

MOTION FOR THE NSPS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS AGENDA ITEM:

Meeting Date: May 5th Location: Charlotte, NC

SUBJECT: Removal of the term “Engineering Surveys” from the NCEES Model Law.

MOTION, For NSPS to pass a resolution supporting the removal of the term “engineering surveys” from the NCEES Model Law.

Whereas, The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) is comprised of engineering and surveying licensing boards from all the states and U.S. Territories whose purpose is to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare as required by state statutory law;

Whereas, This purpose manifests itself in the actions and policies of NCEES;

Whereas, The mission of NCEES is to ensure public protection through the licensing process which demonstrates a standard of competency that the public can rely upon when procuring the professional services of engineers and surveyors.

Whereas, This competency is acquired by the three main tenets of professionalism: education, experience, and examination and it is only through the rigorous application of all of these factors that one can be considered proficient enough to provide service to the public in their area of expertise.

Whereas, It is recognized that surveying is a separate and distinct profession from engineering and is evolving into an increasingly complex body of knowledge the application of which requires ever increasing levels of education, examination, and experience.

Whereas, The term “engineering surveys” has been broadly defined by engineers and engineering organizations to cover all aspects of surveying except boundary surveys and variations thereof;

Whereas, The performance of “engineering surveys” is often done by individuals without benefit of education, examination, and experience;

Whereas, The NCEES Model Laws definition and inclusion of “*Engineering Surveys*” has demonstrated to be problematic for many states and undermines the “Authoritative” Practice of Land Surveying as regulated by many individual states statutes and sanctions the unlicensed practice of surveying;

Whereas, NSPS is the representative body for Surveyors in the United States;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that NSPS petition the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) for the removal of the term “Engineering Surveys” and following definition from the NCEES Model Laws found at Chapter 110.20 Definitions, Section A, Paragraph 5: “*Engineering Surveys*” to include all survey activities required to support the sound conception, planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of engineered projects but exclude the surveying of real property for the establishment of land boundaries, rights-of-way, easements, and the dependent or independent surveys or resurveys of the public land survey system.

BACKGROUND: It is widely acknowledged that engineering disciplines continue to splinter with at least 16 sub disciplines. Specialization within each sub-discipline requires specific education and experience. Why then should all aspects of surveying with the exception of boundary, be considered as part of the purview of engineering including civil engineering?

Many, if not most engineering curriculums, no longer require their students to immerse themselves in surveying subject matter, as was once the case. Yet, most civil engineers feel fully qualified to engage in surveying activities even though the components of experience, education, and examination are missing from their background. Courses that are mandatory for surveying majors are electives for engineering majors who often decline to avail themselves of the opportunity. Surveying curriculums at many, if not most educational institutions offering associate, bachelors, and advanced degrees are designed to address this increasing complexity not only in boundary considerations, but also in “non-boundary” definitions of surveying, including geodetic and plane surveying, topographic map preparation, project control and other components for survey construction staking. Most of these courses are mandatory for surveying students. This curriculum is a recognition that it is necessary to rigorously prepare the surveying student for the demands that they will encounter in their professional life.

Civil engineering curriculums should acknowledge this specialty and engineering students desiring to practice within this area should avail themselves of either existing course offerings within surveying programs or specialized courses within engineering programs. ABET criteria for engineering and surveying programs should reflect this specialized area within the surveying profession. Minimum experience and formal examination would complete the necessary requirements of the engineering surveyor. Until such time that this becomes a reality, the Model Law should remove any reference to “engineering surveys”.

Motion Made By: Glen Thurow (NM) Date: 5/05/12

Motion Seconded By: Edward OBrien (RI)

Estimated Cost of Implementation: _____

Action for the Board of Governors Only: Yes _____ No X

Nsps Board of Directors Roll Call Vote Requested: Yes _____ No X

Recommended For Review by Task Committee No. Three

Committee Recommendation: Approval

Board of Governors Action on Motion: Passed

Board of Directors Action on Motion: Passed