

# THE STANDARD



**INSIDE: Community News, Enforcement News**

Front Cover:  
Space Day at Capitol



## INFORMATION

- BELS is comprised of nine members. Five professional engineers, two professional land surveyors, and two public members.
- All members are vetted by specific nominating committees. The committees then submit a list of three names to the Governor who makes the appointment.
- Board meetings are held every two months and are open to the public.

## THE STANDARD

THE STANDARD is a publication of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Digital Editions are posted on our website.

Staff Contact Information can be found by using the following link:  
<https://bels.alabama.gov/about/staff/>



## NEED A SPEAKER?

We cover the following:

PDH / CEU topics include:

- Enforcement Case Studies
- Ethics
- Law and Rules

If interested please email:  
[rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov)

## OUR MISSION

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was established by 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 discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.

## OFFICE CALENDAR

April 8 Board Meeting

April 28 Holiday—Office Closed

May 26 Holiday—Office Closed

June 2 Holiday—Office Closed

June 17 Board Meeting

July 4 Holiday—Office Closed

## LICENSE VERIFICATIONS

NCEES is moving towards automating the license verification process for individuals with an NCEES account number. What this means is when you need to be licensed in another state your existing license(s) can automatically be verified to other participating states.

In order for the Board to participate we will need you to provide your NCEES account number. **Example: 00-000-00**

Beginning in October when renewing your license, you will see a field that asks for your NCEES account number. Please take a minute – locate your NCEES account number – and place it in the field. For those licensed in multiple states this should greatly speed up the time it takes to have each state verify your license to the new State you're applying to.

Not sure if you have an NCEES account number? Anyone who has registered for an NCEES exam since October 2010 has a number. Just click [MyNCEES](#) to login to your account to locate your number.



# BOARD REMOTE SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCE POLICY

EFFECTIVE MARCH 8, 2022

REVISED OCTOBER 8, 2024

While it cannot be disputed that the benefits of face-to-face mentoring and supervision of engineer or land surveyor interns cannot be overemphasized; it is also recognized that a certain degree of benefit can be realized through mentoring and supervision by using electronic communication platforms.

With the need to conduct business not only in person, but virtual interaction with business clients becoming more acceptable and necessary in today's business climate, the use of technological communication tools have become a necessity in modern business interactions. This is true not only for client interactions, but it is also essential for employee communication and training.

The Board will recognize remote supervision of engineers and land surveyors on a case-by-case basis.

- ♦ An active formal training and supervision plan must be developed by a company wishing to employ remote supervision techniques, that describes, in detail, the methodologies to be employed for remote supervision, the frequency of in person face to-face interaction, and the frequency of virtual contact between the engineer and/or land surveyor intern and the supervisor. **The Board does not preapprove Remote Supervision Plans.**
- ♦ The company will be responsible for implementing and maintaining a plan that is consistent for all interns, guides the intern towards progressive knowledge and responsibility, and shall include a requirement stating that a majority of the supervised training shall be in person face-to-face interaction.
- ♦ Documented evidence must be provided to the Board that clearly shows adherence to the remote supervision plan demonstrates increased responsibility. **(template available on Board website).** [Remote-Supervision-Board-Policy-Log-Template-1.pdf](#)

Experience gained while working at an active project site until the project is completed is not considered remote work for the purposes of this policy.

**Remote Supervision experience is typically credited at half credit.** If the company policy and documentation/log are not provided, no credit will be given for the Remote Supervision Experience until the policy and log are provided

# CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION

## Things to remember about Certificates of Authorization:

Offering services under your own name:

If the firm's name is Your Name, PE or Your Name, PLS **a CA is not required.**

However, a firm cannot simply omit its name from documents to avoid the CA requirement. If the contract or scope of services for engineering or land surveying services with a client does not show the company name as (Your Name, PE) or (Your Name, PLS) **a CA is required.**

If you offer both engineering and land surveying services, a separate CA is required for each profession.

