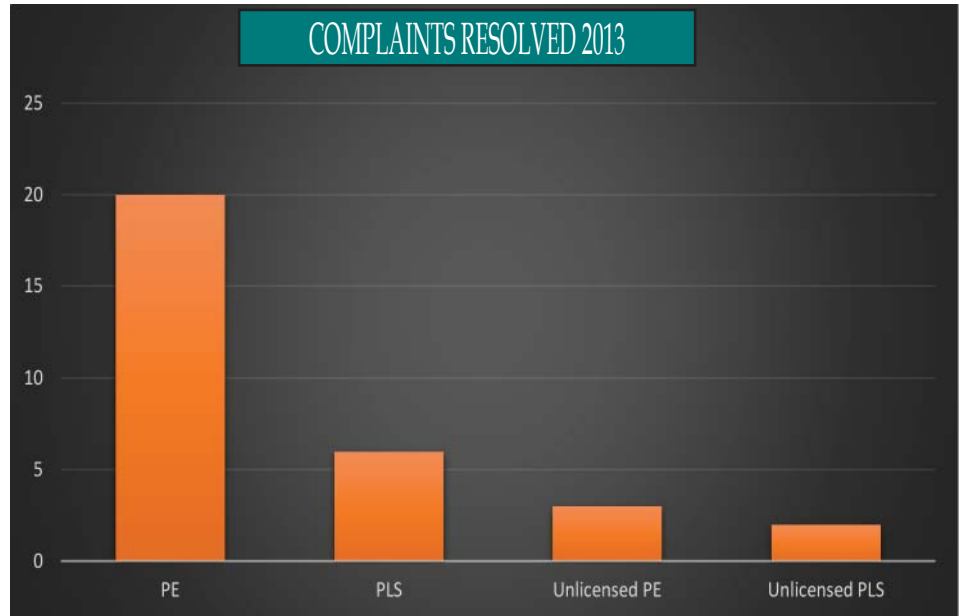
ENFORCEMENT

The Board conducts investigations that result in findings of no violation and both formal and informal actions.

Informal enforcement actions result in letters of caution or reprimand and are not made part of the public record.

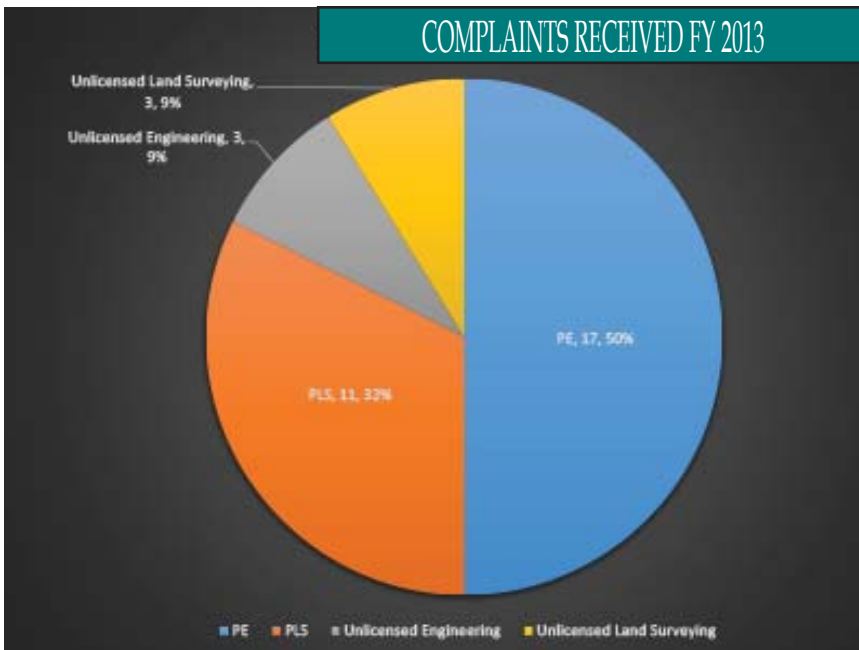
Formal enforcement actions are public record and may include a fine, probation, license suspension or revocation and are made part of the public record.

In FY 2014, the Board resolved a total of 31 complaints.



COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	Professional Engineers	Professional Land Surveyors	Unlicensed Engineering	Unlicensed Land Surveying
FY 2014	17	11	3	3
FY 2013	28	6	6	2
FY 2012	15	12	11	2
FY 2011	18	20	14	0
FY 2010	21	9	17	2



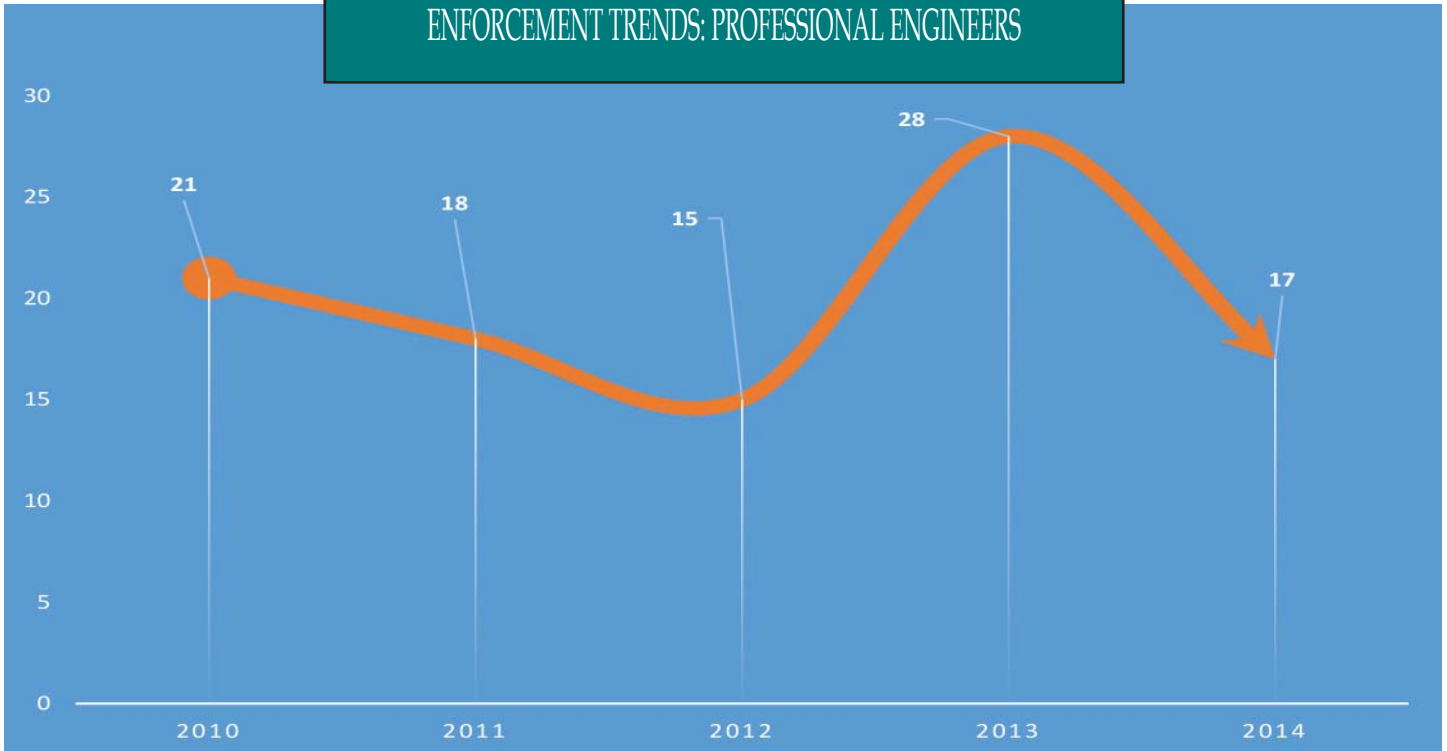
Any person may file a complaint alleging a violation of the law or rules against any individual licensee, certified intern or corporation, partnership or firm holding a Certificate of Authorization.

Complaints may also be filed against unlicensed individuals or firms that offer or provide engineering or surveying services that violate the Code of Alabama. The complaints must be in writing and be filed with the Executive Director of the Board.

In FY 2014 the Board received 34 complaints regarding professional engineers, professional land surveyors and unlicensed individuals or firms offering engineering or land surveying services.

FIVE-YEAR ENFORCEMENT TREND

ENFORCEMENT TRENDS: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



ENFORCEMENT TRENDS: PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS



OPERATIONS | RECEIPTS

	AUDITED — Fiscal Year 2014
Renewals Penalties	\$973,118.50
Reinstatements	\$19,850
Applications Licensure	\$85,120
Exams	\$2,400
Fines	22,308.07
Duplicate Certificates	\$525
Labels	\$1,575
Returned Check Charges	\$60
Returned Checks	\$0
FY 2013 Carry Forward	\$536,724.96
TOTAL	\$1,558,468.39

The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BELS) is a self-funded agency. The authorization to spend funds is granted to the Board by the state legislature through the annual passage of the General Fund Budget.

The funds needed to cover expenditures are derived from the various fees charged by the Board and the fines collected from formal disciplinary actions taken against licensees and those holding certificates. Civil penalties collected are not kept as Board funds' but are deposited to the State General Fund. By law there is a fixed amount of funds that can be carried over from one fiscal year to the next.

Any excess funds are transferred to the State General Fund.

SUBTOTAL OF APPLICATIONS | LICENSURE

\$85,120

SUBTOTAL FOR FINES

\$22,308.07

SUBTOTAL OF RENEWALS | REINSTATEMENTS

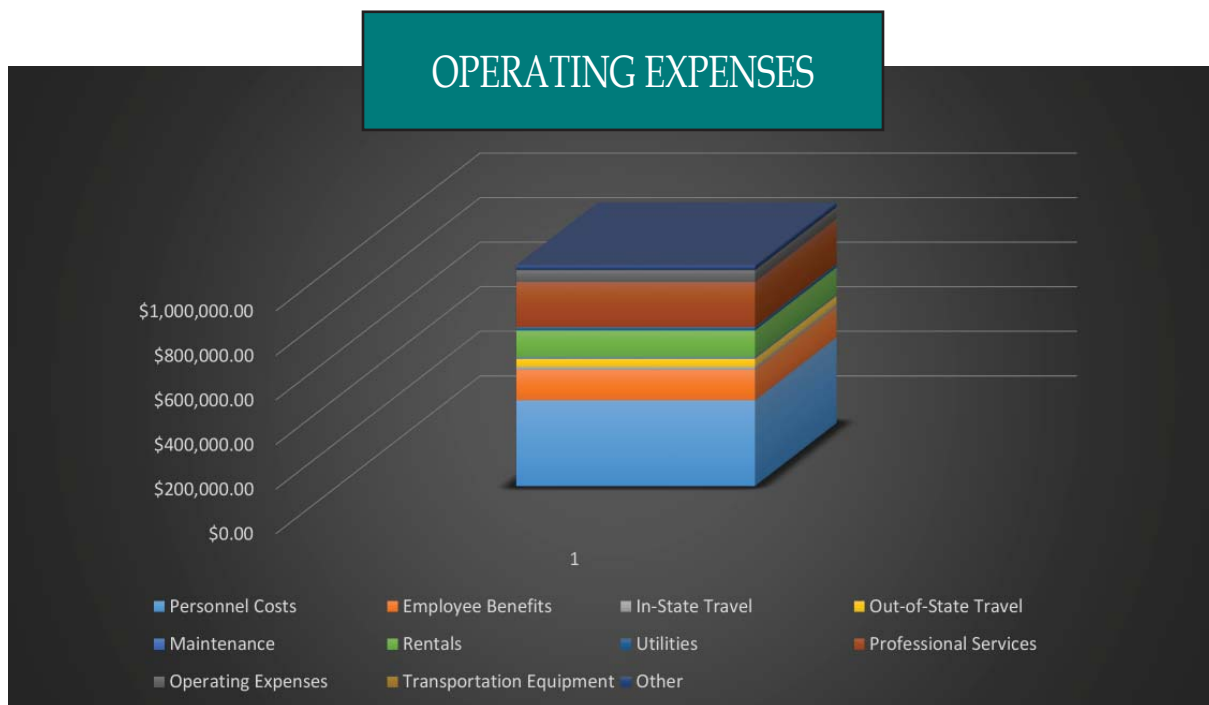
\$992,968.50

REVENUES TO DATE

\$1,558,468.39

OPERATIONS | EXPENDITURES

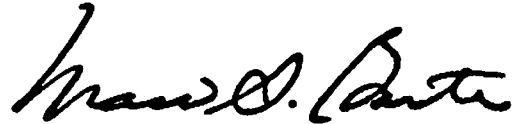
	TOTAL FY 2013 Recognized Expenditures
Personnel Costs	\$385,292.48
Employee Benefits	\$137,007.90
Travel (In-State)	\$12,941
Travel (Out-of-State)	\$36,587.16
Repairs Maintenance	\$5,761
Rentals Leases	\$120,992.43
Utilities Communications	\$15,155.76
Professional Services	\$201,821.12
Supplies, Materials Operating Expenses	\$51,048.85
Transportation Equipment Operations	\$2,164.32
Grants, Benefits and Awards	\$0
Other Equipment Purchases	\$21,767.09
TOTAL	\$990,430.66



FUND BALANCE

\$568,037.73

I, Marc S. Barter, Secretary of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, do hereby attest, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this Financial Statement is a correct statement of the finance of the Board during the period shown.



Marc S. Barter, Secretary 2013-2014



Attest

Phillip Santora, Chairman 2013-2014