

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2013-14 Performance Report

Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was created in 1935 by statute, Title 59, 475.1 et seq. The mission of the Board is stated in that statutory site as follows: In order to safeguard life, health and property, and to promote the public welfare, the practice of engineering and the practice of land surveying in this state are hereby declared to be subject to regulation in the public interest.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Kathy Hart, Executive Director
Oklahoma Engineering Center
201 NE 27th St., Room 120
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-521-2874 ext 24
khart@pels.ok.gov

GOVERNANCE:

The agency is governed by a 7 member board, appointed by the Governor. Each member is appointed to a 6 year term (requiring senate confirmation) except the Lay Member, who serves at the pleasure of the Governor and does not require senate confirmation. The Executive Director of this board is hired by the board members, who are appointed by the Governor. A yearly review of the Executive Director's performance is conducted at a regular meeting of the Board.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

There is not a statutory attendance policy for board members. However, the Governor has statutory authority to remove any member of the Board for misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duty or any sufficient cause, in the manner prescribed by law for removal of state officials. The Board typically has 5 to 6 regular meetings yearly. No sitting member of the Board has been absent from a Board Meeting for a reason other than illness, and those have been very minimal.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

The Board purchased the CMS system for the website to ensure that we may post real-time information to the public, engineering and surveying students, university faculty, and our licensees to ensure they have all the information available regarding engineering and surveying topics in Oklahoma. Topics such as board meeting notices, public meeting notices regarding proposed rule or statute revision, and national examination information are online and updated regularly. Our online database is easily accessible and has a listing of all licensees, whether or not they have been disciplined, what areas of engineering they practice and contact information. Application forms are available online as well.

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In the past few years we were one of the first agencies in the state to implement paperless (electronic) board meetings.

In 2012 we implemented our "GoGreen" initiative, sending out our newsletter and reports electronically saving thousands of dollars in printing and postage while reaching a greater number of people in a timely manner.

In January 2013, we will be notifying our licensees of renewals electronically instead of printing and mailing renewal notices. They will also be able to print their receipts and wallet card from our online renewal system.

This Board is recognized nationally for its "business friendly" mobility efforts to allow licensees and firms coming into this state to become licensed quickly and efficiently. In this regard, we currently reviewed all statutes and rules governing this Board to ensure that any legal impediments to fast-tracking business licenses and professional licenses have been eliminated, without hampering us from fulfilling our mission.

CORE MISSION:

We do not provide services that are outside of our core mission, nor are these services duplicated or replicated by another agency. We are currently able to offer all necessary services with our current number of staff and no additional funding.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

The services this board offers are not performed by any other agency or performed in the private sector in Oklahoma or in other states. We have not been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency.