

**NCEES Annual Conference
Hyatt Regency,
Saint Louis, MO
(August 21-25, 2012)**

Engineering Surveys and the NCEES Model Law

As the NSPS President it was my honor and privilege to attend the recent NCEES Annual Meeting. The NCEES Meeting is a five-day affair consisting of social events and business meetings. The meeting is the forum in which NCEES and its representatives from licensing boards across the country lay the ground work intended to ensure that testing for licensure in engineering and surveying in the United States is fair, thorough, and covers the breadth of topics that will best protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public. The work is considerable and is conducted in a manner that is truly impressive.

The work is not strictly limited to matters regarding testing. A good deal of time and effort is devoted to a diverse set of nuanced topics that do, or will, affect the ever-changing landscape that is engineering and surveying. From a surveying perspective, the most intriguing issue at this year's meeting would have to be the term "Engineering Surveys" and its definition as presented in the NCEES Model Law for Engineering.

This term, as defined by NCEES, has been used as the basis for legislative efforts in several states that, if approved, would significantly alter the limits of both engineering and surveying in those states. New Mexico and Rhode Island are among these states. During the NSPS Spring Board of Governors (BOG) meeting held on May 5 in Charlotte, the NSPS Governors from New Mexico and Rhode Island introduced a motion requesting that the NSPS Board of Directors (BOD) petition NCEES to remove both the term and definition from the Model Law. The motion passed the BOG, and the BOD authorized the NSPS President to prepare and forward the petition. The motion, the NSPS letter of petition to NCEES, and an update from NCEES are presented here for your information.

The agenda for the NCEES Business Meeting included a motion made on behalf of the Rhode Island Board by Daniel Cotta, a PLS member of the Rhode Island Board. During the Surveyors Forum, a part of the NCEES proceedings, this motion and its implications commanded considerable attention. As the dialogue progressed, it was evident that there was not a clear consensus on how best to move forward. NCEES leadership introduced the alternative of forming a "Task Force" to review the language in the definition and, if appropriate, to propose revisions to the language.

During the annual business meeting the next day, the motion was withdrawn based on the commitment from NCEES leadership to form the Task Force. NSPS is in receipt of a letter from NCEES, acknowledging the NSPS letter, and informing NSPS of the actions taken at the NCEES annual meeting regarding this matter. The letter also noted that NCEES President Gene Dinkins has subsequently appointed the members to the Task Force.

NSPS will watch with great interest as the NCEES Task Force works through this issue, and stands prepared to offer its assistance if requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Dahn, NSPS President