

OHIO STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

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State Board Accepts Settlement Agreements

At its meeting on May 24, 2012 the Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors accepted settlement agreements from the following companies and individuals: Engineers Northwest Inc.; U.P. Engineers & Architects; James Westbrook & Associates, LLC; Innovative Solutions Unlimited, LLC; Consulting Engineers, Corp.; Frank A. Hammer; William T. Novak; Paul R. Ripple; Christopher B. Stutz; Paul G. Keffler; Jiremiah Conkle; Richard J. Mazur; Jeffrey P. Miller; Enrique I. Tabak; and Bemba K. Jones.

Engineers Northwest Inc. and Robert C. Raichle, Jr., P.E. of Seattle, Washington offered and provided engineering services in Ohio without first obtaining an Ohio certificate of authorization. The firm entered into a settlement agreement wherein the firm agreed to pay a \$250.00 fine and accept a reprimand for violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.16.

U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc. and George Kiiskila, Jr. of Houghton, Michigan offered and provided engineering services in Ohio without first obtaining an Ohio certificate of authorization. The firm entered into a settlement agreement wherein the firm agreed to pay a \$250.00 fine and accept a reprimand for violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.16.

James Westbrook & Associates, LLC and James P. Westbrook, P.E. of Duluth, Georgia failed to renew their certificate of authorization to practice engineering in Ohio which expired on June 30, 2010. The firm continued to offer and provide engineering services while the certificate of authorization was expired. The Board accepted a settlement agreement from James Westbrook & Associates, LLC wherein the firm agreed to pay a \$250.00 fine for violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.16.

Innovative Solutions Unlimited, LLC and Frank Barbarits of Piketon, Ohio did not renew their certificate of authorization to practice engineering in Ohio. The firm continued to offer and provide engineering services before reinstating their certificate of authorization. The Board accepted a settlement agreement from Innovative Solutions Unlimited, LLC wherein the firm agreed to pay a \$2500.00 fine and receive a reprimand for violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.16.

Consulting Engineers Corp., and Tracy S. Mitchell, P.E. of Cincinnati, Ohio offered and provided engineering services in Ohio without first obtaining an Ohio certificate of authorization. The firm entered into a settlement agreement wherein the firm agreed to pay a \$5000.00 fine and accept a reprimand for violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.16.

Frank A. Hammer, P.E., a resident of Uniontown, Ohio, was randomly selected for the Board's continuing professional development audit. Mr. Hammer contacted the Board and reported that even though he indicated on his renewal form that he met the continuing education requirement, he did not complete the requirement prior to renewing his registration for 2011. Mr. Hammer completed the requirement and offered to enter into a settlement agreement wherein he agreed to pay a \$250.00 fine and receive a reprimand for violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.151.

William T. Novak, P.E., a resident of Athens, Ohio, was selected for the Board's continuing professional development audit. Mr. Novak failed to respond and provide documentation as required by Ohio Revised Code 4733.151. After repeated requests Mr. Novak completed the requirement and entered into a settlement agreement wherein he agreed to pay a \$500.00 fine and receive a reprimand for violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.16.

Paul R. Ripple, P.E., a resident of Youngstown, Ohio, was randomly selected for the Board's continuing professional development audit. Mr. Ripple contacted the Board and reported that even though he indicated on his renewal form that he met the continuing education requirement, he did not complete the requirement prior to renewing his registration for 2011. Mr. Ripple completed the requirement and offered to enter into a settlement agreement wherein he agreed to pay a \$500.00 fine and receive a reprimand for violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.151.

Christopher B. Stutz, P.E., a resident of Navarre, Ohio, was randomly selected for the Board's continuing professional development audit. Mr. Stutz contacted the Board and reported that even though he indicated on his renewal form that he met the continuing education requirement, he did not complete the requirement prior to renewing his registration for 2011. Mr. Stutz completed the requirement and offered to enter into a settlement agreement wherein he agreed to pay a \$500.00 fine for violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.151.

Paul G. Keffler, P.E., a resident of Youngstown, Ohio, was randomly selected for the Board's continuing professional development audit. Mr. Keffler contacted the Board and reported that even though he indicated on his renewal form that he met the continuing education requirement, he did not complete the requirement prior to renewing his registration for 2011. Mr. Keffler offered to enter into a settlement agreement wherein he agreed to pay a \$2000.00 fine, receive a reprimand for violations of the Ohio Revised Code and his professional engineer license would be suspended until he provided evidence of completion of the CPD requirement.

Jiremiah Conkle, P.S., a resident of Westerville, Ohio, was randomly selected for the Board's continuing professional development audit. Mr. Conkle contacted the Board and reported that even though he indicated on his renewal form that he met the continuing education requirement, he did not complete the requirement prior to renewing his registration for 2011. Mr. Conkle offered to enter into a settlement agreement wherein he voluntarily surrendered his professional surveyor registration for violating the Ohio Revised Code.

Richard J. Mazur, P.E., a resident of Waterville, Ohio, was randomly selected for the Board's continuing professional development audit. Mr. Mazur contacted the Board and reported that he could not provide evidence that he completed his continuing education hours. Mr. Mazur offered to enter into a settlement agreement wherein he voluntarily surrendered his professional engineer registration for violations of Ohio Revised Code 4733.151.

Jeffrey P. Miller, P.E., a resident of Norton, Ohio, was randomly selected for the Board's continuing professional development audit. Mr. Miller contacted the Board and reported that even though he indicated on his renewal form that he met the continuing education requirement, he did not complete the requirement prior to renewing his registration for 2011. Mr. Miller offered to enter into a settlement agreement wherein he voluntarily surrendered his professional engineer registration for violating Ohio Revised Code 4733.151.

Enrique I. Tabak, P.E., a resident of Toronto, Ontario, entered into a consent order with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers wherein he agreed to cease and desist from all engineering practice in the state of Texas as a result of allegations that he designed and sealed plans for a project that was not prepared in a careful and diligent manner and the certification was misleading. Based on the Texas Board's action, the Ohio Board accepted a settlement agreement from Mr. Tabak wherein he agreed to voluntarily relinquish his Ohio professional engineer registration.

Bemba K. Jones, P.S., a resident of Cleveland, Ohio, misrepresented pertinent facts concerning employees, associates, consultants and joint-ventures by listing individuals and firms not affiliated with his firm on the Bemba K.

Jones, P.S. & Associates website without their knowledge and permission. Mr. Jones entered into a settlement agreement wherein he agreed to pay a \$1000.00 fine and receive a reprimand for violations of the Ohio Administrative Code Section 4733-35.

ABOUT THE BOARD

The Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors is the state agency that regulates and licenses the professions of engineering and surveying in Ohio. The Board licenses approximately 30,000 registered professional engineers and professional surveyor and 2,200 registered engineering and surveying firms. The Board administers more than 2,500 engineering and surveying licensing examinations yearly.

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