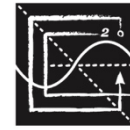


MINUTES OF THE 2026 SOUTHERN ZONE INTERIM MEETING
Chimin (Jimmy) Chao, P.E., Southern Zone Vice President, Presiding
Carolina, Puerto Rico, April 24–25



NCEES
*advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors*

FRIDAY, APRIL 24
BUSINESS SESSION 1

Call to order

Southern Zone Vice President Chimin (Jimmy) Chao, P.E. (SC) called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Michael Vickers, P.E. (KY) led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome

Vice President Chao welcomed attendees and provided opening announcements. He stated that a conflict had arisen with the welcome speaker, Secretary of State of Puerto Rico Rosachely Rivera Santana, and a delegate from her office was being sent. The welcome was delayed.

Roll call of member boards

Southern Zone Secretary Linda Bergeron, P.E. (LA) performed the roll call of member boards. She noted that a quorum of member boards was present, with all Southern Zone boards represented.

Southern Zone member board	Members	Emeritus	Staff	Total
1. Alabama	5	0	4	9
2. Arkansas	2	0	1	3
3. Florida PE	4	0	1	5
4. Florida PS	3	1	1	5
5. Georgia	4	0	1	5
6. Kentucky	6	0	3	9
7. Louisiana	8	1	1	10
8. Mississippi	5	0	1	6
9. North Carolina	8	2	2	12
10. Oklahoma	3	4	0	7
11. Puerto Rico	9	0	0	9
12. South Carolina	8	0	1	9
13. Tennessee PE	5	0	0	5
14. Tennessee PS	2	0	0	2
15. Texas	8	4	2	14
16. U.S. Virgin Islands	3	0	1	4
17. Virginia	3	1	0	4
Total	86	13	19	118

Introduction of guests and attendees

Vice President Chao introduced the meeting guests.

Review of schedule

Vice President Chao reviewed the schedule for the day.

Call for additional agenda items

Vice President Chao asked for additional agenda items. None were noted. Delegates voted to accept the agenda.

Zone business

Approval of minutes from 2025 Southern Zone annual meeting

Vice President Chao noted that the draft minutes of the 2025 Southern Zone annual meeting had been posted on the zone meeting webpage and asked for any corrections; no corrections were noted. Kentucky made a motion to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Texas. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Nominating Committee report

Nominating Committee Chair Gary Clark, P.L.S. (TN-PS) presented the candidates for zone offices.

The following candidates for the office of Southern Zone secretary provided remarks:

- Coleen Johnson, R.P.L.S. (TX)
- David Page, P.S. (OK)
- James (Don) Pedigo II, P.L.S. (KY)

Awards Committee report

Awards Committee Chair Vinod (Vinnie) Goel, Ph.D., P.E. (NC) stated one Southern Zone Distinguished Service Award would be presented at the luncheon. The award was presented to James Kelly, P.E. (VA).

Site Selection Committee report

Site Selection Committee Chair Heather Richardson (AR) announced the 2027 Southern Zone interim meeting will take place at the all-zone meeting on April 22–24 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Leadership Development Committee report

Leadership Development Committee Chair Steven Twedt, P.E. (MS) presented a report. The reception for first-time attendees was held on April 23. There are 11 new Southern Zone board members.

NCEES officer and CEO reports

President's report

President Elizabeth Beckett, P.E., provided a report.

Welcome (continued)

Upon arrival of the guest speaker from the office of the Secretary of State of Puerto Rico, Cesar Barreto Bosques, P.E. (PR) and Ricardo Garcia-Cana, P.S. (PR) recognized nine members of the Puerto Rico Board of Examiners of Engineers and Land Surveyors and MBA Antonio Medina-Delgado, P.E., who has worked with NCEES to organize this meeting. Next, they introduced Assistant Secretary of Records and Examining Boards of the Department of State Alondra Negron Lopez, who provided a welcome to Puerto Rico.

NCEES officer and CEO reports (continued)

President-elect's report

President-Elect Samuel Wilson, DBA, P.E., provided a report.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Karl Tonander, P.E., provided a report.

Vice President Chao recessed the meeting for a break at 9:55 a.m.

Vice President Chao resumed the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

CEO's report

CEO Davy McDowell, P.E., provided a report.

Foundation report

Foundation Treasurer Iarelis (Ia) Hall, P.S.M., provided a report.

NCEES committee and task force reports

Advisory Committee on Council Activities

Advisory Committee on Council Activities board liaison Karl Tonander, P.E., provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Committee on Education

Committee on Education member William (Davey) Edwards, Ph.D., P.L.S., L.S. (TX) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures

Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures member James Collins, P.E. (TN-PE) provided a report

on the committee's preliminary activities.

Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers

Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers member Jason Carder, P.E. (TN-PE) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors

Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors member Coleen Johnson, R.P.L.S (TX) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Committee on Finances

Committee on Finances member Dennis Truax, Ph.D., P.E. (MS) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Vice President Chao recessed the meeting at 11:50 a.m. for lunch.

BUSINESS SESSION 2

Vice President Chao called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

NCEES committee and task force reports

The meeting continued with committee and task force reports.

Committee on Finances

Committee on Finances member Dennis Truax, Ph.D., P.E. (MS) continued with the report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Committee on Law Enforcement

Committee on Law Enforcement member Michael Sims, P.E. (TX) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Committee on Licensure

Committee on Licensure Chair Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E. (TX) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Committee on Member Board Administrators

Committee on Member Board Administrators Chair Kathy Hart (OK) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines

Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines member Samuel (Wes) Tripp III (NC) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Mission Initiatives Task Force

Mission Initiatives Task Force Chair Andrew Ritter (NC) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Special Committee on Bylaws

Special Committee on Bylaws member Gregory Meredith, P.E. (KY) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Structural Practice Task Force

Structural Practice Task Force board liaison Jason Suelter, P.E., S.E. (NE-PE) provided a report on the committee's preliminary activities.

Vice President Chao recessed the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25
BUSINESS SESSION 3

Vice President Chao called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Roll call of member boards

Southern Zone Secretary Linda Bergeron, P.E. (LA) performed the roll call of member boards. A quorum of member boards was present, with all of the 17 Southern Zone boards represented.

Election

Election for the following positions were held:

- Southern Zone secretary: The zone elected James (Don) Pedigo II, P.L.S. (KY) to serve as Southern Zone secretary for 2026–28.

Forum reports

Reports were provided for the forums held earlier.

- Engineering: James Collins, P.E. (TN-PE) provided a report on the Engineering Forum.
- Surveying: John Claytor, P.L.S. (VA) provided a report on the Surveying Forum.
- Member board administrators: Monica Gilmore (MS) provided a report on the Member Board Administrators Forum.
- Law enforcement: Bob Herbert (AL) provided a report on the Law Enforcement Forum.

Update on state activities

Member boards provided reports on recent activities. Copies of reports submitted by member boards are included as an appendix to these minutes.

New business

Gary Clark, P.L.S. (TN-PS) discussed the Southern Zone supporting Iarelis (Ia) Hall, P.S.M., for treasurer in the NCEES election taking place at the 2026 annual meeting. A show of hands vote indicated a clear majority for the Southern Zone to support her in this election.

Resolutions Committee

Resolutions Committee Chair Jason Carder, P.E. (TN-PE) provided a report for the committee.

Invitation to 2027 zone interim meeting

Vice President Chao invited attendees to the 2027 Southern Zone interim meeting to be held in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 22–24 as part of an all-zone meeting.

Adjournment

Vice President Chao adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Linda Bergeron, P.E.
NCEES Southern Zone Secretary

APPENDIX: SOUTHERN ZONE MEMBER BOARD REPORTS



Kay Ivey
Governor

**Alabama State Board of Licensure for
Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors**

100 N. Union Street, Suite 382
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3762

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 304451
Montgomery, AL
36130-4451

March 13, 2026

Phone: 334-242-5568
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Linda Bergeron, P.E.
NCEES SZ Secretary

RE: Alabama State Report / 2026 NCEES SZ Meeting

Examiners recently conducted a "Legal Compliance Audit, and a "Sunset Review" of the Board's operations. The report will be provided to the legislative committee, and the hearing should be early summer. The committee will make a recommendation to continue or sunset the Board in the 2027 legislative session.