Firms can offer or provide engineering or land surveying services provided that the managing agent and all personnel of the firm who act in its behalf as professional engineers or professional land surveyors are licensed in Alabama as provided by Title 34, Chapter 11 of the Code of Ala. 1975, and the firm has been issued a certificate of authorization by the Board.

Firms must have a resident licensed professional engineer or licensed professional land surveyor as the case may be, who exercises direct control and personal supervision of the engineering or land surveying work for each separate office or branch office in which engineering or land surveying services are offered or performed.

The resident engineer or land surveyor must be an employee of the firm and be identified on the CA for a specific branch office. The managing agent and the designated resident engineer or land surveyor can only be linked to one office location.

## Recent Fines/Penalties from CA Violations

Complaint #	Fine	Civil Penalty	Board Cost
2024-34	\$3,500		
2024-36		\$2,000	\$56
2024-37		\$2,500	\$85
2024-39		\$2,500	\$200
2024-48	\$3,000		
2024-49		\$3,500	\$75

# CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION - RENEWAL

## Certificate of Authorization Upcoming Renewals

In hopes to make the firm certificates of authorization renewals a little less confusing the Board has returned the deadline for renewing certificates of authorization to **January 31<sup>st</sup>**. This will allow licensees with firms a little more time to finish the renewal process.

Problems arose during the last renewal cycle when individuals attempted to renew both their individual license and their firm certificate on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Since the system processes the renewals over-night the renewal is not finalized until the next day. The system was not recognizing that the individual had renewed their license prior to completing the certificate of authorization application.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULE SECTIONS WITH CHANGES

As part of Governor Ivey's "Red Tape" Reduction the Board was tasked to review the rules contained in its Administrative Code, and to reduce by 25%, the number of discretionary regulatory restrictions that are not directly mandated by state or federal statute or regulation.

At the Board's December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Board meeting, the Board proposed changes to various sections of its Administrative Code. On December 11, 2024, the proposed changes were submitted to the Legislative Services Agency for certification. **The proposed rule changes to the Administrative Code of the Board became effective February 14, 2025. Included is a list of the sections impacted and a brief description of the change.**

- 330-X-2-.01 - Removed restrictive terms from definitions
- 330-X-3-.03 - Updated term used to describe closed applications, and clarify the need for new application and fee
- 330-X-4 - Appendix A - Public Record fee specified and removed fee for Bad Checks
- 330-X-4-.01 - Requires fees to be paid by credit card
- 330-X-4-.07 - Repealed Bad Check Process
- 330-X-5-.01 - Applicants with foreign degrees must meet licensure requirements
- 330-X-6-.01 - Included direct supervision in qualifying experience
- 330-X-8-.05 - Removed old exam study location information language
- 330-X-8-.08 - NCEES sets passing score on NCEES Exams

# ADMINISTRATIVE RULE SECTIONS WITH CHANGES

- 330-X-8-.10 - Removed obsolete language
- 330-X-10-.04 - Removed same language also in Title 34 Chapter 11 Code of Alabama 1975
- 330-X-10-.05 - Removed experience only path for structural roster designation
- 330-X-14-.06 - Requires licensees to update contact information and notify Board of disciplinary actions and criminal convictions.
- 330-X-15-.03 - Repealed – duplicate of Section 330-X-3-.02
- 330-X-15-.04 - Changed expire month date (January 31) for certificates of authorization
- 330-X-16-.01 - Clarified complaint submission requirements
- 330-X-16-.05 - Removed negotiated settlements language

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BELS

### BELS BOARD MEETING



On Tuesday, February 11, 2025, the BELS Board members convened and held their first meeting of 2025. The Board members had a full agenda and stayed busy reviewing licensure applications, enforcement investigations and assorted questions and requests.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BELS

## ASCE—HUNTSVILLE BRANCH



On January 6, 2025, BELS Special Investigator Michael Darden gave a one hour Ethics and Investigative Case Review presentation to members of the ASCE Huntsville Branch. There was a great turnout for the event and Michael made several new contacts.

