

organizations selected the winners from the 97 blind entries. The jury members considered criteria such as

- Successful collaboration of faculty, students, and licensed professional engineers
- Protection of public health, safety, and/or welfare of the public
- Multidiscipline and/or allied profession participation
- Knowledge or skills gained
- Effectiveness of display board, abstract, and project description

Profiles of the winning submissions are available online at ncees.org/award or at NCEES offices upon request.

Questions And Answers



Q&A

Question

For most of my designs I obtain topographic mapping information from a variety of sources including local surveyors, and county/city records and published maps like USGS. I spot check more detailed information on the actual site but rely upon these other sources. Is this acceptable?

Answer

Being knowledgeable and competent on topographic mapping is a basic skill required for licensure. Reliance upon other sources for topographic information is within your discretion provided you find it meets the requirements for your design. However, if there are inaccuracies in that information which have influence on your design the amount of spot checking becomes more important. Ultimately you, as the responsible licensee, must sign and seal the final product.

Question

I am a PE who has been hired to be the engineer of record for a planned construction of a design

that was completed 5 years ago. I have a set of the completed plans and an electronic version that are in complete agreement with the hard copy. The client has contacted my firm because the original design engineer has passed away and the client is now ready to proceed with the project. My preliminary study of the plans showed they were very well developed and complete but they were never submitted for review to the local building department. The Building Department is insisting that I submit a clean set of plans with only my seal and signature. Is this something I can do?

Answer

As the Board has stated, it is not acceptable for a PE to stamp a plan that was not prepared by them or under their direct supervision. The primary purpose of that regulation was to guard against the preparation and distribution of designs that appeared to be the product of an engineer's effort but were not.

Your situation is different in a couple of key respects. First, a qualified professional competently performed the original design, and second, you were hired to execute the existing design through the construction phase. As we see it there is no reason for the building department to ask for plans to be resealed with your seal. The original plans should be sufficient and can be submitted even with the deceased PE stamp. However, if the review process produces changes that need to be incorporated before the permit is issued those changes by you would need to be explained and thoroughly evaluated to ensure overall design integrity. It might also be necessary to have a clarifying statement about the dual roles on the plan and to directly inform the department staff of the situation so they know and understand your role on the project.

Question:

I see a continuing issue that I believe needs clarification. Amongst the surveyors in the county I practice there seems to be differing opinions about the signature requirements on the Record of Survey map. The Survey Recording Act specifies a "Surveyor's Certificate" that includes the signature

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