

OHIO STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

Release: December 26, 2012
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State Board Accepts Settlement Agreement in Data Theft Case

At its meeting on December 13, 2012 the Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors accepted a settlement agreement from John C. Stickney, P.E.

In May 2009 the Board received a complaint alleging that John C. Stickney, P.E., a resident of Springfield, Ohio, who was formerly employed by the complainant's firm, violated Ohio Administrative Code 4733-35 Code of Ethics for Engineers and Surveyors by accessing and removing confidential information prior to leaving that firm. The complaint also alleged that Stickney remotely accessed his former employer's database via their password protected FTP site after resigning and while employed by a competing firm.

Based on information obtained during the Board's investigation and the complainant's internal investigation of the data theft, it was determined that Stickney downloaded numerous project files from the former employer's server to an external hard drive without the complainant's knowledge prior to leaving the firm. Stickney also accessed the complainant's secure FTP site on at least two occasions from a computer registered to his new employer. Some of the information was later used to develop renderings for a large interchange project.

On December 13, 2012 the Board accepted a settlement agreement wherein Stickney agreed to the following terms: pay a \$1000.00 fine, serve an eighteen (18) month suspension, complete a course on professional ethics approved by the Board, and serve five (5) years of probation upon completion of his suspension.

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