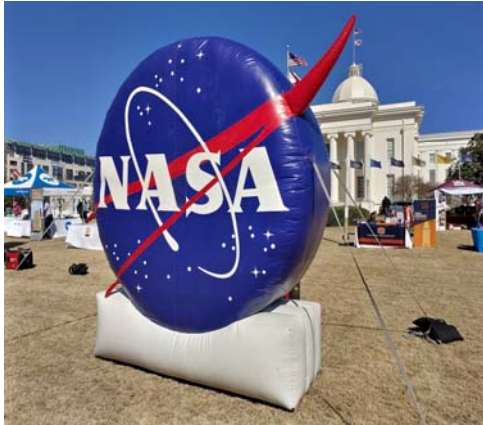
## AARB CONFERENCE



On January 27-29, 2025, BELS Investigators Bob Herbert, Bill Hamil and Michael Darden attended the 2025 AARB CIT Conference in Orange Beach, Alabama. The training was very informative and covered many aspects of conducting investigations. There was a great turnout of regulatory board investigators representing the many regulatory Boards through the State of Alabama.



# SPACE DAY IN ALABAMA



On Tuesday, February 25, 2025, Governor Kay Ivey declared "Space Day" in Alabama. There were displays setup on the South lawn of the Capitol for the public to see. BELS Special Investigator Michael Darden went to the south lawn and talked with several college students who were displaying the engineering vehicles they had built for aerospace competitions. The students were very excited and eager to talk about their builds. A few of the Alabama Colleges represented were Auburn University, University of Alabama in Huntsville and Alabama A&M University.

Auburn University students displayed their rocket vehicle used in this years competition and also displayed a larger rocket built for last years competition.



Alabama A&M University students displayed their vehicle design for the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge



Students from the University of Alabama in Huntsville displayed their vehicle for the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge



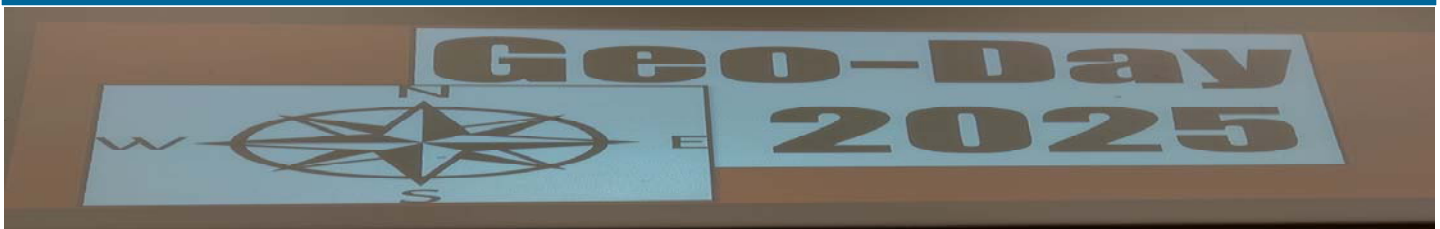
# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BELS

## FIRE MARSHAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE



On March 4-6, 2025, BELS Special Investigators Bill Hamil and Michael Darden attended the Fire Marshals Association of Alabama Conference held at Guntersville State Park Lodge. Bill and Michael set up a table and spoke with many of the attendees about how BELS could help them. State Fire Marshal Scott Pilgreen was the first speaker at the conference.

## TROY UNIVERSITY "GEO DAY"



On March 13, 2025, BELS Investigators Bill Hamil and Michael Darden attended "GEO Day" at the Troy University Trojan Center and spoke with many students about the benefits of becoming a licensed Professional Land Surveyor. Even Troy University's Mascot "T-Roy" stopped by to say Hello.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BELS

## AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT MONTGOMERY

On March 14, 2025, BELS Investigators Bill Hamil and Michael Darden attended the Greater East Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair (GEARSEF) held at AUM. This event supports young high school students that are inspired to become scientist and engineers. Bill and Michael spoke with many of the students, teachers and parents about the importance of becoming a licensed professional.



