
THE STANDARD



Established 1935



Front Cover:

BELS



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

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

Jan 1st	Holiday / Office Closed	Jan 19th	Holiday / Office Closed
Feb 3rd	Board Meeting	Feb 16th	Holiday / Office Closed
Mar 31st	Board Meeting	Jun 9th	Board Meeting
Aug 4th	Board Meeting	Oct 6th	Board Meeting

BOARD TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Professional Land Surveyors 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 had occurred.

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

Also — Board Technical Advisors can earn up to ten (10) PDH's a year for their service to the Board in review of documents.

If you live in the State of Alabama and are interested, please contact Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert via email at: robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov.

FY2024-2025 REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

REVENUE **\$2,238,445.60**

FY 2023 Carry Forward

Renewals \$600.00

Reinstatements \$38,300.00

Applications | Licensure \$194,175.00

Exams \$3,900.00

Fines \$30,500.00

Costs \$2,200.20

Civil Penalties \$55,300.00

Duplicate Certificates \$825.00

Sale of Surplus & Miscellaneous _____

Total Revenue Receipts **\$325,800.20**

Wex Rebate \$16.03

Less: Civil Penalties (\$55,300.00)

Less: NIC Online Merchant Refunds (\$375.00)

NIC Refunds Not Yet Posted _____

Total FY 24 Recognized Revenue **\$270,141.23** **\$270,141.23**

EXPENDITURES

Personnel Costs \$594,970.50

Employee Benefits \$177,152.96

Travel (In State) \$22,455.97

Travel (Out of State) \$7,593.75

Repairs | Maintenance \$4,252.75

Rentals | Leases \$133,518.22

Utilities | Communications \$17,049.57

Professional Services \$228,701.18

Supplies, Materials | Operating Expenses \$44,786.61

Transportation Equipment Operations \$1,664.22

Other Equipment Purchases \$59,851.23

TOTAL FY 2025 EXPENDITURES **(\$1,291,996.96)**

Transfer to General Fund _____

TOTAL FY 24 EXPENDITURES in FY 25 **(\$67,662.94)**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **(\$1,359,659.90)**

Cash Fund Balance **\$1,148,926.93**

Less FY 24 Remaining Encumbrances

Less FY 24 Year End Accounts Payable

Less FY 25 Encumbrances (\$41,910.01)

(\$41,910.01)

Total Unobligated Cash **\$1,107,016.92**

FRAUDULENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Verify Professional Engineer Credentials and Avoid Online Scams

This information is provided to the public and employers regarding a rise in online scams where individuals impersonate licensed Professional Engineers (PEs). These fraudsters employ sophisticated tactics, including the use of forged credentials and fake online profiles, to secure employment or provide fraudulent services. Such activities can endanger public safety and lead to significant financial losses.

Protect yourself and your projects by watching for these red flags and adhering to essential verification procedures:

Common Warning Signs of Fraudulent PEs

- **Lack of Verifiable Online Presence:** This is a primary indicator of potential fraud. Always verify an engineer's licensure information, physical address, and phone number directly on the official Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BELS) website (www.bels.alabama.gov). Be suspicious if the only online presence is a vague social media page or if provided contact details do not align with official company records.
- **Inconsistencies in Credentials:** The individual's name, license number, and employment dates on their resume must precisely match their public professional profiles (e.g., LinkedIn) and official licensing board records.
- **Unsolicited or "Too Good to Be True" Offers:** Exercise caution if an "employer" or "engineer" initiates contact unexpectedly via text, messaging applications (such as WhatsApp or Telegram), or a generic email address (e.g., Gmail, Yahoo), promising high compensation for minimal effort or a guaranteed position without a rigorous interview process.
- **Urgency and Pressure Tactics:** Scammers frequently create a sense of urgency, demanding quick action (e.g., "respond within 24 hours") to prevent thorough research or due diligence.

Requests for Payment or Sensitive Information Early In the Process: Legitimate companies and engineers will never request payment for job applications, training, equipment, background checks, or visa processing fees. They also will not request sensitive personal details, such as a Social Security number or bank account information, until a formal offer has been accepted and a contract duly signed.

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Suspicious Communication Channels: Official communications should originate from a verifiable company email domain (e.g., @companyname.com), not a free personal email account.

How to Verify a Professional Engineer's License

The most effective method for protection is to verify the engineer's license status through official channels:

- 1. Identify the State of Licensure:** Engineers are licensed by the specific state or jurisdiction where they practice. Ascertain which state board issued the license.
- 2. Utilize the Official State Licensing Board Website:** Every state engineering board provides a public, online license lookup service to verify an engineer's credentials and check for any disciplinary actions. In Alabama, for example, you can use the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers License Search (www.bels.alabama.gov).
- 3. Contact the Board Directly:** If any doubts persist, contact the state board's office directly using a phone number found exclusively on their official government website, not a number supplied by the potential scammer. For further inquiries, you may contact BELS investigative staff at 334-242-5568.

Reporting Fraud

If you suspect you have encountered a fraudulent engineer or a job scam:

- Immediately cease all communication; do not respond further or provide any information.
- Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.
- If the fraud involves an engineer's credentials, report it to the relevant state licensing board's investigative staff; BELS can be reached at 334-242-5568.

Contact your local law enforcement agencies.

Let's help to stop the Fraud!!!

