



REGULATORY AGENCY ACTION

spiration. Stress analysis is not regulated under the Polygraph Examiner's Act.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

Executive Officer: G. Harrison Hilt (916) 920-7466

The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors regulates the practice of engineering and land surveying through its administration of the Professional Engineers Act and the Land Surveyors Act.

The basic functions of the Board are to conduct examinations, issue certificates and/or licenses and appropriately channel complaints against its licensees. The Board is additionally empowered to suspend or revoke certificates or licenses. On a routine basis, the Board considers the proposed decisions of administrative law judges who hear appeals of applicants who are denied registration and licensees who have had their licenses suspended or revoked for violations.

The Board consists of thirteen members: seven public members, one licensed land surveyor, four registered practice act engineers and one title act engineer. Eleven of the members are appointed by the Governor for four-year terms which expire on a staggered basis. One public member is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one by the Senate President pro Tempore.

The Board has established seven standing committees dealing with land surveying and the various branches of engineering. These committees, each composed of three Board members, approve or deny applications for examinations and register applicants who pass the examinations. Their actions must have the approval of the entire Board, which is routinely forthcoming.

Professional engineers are now licensed through the three Practice Act categories of civil, electrical and mechanical engineering under section 6730 of the Business and Professions Code, and the Title Act categories of agricultural, chemical, control system, corrosion, fire protection, industrial, manufacturing, metallurgical, nuclear, petroleum, quality, safety, and traffic engineering.

Structural engineering and soil engineering are linked to the civil Practice

Act and require an additional examination after qualification as a Practice Act engineer.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

NCEE. The Board has proposed to the National Council of Engineering Examiners (NCEE) that exam applicants be given an opportunity to review their exams and learn from their mistakes. The Board believes such review is an important learning tool for examinees.

Consumer Pamphlet. A plain language pamphlet has been published and is available to the public upon request. This pamphlet is meant to facilitate understanding of Board rules and regulations.

Photogrammatist's Examination. An organization representing photogrammatists has requested that a separate licensing exam be administered to photogrammatists. Currently, these individuals are required to sit for professional engineers or land surveyors exams for licensure. This proposal has been sent to committee.

Public Forum. A public information forum was held on November 13. The objective of the forum was to provide an arena whereby the public could voice concerns, complaints, and suggestions to the Board. Similar forums will be scheduled for the future.

RECENT MEETINGS:

On December 15, the Board held a public hearing on the controversial proposed section 445, Title 16, Chapter 5 of the California Administrative Code, which addresses the examination requirements for professional engineers. The examination is in three parts. Part A tests the applicant's ability to apply engineering knowledge and experience. Part B tests the applicant's knowledge of state law and Board regulations. Part C of the examination, applicable only to civil engineers, tests the applicant's knowledge of seismic principles and engineering surveying principles. Under the proposed rule, Parts A and C would be administered under proctored conditions and Part B would be a take-home exam. Applicants for registration in all branches of professional engineering must achieve passing scores in Parts A and B before the applicant qualifies for registration. Prospective civil engineers must pass Part C as well before registration.

Proposed section 445 also provides that an examinee who fails any part of the examination may retake that part without having to retake the other sections. An applicant may retake portions

of the exam only once per year, with a maximum of two refile applications.

Parts B and C are required by SB 128 (Montoya), which was signed by the Governor in 1985. The present controversy involves when and how to administer Part C. Initially, it was proposed that Part C be a take-home exam. During vigorous discussion of this issue, the Board's Civil Engineers Technical Advisory Committee (CETAC) rejected that suggestion and proposed that Parts A and C be administered as a two-day proctored examination. Others voiced complaints about the cost to applicants of a two-day exam, and favored a take-home exam. The Board referred this issue to its Examination and Qualifications Committee for further discussion and recommendations. The Board has also drafted a letter to Senator Montoya requesting further information on the intent of SB 128.

Lastly, a member of the public, Robert Hoerger, requested that the Board comply with the Permit Reform Act of 1981, section 15378, which provides that agencies must adopt regulations establishing an appeal process through which an applicant may appeal directly to the secretary or agency head for a timely resolution of any dispute arising from a violation of maximum time limits for processing license applications. The Board is addressing this problem and is in the process of formulating such regulations.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

Executive Officer: Catherine Puri (916) 322-3350

The Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) licenses qualified RNs, certifies qualified nurse midwifery applicants, establishes accreditation requirements for California nursing schools and reviews nursing school curricula. A major Board responsibility involves taking disciplinary action against licensed RNs.

The nine-member Board consists of three public members, three registered nurses actively engaged in patient care, one licensed RN administrator of a nursing service, one nurse educator and one licensed physician. All serve four-year terms.

The Board is financed by licensing fees, and receives no allocation from the