Currently ALDOT (Alabama Department of Transportation) does not place a professional engineer seal on engineering design plans that are provided to municipalities. The Board and ALDOT have requested an AG opinion as to if ALDOT must meet the Board's statute requirements for placement of a professional engineer seal on engineering documents.

In July 2025 Thomas W. Brooks Jr., PLS was appointed to the Board. Nathan Johnson, PE, PLS is no longer on the Board.

Sincerely

William R. Huett
Executive Director



Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors



Dave Beasley, PhD P.E., President
Heather N. Richardson, Director

Sarah HuckabeeSanders, Governor
Daryl Bassett, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To: Linda H. Bergeron, PE NCEES Southern Zone Secretary

From: Heather Richardson, Director

Date: March 23, 2026

RE: Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors Board Report

For the July 2025-June 2026 the officers for the board are President Keith Sikes PS and Vice President Tom Scott. The nine (9) member board is appointed by the governor. Currently six (6) of the nine (9) board positions are expired. All six (6) members are seeking reappointment, so they continue to serve until they are re-appointed by the governor or the governor appoints another member to the board.

Last year was a big year for the Board. In April 2025, the Board had the pleasure of hosting the 2025 NCEES Southern Zone Interim Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas and in July 2025 the Board celebrated their 100th anniversary. The Centennial Celebration on September 9, 2025 was a huge hit and the Board was able to share their creation in 1925 with applicants, licensees, and the public. Please go to our website <https://labor.arkansas.gov/licensing/state-board-of-licensure-for-professional-engineers-and-professional-surveyors/> to read the first “Rules, By-laws, & Roster” printed at the conclusion of the fiscal year June 1,1926 and the article about Roy Warden, President PE No. 1 and the Board surviving the tragic Mississippi steamboat accident in 1925.

The Board will be hosting the Arkansas State Specific Survey Exam workshop this summer where Arkansas licensed PS stakeholders will meet and develop new questions for the exam. The Board conducts the workshop every five (5) years. This particular workshop will focus on PLSS questions due to the new NCEES Principles and Practice of Surveying Exam in 2027 not containing PLSS questions.

The Arkansas 95th General Assembly convened January 13, 2025, and concluded May 5, 2025. Act 99 of 2025 added A.C.A §§ 17-48-305 Surveyor entry onto commercial poultry farm requiring surveyors to take certain actions before entering or surveying the adjacent property of a commercial poultry farm. The Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing attempted to file a bill where the Board would be combined with the geology board. There were no sponsors for the bill, so it never was filed. The Board will be looking closely at the 2027 96th General Assembly to see if the draft bill gets any traction. The ASPS has informed the Board that they will be seeking sponsorship for a bill in the 96th General Assembly where they will change A.C.A §§ 17-48-203. Qualifications to allow for the surveyor experience to be counted before and after the education requirement.

Florida PE – State Report April 2026

Board Update:

- Two new board members were appointed in December 2025 – Christopher Forehand, P.E., and Richard Temple, P.E., S.I.
- We now have a full board.

Rules Update:

- The Board is currently soliciting comments on a **new rule addressing Damaged Structures**.
- The Board is also **seeking comments on the addition of a new category to the Special Inspector (SI) rule**.
- The Board is revisiting the **Continuing Education (CE) Provider Rules** following significant feedback received after previous updates, including revisions to required information on CE certificates.
- The Board has removed the **general education requirements for licensure** for both the FE and PE.

2026 NCEES Southern Zone Meeting

State Report on Board Activities

Florida Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers

Several bills were introduced during the 2026 Florida legislative session that would have impacted professional surveyors in the state. None of the proposed bills were passed.

- HB 607 was introduced in the House of Representatives and proposed to abolish the professional surveyors board and delegate regulatory duties to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. A companion Senate bill was not introduced.
- HB 879/SB 874 would have created an alternate pathway to licensure by endorsement (comity). Few Florida surveyors supported these bills as they were viewed as an opportunity to undermine the education requirements currently in place.

Board members Keith Fountain (2 terms) and Eugene Collings-Bonfill (1 term) completed their board terms in October 2025. Jennifer Cannon and Keith Cramer have been appointed by Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson to fill those vacant positions. Ms. Cannon, who is an attorney from Jacksonville, Florida, will take over Mr. Fountain's role as a consumer representative, and Mr. Cramer will take over the professional surveyor position vacated by Mr. Collings-Bonfill. Landon "Alfie" Cross, PSM, was reappointed for a second board term.

Mike Zoltek, PSM, assumed the gavel as board chair in November 2025, and Wendi McAleese, who serves as a consumer member, was elected to the vice-chair position. Chair and vice-chair are elected to one-year terms.

To: Linda Bergeron, Secretary of Southern Zone

From: Eric Lacefield, Executive Director

RE: 2025 Georgia Southern Zone State Report

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

After 14 years as a board member, William Womack, PE ended his tenure on the Board on August 30, 2025. We welcomed Richard “Ricky” Dozier, PE, to the Board whose term will end September 9, 2030. Taylor Wright, PE and Trenton Turk, LS have been reappointed to the Board to serve another 5-year term.

After 23 years as Executive Director for the Board, Darren Mickler retired as of January 31, 2026. He has agreed to serve in an emeritus position for the short-term.

RULES:

The Board has begun drafting a rule for the Sealing of Documents to update electronic and digital signatures, and a policy statement regarding the Board’s position on the use of AI in the practice of engineering and land surveying.

Rule amendments voted on in 2025 and that became effective in February 2026 include:

- 180-6-.03 Rules of Practice
- Chapter 180-2 Applications
- Chapter 180-4 Qualifications: Land Surveyor and Land Surveyor-In-Training
- 180-11-.06 Recordkeeping

ENFORCEMENT:

The Board issued six public consent orders and one cease and desist order in 2025.

WEBSITE:

The Board launched its new website, www.pels.georgia.gov in March 2025.



KENTUCKY STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

160 Democrat Drive
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: (502) 573-2680
1-800-573-2680
Fax: (502) 573-6687

Kyle Elliott, PLS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Member Board Report to the Southern Zone of NCEES

Kyle Elliott, PLS - Executive Director

March 2026

Clint Goodin, PE, PLS was appointed by Governor Andy Beshear to replace Nicole Galavotti, PE, whose term had expired. Ms. Galavotti has been named an NCEES Emeritus Member to continue her work chairing the NCEES Exam Audit Committee. Michael Vickers, PE was appointed by Governor Beshear to replace Michael McGhee, PE, whose term had expired. Joshua Calico, PLS, was reappointed by Governor Beshear for another four-year term.

2026 Board Officers are:

Ryan Griffith, PE – Chair
Greg Meredith, PE – Vice Chair
Don Pedigo, PLS – Secretary/Treasurer

Legislative:

- Board Scholarships – The Board is seeking legislative authority to be able to offer engineering and surveying scholarships to qualified students. The Board's proposal is to fund the scholarships with five dollars from every license renewal, without raising the renewal fees, all the Board imposed administrative and civil fines and penalties, and from our existing budgeted funds.
- A Universal licensure bill had been introduced again this legislative session (ending on April 15, 2026).

The Kentucky State Board is self-supporting and receives no general fund tax dollars.



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To: Linda H. Bergeron, P.E., Southern Zone Secretary

From: Donna D. Sentell, Executive Director

RE: Louisiana State Report for 2026 Southern Zone meeting

Date: March 23, 2026

This year's Regular Legislative Session began on March 9, 2026, and the Board is actively monitoring several bills. Of particular interest is legislation addressing architects and the incidental practice of engineering. In addition, there are several administrative bills under review. This is our long legislative session and is scheduled to run through June 1, 2026.

Beginning July 1, 2026, we will implement a fee increase—the first in nearly 25 years. While adjustments have been made across several fee categories, the most noticeable change for most licensees will be a \$20 increase in the biennial renewal fee, rising from \$120 to \$140. In addition, higher renewal fees may apply in certain cases where a licensee is seeking to renew while not in compliance with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for the applicable period.

Comity application fees will also increase by \$20, from \$180 to \$200. Applications for initial licensure as a PE or PLS will remain unchanged at \$50.

The Board hosted an open house this past fall, welcoming emeritus members and licensees from across the state to tour our new office location. A gumbo lunch was provided, along with an opportunity for attendees to visit with colleagues and reconnect with friends and acquaintances from their years in the engineering and land surveying professions. The event was well received and served as a valuable opportunity to re-engage with our stakeholders.

Staff continue their outreach efforts by making presentations at all eight universities in Louisiana with ABET-accredited programs in engineering and land surveying. Additionally, Mr. Byron Trust, P.E., our board member representing Industry, has presented four Professional Ethics webinars to licensees over the past year.

Our longtime Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Cheron Seaman, has announced her retirement effective at the end of May. Over nearly sixteen years of dedicated service to the LAPELS Board and staff, Cheron has made a lasting impact through her hard work, steady leadership, and deep institutional knowledge. She has been a trusted colleague and friend to many, and her contributions have meant a great deal to the organization. She will be sincerely missed, and we wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

At present, the Board is experiencing an unusual circumstance involving four vacant positions. The terms of Ms. Betts and Mr. Jeter expired on March 31, 2025, and the terms of Ms. Bergeron and Mr. Racca expired on March 31, 2026. The LAPELS statutes provide that each member shall continue to serve until his or her successor has been duly appointed and qualified. The Board is currently awaiting appointments from Governor Landry to fill these positions and ensure the uninterrupted continuation of the Board's duties and responsibilities.

Carey Hardin, P.E.
President

Blake Collins, P.S.
Vice President

Dr. Dennis D. Truax, P.E.
Secretary / Treasurer

William "Bill" Mitchell, P.E.



Steve Twedt, P.E.

Patrick Martino, P.L.S.

Clint Tidwell, P.S.

Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors

To: Linda Bergeron, PE, Southern Zone Secretary / Treasurer
From: Monica Gilmore, Executive Director
RE: Mississippi State Report for 2026 Southern Zone Interim Meeting
Date: February 02, 2026

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors revised its rules and regulations in 2025. The rules were revised to better align with the NCEES model rules and law. This effort continues in 2026 with additional rule revisions implemented and revisions to the state statute proposed. One major component of the revisions in 2025 was the removal of the continuing education age exemption for persons over 60. As of the end of 2025, the Board has completed its conversion to a Biennial renewal system.

During the summer of 2025, the Board hosted two college students from in-state ABET accredited engineering programs on summer internships. The interns developed reports on the following:

- Comparison of continuing education requirements among the various NCEES licensure boards
- Comparison of the licensure fees among the various NCEES licensure boards

These reports now live on our website at the following address:

<https://www.pepls.ms.gov/2020-03/summer-interns>

As of the end of 2025, the Board has two vacant posts and is anticipating appointments by the Governor to fill these openings. Sarah Tracy, PE and Joseph E. Lauderdale, PE retired from the Board at the end of June 2025. Emeritus status was granted to these former board members.

Current Board officers include the following:

- Carey Hardin, PE – Board President
- Blake Collins, PS – Board Vice President
- Dennis D. Truax, PE - Secretary

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD REPORT

North Carolina received two new Board appointments from the Governor. And both are attending their first zone meetings.

Bellandra Foster PhD, PE is an engineering in private practice in Greensboro, NC.

Hope Morgan, PLS is a geomatics surveyor in private practice in Raleigh, NC.

The two are replacing John Logsdon PLS and Brenda Moore PE

The Board currently has legislation at the NC General Assembly that will change the renewal cycle from an annual process to a biennial renewal for the 2028 renewal cycle.

The Board has recently developed a policy on artificial intelligence that is posted on it's website.

The Board still has a pending case on the docket of the US Supreme Court. 360 Virtual Drove vs The North Carolina Board. The case has been ongoing for 3+ years and has not been scheduled. The Board General Counsel has been asked to give a presentation on the case in a variety of venues.

March 19, 2026

To: Linda Bergeron, Secretary of Southern Zone

From: Kathy Hart, Executive Director

RE: Oklahoma Southern Zone State Report

The Oklahoma Board has been focusing efforts on best practices to identify Fraudulent Seals used by individuals who have stolen the identities of properly licensed engineers or other design professionals. The Oklahoma Board continues to find ways to get the word out to all parties, plan reviewers, the public, licensees, etc., and strongly encourages NCEES to fully fund and expedite a campaign to help do the same nationally so that each member board is not working individually to try to solve a national problem.

Following an extensive statute revision that went into effect in 2024, the Board has proposed administrative rule changes before the legislature at this time, to mirror the statute revisions, update the Minimum Standards for the Practice of Land Surveying, and help better reflect current remote responsible charge practices for surveyors.

I'm happy to report that we finally launched our new online licensing system and have spent quite some time debugging the system and ensuring it is working properly.

The Board's *Professionally Engineering the Future Scholarship* program is still thriving, and has now awarded over \$770,000 to 3rd, 4th and 5th year engineering students since its inception in 2018.

IN MEMORIAM:

After 18 years as a board member and active member of the NCEES/Southern Zone, Glen Smith, PE, PLS completed his 3rd term on June 29, 2025, and passed away in September after a courageous battle with heart and lung disease. Glen was a friend and inspiration to many of us and served the Oklahoma Board and NCEES with hard work and passion for professional licensure for both engineering and surveying.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Secretary of Examination Boards

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS OF PUERTO RICO

2025 – 2026

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

**ENGINEERS
AND
SURVEYORS**

CESAR A. BARRETO BOSQUES, PE
PRESIDENT
CIVIL ENGINEERING

JOSE CAPELES DIAZ, PE
VICE-PRESIDENT
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

RICARDO GARCIA CANA, PS
SECRETARY
SURVEYING

ELIU HERNANDEZ GASTON, PE
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

ANTONIO E. MEDINA DELGADO, PE
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

HÉCTOR M. SANABRIA VALENTÍN, PS
SURVEYING

VIDAL MASS-SALAS, PE
CIVIL ENGINEERING

WIGBERTO RIVERA NIEVES, PE
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

EDITH G. RUIZ FERNANDEZ, PE
COMPUTER ENGINEERING

March 23, 2026

Linda H. Bergeron, P.E., CCPSC, F.AIChE

(985) 722-2977

lhb12470@gmail.com

NCEES Southern Zone Secretary

Re: NCEES Southern Zone Member Board Annual Report

Dear Linda:

As requested in your communication dated January 20, 2026, we are submitting the updated report of the work carried out by the Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors of Puerto Rico until March 23, 2026.

As previously indicated, our Board is composed of nine members from different disciplines, of which seven are professional engineers (PE) and two are surveyors (PS) appointed by the Governor of PR. These are broken down into two (2) civil engineers, one (1) mechanical, one (1) chemical, one (1) industrial, one (1) computer, one (1) electrician, and two (2) surveyors.

Currently, we have four (4) members whose appointments have expired, but by law they can remain active until their successors are appointed. Three of these represent civil, mechanical, and industrial engineering, and the fourth represents surveying. The quorum required by law for Board meetings is five (5) members, and it is necessary that one of the five be a surveyor. The appointment of new members on the Board usually takes a long time because their recruitment is very difficult.

Since September 1, 2025, when our operational year began, the Board of Examiners has held all the monthly meetings required by the law and regulations of Puerto Rico with an average participation of 100% of its members. During the year 2025, one thousand eight hundred fifty-eight (1,858) applications for renewals and new admissions were evaluated, of which one thousand eight hundred thirty-four (1,834) were approved, and ten (10) that did not comply with law and regulations requirements were denied.

As of December 31, 2025, we have registered and approved two hundred ninety-nine (299) renewal cases of engineering license by reciprocity or comity and one hundred eighty-one (181) new cases of engineering license via reciprocity.

During the period from September 1, 2025, to March 23, 2026, we have carried out the following corrective and improvement actions:

1. The Joint Commission of the College of Engineers and Surveyors of Puerto Rico (CIAPR) and Examining Board to Evaluate and Improve the Passing Rates of Engineers and Surveyors in Fundamental and Professional Revalidation Exams continued its work to promote the licensure of both professions. They held meetings with universities in Puerto Rico to promote exam reviews for students and graduates of engineering and surveying programs, so that they take the fundamental exam and improve their passing rate. In addition, they developed and approved the Guide to the Fundamental Exam in Engineering and Surveying. This informative manual will be provided to exam candidates in a digital format to provide detailed information to fundamental exam candidates, from the exam request process to what to do after passing the exam.
2. Resolution 2025-002 was approved, to establish a staggered increase in the requirements of continuing education contact hours for the renewal of engineers and surveyor licenses and certificates, and to amend the previous determination of the Examining Board regarding the Continuing Education Regulation No. 9534. Starting February 2028, continuing education contact hours requirement will increase from fifty (50) contact hours to sixty (60) contact hours per license cycle of five (5) years.
3. All cases that were pending or accumulated due to non-compliance with documentation or qualifications were attended. Communications were sent to applicants regarding Board decision on their application with comments on how they could address the deficiencies found.
4. Four (4) complaint cases were received regarding violations to the practice of the professions, which were investigated and resolved in their entirety.
5. We continue to renew certificates and licenses for engineers and surveyors in less than thirty days if the applicant submits their correct and updated documents.

We look forward to seeing you in Carolina, Puerto Rico at the Southern Zone Meeting in April 2026.

Regards,



Cesar Barreto Bosques, PE
President

South Carolina
Southern Zone State Report
2026

South Carolina has 21,652 licensed professional engineers, 902 licensed professional surveyors, and 100 dual licensees, and 3,960 licensed firms.

The Board approved the Early PE exam (without work experience) in 2013 and 3,097 early PE applications have been received, with 2,062 of those applicant's passing the exam. Fifty (50) applicants have applied for the Early PS exam, and 33 have passed.

\$10 of every renewal application goes toward the Board's Education and Research Fund, which supports activities, seminars, and conferences that promote education and licensure of engineers and surveyors. In an effort to utilize the funds and advance licensure, the Board has implemented a process to pay FE and FS exam fees for students at S.C. institutions that offer EAC/ABET accredited engineering degrees. Since July 1, 2024, 713 exam candidates have utilized the vouchers to take the FE exam.

This year we are very concerned about proposed South Carolina legislation that would affect our Board in the future. Among other things, the proposed bills would mandate sunseting of most regulations every seven years unless they were previously readopted. The legislation would also require the repealing of two regulations for every new regulation that was adopted. Members of our Board testified in an individual capacity at legislative committee hearings last month. We believe the proposed laws would make it more difficult for our Board to maintain the ability to update professional standards, adapt to new technologies, and respond to emerging risks in a timely and efficient manner.

The board consists of four PE members, two dual licensees, one PLS and one public member.

RE: NCEES Southern Annual Report

From Glenn Kopchak <Glenn.Kopchak@tn.gov>

Date Wed 1/21/2026 3:29 PM

To Linda Bergeron <lhb12470@gmail.com>

Hi Linda,

We had a bit more going on last year with an additional pathway for our engineers, and the land surveyors having a new bill. Plus, we had some movement within the ranks for the board membership then as well. I'm afraid there is nothing new to report this year, but thanks for reaching out.

Best,

Glenn



GLENN KOPCHAK | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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From: Linda Bergeron <lhb12470@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 6:18 PM

To: Antonio E. Medina-Delgado <medinatono@gmail.com>; aritter@ncbels.org; Christopher.Green@fdacs.gov; Donna Sentell (donna@lapels.com) <donna@lapels.com>; Elliott, Kyle (KYBOELS) <Kyle.Elliott@ky.gov>; Gilmore Love, Monica M <MGilmore@pepls.state.ms.us>; Glenn Kopchak <Glenn.Kopchak@tn.gov>; Heather Richardson <heather.richardson@arkansas.gov>; khart@pels.ok.gov; lance.kinney@pels.texas.gov; lenora.miles@llr.sc.gov; Nosbisch, Kate (DPOR) <kate.nosbisch@dpor.virginia.gov>; rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov; zraybon@fbpe.org; elacefield@pels.ga.gov; sarah.maynard@dlca.vi.gov

Subject: NCEES Southern Annual Report

Dear NCEES Southern Zone Member Board Administrators:

Hello to all. As the Southern Zone secretary, I am writing to ask if you would send me your state report on board activities which have taken place since the last full report, which was in April 2025. Previous reports can be found in Zone information within Board Resources in the NCEES website.

I am looking to compile the reports in preparation of the 2026 NCEES Southern Zone Interim Meeting taking place in April in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Please add this to your calendar and have your report emailed to me **by March 23, 2026**.

Please let me know of any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing each of you in San Juan and look forward to a great meeting.

Thank you,
Linda H. Bergeron
Southern Zone Secretary

Linda H. Bergeron, P.E., CCPSC ® , F. AIChE
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(985) 722-2977
<http://linkedin.com/in/lindahbergeron>

TBPELS State Report
NCEES Southern Zone Meeting – 2026
April 4, 2026

The following is the board report and update for the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

- 2025 Legislative Session is complete:
 - Changing engineering and surveying renewal cycle from 1 year to 2 years
 - Rules complete and in place
 - Process mapping complete
 - Implementation beginning. Should be complete in 2028
 - Moving from quarterly annual renewals for engineers to Jan / July every other year
 - Moving from single annual renewal for surveyors to Jan / July every other year
 - Moving engineering and surveying firms to similar schedule
 - Doubling renewal fee to match 2x annual
 - Doubling continuing education for engineers; doubling CE for surveyors but reducing ethics from potential 6 hours/2 years to 4 hours
 - FS and PS exam decoupling from experience
- Working with associations on clean-up bill on for 2027 session.
- Recent AG Opinion on SSN has created issue with MRA. Investigating options to resolve. In mean time, communicating with applicants.
- Rule package submitted for publication to implement the revised experience profile (rubric) approved by NCEES Council / Licensing Committee at 2025 Annual Meeting. Target implementation – summer / fall 2026.
- Awaiting appointment / reappointment of hold-over board members.
- Coleen Johnson, RPLS, is running for Southern Zone Secretary and we would appreciate everyone's consideration and vote.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lance Kinney, PhD, PE
Executive Director

April 15th, 2026

To: Linda H. Bergeron, P.E., CCPSC, F.AICChE, NCEES Southern Zone Secretary

From: Sarah A. Maynard, Director of Boards and Commissions

RE: Virgin Islands State Report for 2026 Southern Zone Meeting

The Virgin Islands Board of Professional Engineers continues to carry out its mandate of regulating the engineering profession in the Territory and ensuring public health, safety, and welfare through licensure and oversight.

During Calendar Year 2025, a total of **79** candidates were licensed as Professional Engineers in the Territory. Of these:

- **0** qualified for original licensure through examination
- **78** qualified for licensure by comity with other jurisdictions
- **1** candidate applied for licensure by experience under the Native Son provision

Additionally, 12 Engineering Firms were registered to operate within the Territory.

The Board recognizes the following examinations administered through National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying as qualifying for licensure:

- **Fundamentals of Engineering (FE)**
- **Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE)**
- **Structural Engineering (SE)**

The Board continues to monitor licensure trends, which indicate that the majority of applicants seek licensure through comity rather than examination. The absence of FE and SE candidates, along with low PE participation, reflects ongoing challenges related to local examination participation and workforce development within the Territory.

The Board remains committed to strengthening outreach efforts, supporting professional development, and encouraging local candidates to pursue engineering licensure pathways.

Virginia Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors,
Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects (APELSCIDLA)

Southern Zone Report April 2026

The APELSCIDLA Board is comprised of three architects, professional engineers, land surveyors, and two certified interior designers, landscape architects and citizen members.

Our Current PE Board Members are:

Rick Townsend
Doug Frost
Richard Davenport

Our Current LS Board Members are:

Kevin Schreiner
John Claytor
Chip Richardson

Our terms are four years, and you can succeed yourself once if reappointed. After eight years, board members are required to rotate off the Board but are eligible to seek reappointment after sitting out for a year.

Rick Townsend and Kevin Schreiner's first term is up June 30, 2026. Both are seeking reappointment.

In attendance at this meeting are Rick Townsend, Doug Frost and John Claytor. If you see them, please introduce yourself if you haven't met them yet. I am truly sorry to have missed the Southern Zone meeting this year.

Our current regulant counts for the PE and LS population as of 4/1/26 are:

PEs 32,269

LS 1,227

LSBs 54

LS Photogrammetrists 82

What's new?

Our new governor, Abigail Spanberger, took office in January. She is Virginia's first female governor.

Major regulatory changes that began before the last Administration will be effective May 1, 2026. Some of the bigger changes include:

No longer require references with applications

Reinstating the 20-year experience pathway for PEs

Branch offices are no longer required to register separately

Reducing experience hours for LS apprenticeships

Apply directly to NCEES for the exam

EIT is no longer required however, applicants still must take and pass the FE

Respectfully,

Kate Nosbisch