## ASCE WINTER CONFERENCE—DOTHAN



On March 20, 2025, BELS Investigators Bill Hamil and Michael Darden gave a one hour presentation on “Ethics and Investigative Case Reviews.”



ASCE Winter Conference in Dothan, Alabama. There were 90 plus attendees and they were a great audience. Bill and Michael also gave an update on the upcoming renewal season and answered many questions.



# ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Our investigators are available to answer your questions concerning routine issues that occur and relate to compliance with the Code of Alabama and/or the Board's Administrative Code. Please feel free to send them an email or give them a call with your questions or concerns.

Their Contact Information:

Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert: robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-242-5089

Special Investigator Bill Hamil: william.hamilton@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-242-5049

Special Investigator Mike Darden: michael.darden@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-353-1047

## **2023-20 / 2023-32 / 2023-33 John Maxwell, PLS17262**

### **2024-07 USA Surveying & Engineering, LLC, LSCA397**

The investigations determined (1) Mr. Maxwell's PE license was revoked by the Ohio State Board of Registration for Engineers and Surveyors for offering and providing land surveying services in that state without being licensed as a professional land surveyor in that state. (2) Mr. Maxwell was paid a retainer to provide engineering and land surveying services, but failed to meet project deadlines, and was terminated from the project. (3) Mr. Maxwell provided a document containing his firm's name "USA Surveying & Engineering, LLC" that included the names of multiple cities in Alabama without identifying those locations on his firm's certificate of authorization. Mr. Maxwell agreed to pay a \$5,000 fine to the Board, his PE and PLS license to be suspended for 3 years with the suspension stayed, to submit a quarterly list of projects to the Board for 3 years, that failure to comply with the consent order would cause the automatic revocation of his license and the Consent Order and Final Order be public record.

## **2024-30 John Davis, PE38338**

The investigation determined Mr. Davis was hired to design eleven onsite septic systems for the expansion of a manufactured housing community in 2022. As of April 2024, the project had not completed, and Mr. Davis had failed to communicate with the client over great lengths of time. A Board Technical Advisor advised that Mr. Davis had acted in an unprofessional and irresponsible manner related to communication and contact with the client and the deliverables related to the project. Mr. Davis agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$3,500 fine to the Board, his professional engineer license to be suspended for one year with the suspension stayed and the Consent Order and Final Order to be public record.

## **2024-43 Amir Safaie, PE18889**

The investigation determined Mr. Safaie submitted electrical engineering plans for a project in Alabama that were not sufficient to design the fire alarm system and further failed to meet the standards of practice for engineering in Alabama. Mr. Safaie agreed to a consent order that required he pay a \$2,500 fine to the Board, his professional engineer license to be suspended for one year with the suspension stayed and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

# ENFORCEMENT NEWS

## **2024-44 Safaie Landry Partnership, Inc., ECA51293**

The investigation determined Safaie Landry Partnership Inc. provided engineering services for multiple projects in the State of Alabama without being issued a Certificate of Authorization for engineering by the Board. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$7,500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, to pay \$100 to the Board for the cost of the investigation and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

## **2024-53 Bobby Bailey, PE12502**

The investigation determined when Mr. Bailey was retained to provide engineering services for a project, he submitted design plans for permitting that contained errors multiple times. Mr. Bailey agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$1,000 fine to the Board, his professional engineer license to be suspended for one year, and the Consent Order and Final Order to be a public record.

## **2025-08 L.A. Yelverton Land Surveying LLC, LSCA50414**

The investigation determined when L.A. Yelverton Land Surveying, LLC submitted an application to the Board for a certificate of authorization for land surveying the firm self-reported that it had been performing land surveying services in the State of Alabama without having a Certificate of Authorization since 2013. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$7,500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, to pay \$80 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

## **2025-09 Vetter Montler Associates Inc., ECA51283**

The investigation determined when Vetter Montler Associates, Inc. submitted an application to the Board for a Certificate of Authorization for engineering the firm self-reported that it had offered engineering services in the State of Alabama without having a Certificate of Authorization issued by the Board. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, to pay \$165.72 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

## **2025-10 YJ Sign Inc., ECA51201**

The investigation determined when YJ Sign Inc, submitted an application for a Certificate of Authorization for engineering to the Board it self-reported that it had offered engineering services for multiple engineering projects within the last two years in the State of Alabama without being issued a Certificate of Authorization. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, to pay \$82 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

# ENFORCEMENT NEWS

## **2023-31 O. Guthrie Jeffcoat, Jr., PE9587**

An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) presided over a hearing and provided the Board his Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Disciplinary Recommendation. In his conclusion the ALJ stated “There were significant discrepancies in the measurement of the restrictive layer between the developer's initial samples and Jeffcoat's samples years' later. The developer recommended an engineered system based on their results and Jeffcoat recommended a conventional system based upon his results. Given the large difference in measured restrictive layers, Jeffcoat should have engaged in a more diligent effort to determine why the large difference existed, something Chynoweth expressed toward the end of his testimony.” The Board accepted the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Disciplinary Recommendation, and issued an Order that required Mr. Jeffcoat to pay a \$1,000 fine and to pay \$2,805 to the Board for the cost associated with the hearing. Mr. Jeffcoat has appealed the Board's disciplinary recommendation to the Montgomery County Circuit Court.

## **2025-17 RBM Industries, Inc., ECA51197**

The investigation determined RBM Industries performed engineering services for one project in the State of Alabama without being issued a Certificate of Authorization for engineering by the Board. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, \$76.06 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and Consent and Final Order will be public record.

# EXPERTS NEEDED

Board Technical Advisors (BTA) serve a vital role in the investigation of competency based complaints regarding professional engineers and land surveyors. Their expertise is a tremendous asset to the Board's investigative committee in determining if probable cause exists that a violation has occurred.

Understanding the amount of time necessary to provide an examination of documents submitted for review the Board limits the number of cases assigned to a BTA each year. The BTA is also selected from a different geographical area of the State than where the violation occurred.

If interested, please contact Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert at 334-242-5089 or email [robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov)



# ASK OUR STAFF

## SEND QUESTIONS ABOUT

- ♦ **PE & PLS Applications, Structural Roster Designation Requests, and the ALSS Exam** to Bonnie Kelly at [bonnie.kelly@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:bonnie.kelly@bels.alabama.gov)
- ♦ **Public Records Request, Renewals & Reinstatements** to Rick Huett at [rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov)
- ♦ **Certificates of Authorization** - Applications, Amendments, or Renewals, and **Engineer Intern and Land Surveyor Intern Applications** to Pam Faison at [pame-la.faison@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:pame-la.faison@bels.alabama.gov)
- ♦ **License Verification Requests.** The vast majority of states use the electronic verification system available on the NCEES website. Just login to your MYNCEES account and request the verification. If a paper verification is needed contact Denise Hooper at [denise.hooper@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:denise.hooper@bels.alabama.gov) or 334-242-5568
- ♦ **Continuing Education, Audits, Possible law or rules violations, requirements of professional engineers and professional land surveyors,** to one of our investigators:
  - ♦ Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert: [robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov), or 334-242-5089
  - ♦ Special Investigator Bill Hamil: [william.hamilton@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:william.hamilton@bels.alabama.gov), or 334-242-5049
  - ♦ Special Investigator Mike Darden: [michael.darden@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:michael.darden@bels.alabama.gov), or 334-353-1057