EXAM STATS

LAND SURVEYING EXAM STATS

FS	Total	Pass	Fail	Pass Rate
10-01-24—12-31-24	6	2	4	33%
01-01-25—03-31-25	8	5	3	62%
04-01-25—06-30-25	7	1	6	14%
07-01-25—09-30-25	16	9	7	56%
Total For Year	37	17	20	45%

FS

PLS	Total	Pass	Fail	Pass Rate
10-01-24—12-31-24	3	3	0	100%
01-01-25—03-31-25	7	3	4	42%
04-01-25—06-30-25	5	1	4	20%
07-01-25—09-30-25	8	4	4	50%
Total for Year	23	11	12	47%

PLS

ENGINEERING EXAM STATS

FE

FE	Total	Pass	Fail	Pass Rate
10-01-24—12-31-24	167	69	98	41%
01-01-25—03-31-25	63	135	128	51%
04-01-25—06-30-25	258	121	137	46%
07-01-25—09-30-25	180	92	88	51%
Total for Year	868	417	451	48

PE

PE	Total	Pass	Fail	Pass Rate
10-01-24—12-31-24	94	54	40	57%
01-01-25—03-31-25	89	43	46	48%
04-01-25—06-30-25	125	67	58	53%
07-01-25—09-30-25	137	76	61	55%
Total for Year	445	240	205	53%

SE

PE	Total	Pass	Fail	Pass Rate
10-01-24—12-31-24	0			N/A
01-01-25—03-31-25	0			N/A
04-01-25—06-30-25	0			N/A
07-01-25—09-30-25	0			N/A
Total for Year	0			N/A

REMOTE SUPERVISION POLICY

Frequently asked questions about the Remote Supervision Policy

1. What are the requirements for a Company's Remote Supervision Plan?

The plan must describe 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.

2. If I have remote work experience do I need to submit a copy of the company's remote supervision plan and a log with my application?

Yes, if no log and company policy are submitted, no credit will be given for the experience.

3. The remote supervision policy states the majority of the supervised training must be in person face-to-face interaction. How much experience constitutes a majority?

51% or more

4. Do I have to use the Board's Remote Supervision Documentation Log Template?

You are not required to use the Board's Remote Supervision Documentation Log. Also - if the remote experience is greater than a year, you can provide the log by months instead of weeks.

5. Can I put in person work experience and remote work experience in the log? Yes

6. Why does the Board only grant half credit for remote supervision experience if there has been daily communication and supervision by a registered PE?

The Board is charged with determining if an applicant is qualified to offer and or practice engineering in the State of Alabama. Through review and discussion of licensure applications the Board has determined that in person supervision and mentoring is superior to experience obtained via remote supervision.

7. What are common reasons for denial of a company's remote supervision plan?

Insufficient description of 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?

8. What are common reasons for denial of an engineer's remote supervision documentation log?

Insufficient description of the frequency of in person face-to-face interaction, and the frequency of virtual contact between the applicant and their supervisor.

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.hamill@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-242-5049

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

Terry K. Matthews, unlicensed - Complaint 2025-36

The investigation determined Terry K Matthews submitted two soil reports to a client that provided a geotechnical engineering analysis without being licensed as a professional engineer. Mr. Matthews agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$3,000 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund, and the Consent Order and Final Order to be public record.

Terry K. Matthews Testing Laboratory LLC - Complaint 2025-37

The investigation determined Terry K. Matthews Testing Laboratory LLC submitted invoices to clients that contained the language that stated "Analytical, Physical Consulting, Chemists, Engineers & Surveyors" without being issued a certificate of authorization for engineering (CA) by the Board and employing a licensed professional engineer. The firm agreed to a Consent Order that required it to pay a \$3,000 civil penalty to the State General Fund, and the Consent Order and Final Order to be public record.

Marshall Corlew, PE11308 - Complaint 2025-38

The investigation determined Mr. Corlew was hired to oversee the permitting of onsite septic systems for a subdivision. One of the septic systems he designed failed and it was discovered that he had certified on the permitting application that the system was installed in accordance with his design, however the installer had placed the system in a different area of the property. Mr. Corlew 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 two years with the suspension stayed, and the Consent Order and Final Order to be public record.

PROMUS, ECA51507 - Complaint 2025-50

The investigation determined the firm PROMUS failed to obtain a certificate of authorization (CA) from the Board before providing engineering design plans for projects in Alabama. The PE for the firm mistakenly thought that he could seal the design plans containing his company information as a sole proprietor. PROMUS agreed to a Consent Order that required the firm to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, pay \$130 for the cost of the investigation and the Consent Order and Final Order to be public record.

ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Glenn & Wright Inc., ECA298 - Complaint 2025-52

The investigation determined Glenn & Wright Inc, allowed its Certificate of Authorization to expire, but provided engineering services during the time period it was expired. The firm also continued to offer engineering services via its website during the time the certificate was expired. Glenn & Wright Inc, agreed to a Consent Order that required the firm to pay a \$500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, pay \$118 for the cost of the investigation and the Consent Order and Final Order to be public record.

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
- ♦ **Public Records Request, Renewals & Reinstatements** to Rick Huett at 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
- ♦ **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 the jurisdiction requires a paper verification contact Rick Huett at rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov.

FUN FACT

The State of Alabama covers 52,423 square miles, making it the 30th largest of the 50 states. Alabama is 330 miles long and 190 miles wide at its most distant point. The oldest county, Washington, was created on June 4, 1800, when what is now Alabama was then part of the Mississippi Territory. The newest county is Houston, created on February 9, 1093.

Resource: Alabama Archives and History

Alabama Board of Licensure for
Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors