

The Board of Licensure Report
July 2023
Kyle Elliott, Executive Director

Expired Licenses

Licensees with a surname beginning with a letter of A through K were scheduled to renew their individual license(s) by June 30, 2023. Email renewal notices were sent out in April and May and paper renewal notices were mailed in early June for those that had not renewed by then. If you did not renew your license, it is now expired and by Kentucky statute you are prohibited from offering or providing professional services in Kentucky.

Licensees whose license has expired may renew their license(s) for up to one year after it expired. If you are unsure of your license status, please check the Board's online searchable roster here: <https://elsweb.kyboels.ky.gov/kweb/Searchable-Roster>.

CPD Audits

Audits for continuing professional development (CPD) will begin in early September. Each year five percent of licensees who renewed their license prior to September 1 are randomly selected for a CPD audit to check for compliance with the CPD regulations. You are obligated to respond to an audit notice within thirty days by providing documentation of your CPD activities for the CPD reporting period.

All of those that renew their license after September 1 are subject to an automatic audit of their CPD activities.

Firm Renewals

All business entity permits expire on December 31 every year. Permits can be renewed online like individual license renewals.

Wallet Renewal Cards

We continue to get many inquiries about wallet/renewal cards. We have not issued wallet cards for several years now. I am exploring an option to allow licensees to be able to print a wallet/renewal card when they renew which they can then print out for their own use.

Exam results

The results of the January 1 – June 30, 2023, national exams for Kentucky are listed below.

Fundamentals of Engineering – 193 exams administered, pass rate of 66%
Principles and Practice of Engineering – 123 exams administered, pass rate of 63%
Fundamentals of Surveying – 23 exams administered, pass rate of 74%
Principles and Practice of Surveying – 12 exams administered, pass rate of 67%

**BOARD OF LICENSURE
ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

For The Period

April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

Heather L. Baldwin, PE, PLS, Director of Enforcement

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

LUCAS HATFIELD, JR.

On April 29, 2022, Lucas Hatfield, Jr., PLS, entered into a Consent Decree with the Board of Licensure for violations of KRS 322.020, KRS 322.180 (15), 201 KAR 18:150, KRS 322.180 (2), 201 KAR 18:142, and KRS 322.060. Among other terms, the Consent Decree called for Hatfield to complete the online 60-hour Texas Tech engineering ethics course within one year, and Hatfield failed meet this term of the Consent Decree. On May 1, 2023, he was notified that he was in default of the Consent Decree and that he had ten days to cure the default, or his professional land surveying license would be suspended. Lucas Hatfield, Jr.'s professional land surveying license was SUSPENDED on May 12, 2023.

LUCAS HATFIELD, JR.

On April 29, 2022, Lucas Hatfield, Jr., PLS, entered into a Consent Decree with the Board of Licensure for violations of KRS 322.020, KRS 322.180 (15), 201 KAR 18:150, KRS 322.180 (2), 201 KAR 18:142, and KRS 322.060. Among other terms, the Consent Decree called for Hatfield to complete the online 60-hour Texas Tech engineering ethics course within one year, and Hatfield failed to meet this term of the Consent Decree. He was notified of the default on May 1, 2023, and his license was suspended on May 12, 2023. After the suspension was in effect, he had thirty days to cure the default, or his professional land surveying license would be revoked. On June 12, 2023, Hatfield was sent a notification of default and revocation, and he was given ten days to cure the default, or his professional land surveying license would be revoked. Lucas Hatfield, Jr.'s professional land surveying license was REVOKED on June 23, 2023.

OHLIN & REED CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

Ohlin & Reed Consulting Engineers, Inc. is a corporation organized in the state of Ohio in 2005. On its website, the company listed among its representative engineering projects two Kentucky projects that were completed in 2008 and 2010. The subsequent investigation found that company also provided engineering services for an additional four Kentucky projects completed since 2016 without a Kentucky business entity permit as required by KRS 322.060. During the investigation, the company applied for and received a business entity permit to practice engineering in Kentucky. To resolve the investigation, the company, through its president John Phillip Reed, agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand; (2) pay a fine of \$1,000 within 60

days; (3) maintain a current and valid business entity permit for any period of time in which the company is providing engineering services in Kentucky; and (4) notify the Board in writing of any change in status of the professional engineer(s) in responsible charge of the engineering work in Kentucky within 14 days. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on July 28, 2023.

JOHN PHILLIP REED, PE #23558

During an investigation of Ohlin & Reed Consulting Engineers, Inc., it was discovered that John Phillip Reed, PE, aided and abetted the company in the unlicensed practice of engineering, in violation of KRS 322.180 (5). Since 2016, the company provided engineering services for four Kentucky projects without obtaining a Kentucky business entity permit to practice engineering, as required by KRS 322.060. To resolve the investigation, Reed agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand; (2) pay a fine of \$1,000 within 60 days; and (3) maintain a current and valid business entity permit for Ohlin & Reed Consulting Engineers, Inc. for any period of time in which the company is providing engineering services in Kentucky. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on July 28, 2023.

PLUMP ENGINEERING, INC.

Plump Engineering, Inc. is a corporation organized in the state of California in 1997. On March 29, 2023, the company applied for a Kentucky business entity permit and failed to disclose two disciplinary actions, a 2012 Missouri action and a 2019 West Virginia action, on its application, which is a violation of KRS 322.180 (1). At that time, it was discovered that the company advertised that it was “licensed in all 50 states” on its website. The subsequent investigation revealed that the company had provided engineering services for twenty-three Kentucky projects from January 1, 2012, to the submission date of the application, in violation of KRS 322.060. To resolve the investigation, the company, through its president Richard A. Plump, agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand; (2) pay a fine of \$1,000 within 60 days; (3) maintain a current and valid business entity permit for any period of time in which the company is providing engineering services in Kentucky; and (4) notify the Board in writing of any change in status of the professional engineer(s) in responsible charge of the engineering work in Kentucky within 14 days. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on July 28, 2023.

RICHARD A. PLUMP, PE #21605

During an investigation of Plump Engineering, Inc., it was discovered that Richard A. Plump, PE, aided and abetted the company in the unlicensed practice of engineering, in violation of KRS 322.180 (5). Since 2012, the company provided engineering services for twenty-three Kentucky

projects without obtaining a Kentucky business entity permit to practice engineering, as required by KRS 322.060. To resolve the investigation, Plump agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand; (2) pay a fine of \$1,000 within 60 days; and (3) maintain a current and valid business entity permit for Plump Engineering, Inc. for any period of time in which the company is providing engineering services in Kentucky. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on July 28, 2023.

MICHAEL MERZ, PE #38172

On October 12, 2022, Michael Merz became licensed as a Kentucky professional engineer, by endorsement from Ohio. On February 28, 2023, Merz reported that he entered into a Consent Agreement with the Ohio Board on February 21, 2023, in which he agreed to pay a fine of \$1,000, and to accept a one-year suspension of his Ohio PE license, with that suspension stayed if he provided proof of an Ohio Board approved course on professional ethics within one year. This disciplinary action was the result of a reported June 11, 2022, incident in which Merz applied the Illinois Structural Engineer seal and signature of another licensee to an engineering report without that licensee's involvement, knowledge, or approval. If this incident had occurred in Kentucky, Merz would be in violation of 201 KAR 18:142, Section 3 and Section 9, and KRS 322.180 (3) and (17). Because he was disciplined in Ohio for conduct that would result in disciplinary action in Kentucky, he was also in violation of KRS 322.180 (11). To resolve the investigation, Merz agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand; (2) pay a fine of \$1,000 within 60 days; (3) have his license suspended for a period of one year, with that suspension stayed provided that he completes the 60 PDH Intermediate Texas Tech Engineering Ethics course within six months, and with that suspension running concurrent with the one year suspension imposed by the Ohio Board, which shall terminate upon Merz providing notice of his completion of his Ohio suspension; and (4) complete the 60 PDH Texas Tech Engineering Ethics course within six months. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on July 28, 2023.

STEPHEN R. HARRIS, PE #26768, PLS #4096

On October 12, 2022, Stephen R. Harris, PE, PLS, reported that he had entered into a Consent Order with the Tennessee Board on September 13, 2022, in which he agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$10,000 and accept a 24-month voluntary suspension of his Tennessee professional land surveying license. Prior to being licensed as a PLS in Tennessee, Harris prepared an ALTA survey, which was complimentary to his engineering work, for a project in Crossville, TN. At the time that he accepted the survey work, Harris's company, Precision Engineering, LLC, did not employ a Tennessee licensed professional land surveyor. On December 12, 2019, under the assumption that he had the permission of the individual, Harris modified the Kentucky professional land surveyor stamp of a former employee to make it appear as his Tennessee PLS

stamp, and applied the modified stamp and signature of the former employee to the ALTA survey, without that licensee's involvement, knowledge, or approval. If this incident had occurred in Kentucky, Harris would be in violation of 201 KAR 18:142, Section 3, Section 5, and Section 9, and KRS 322.180 (3) and (17). Because he was disciplined in Tennessee for conduct that would result in disciplinary action in Kentucky, he was also in violation of KRS 322 180 (11). To resolve the investigation, Harris agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand; (2) pay a fine of \$1,000 within 60 days; (3) have his license suspended for a period of twenty-four months, with that suspension running concurrent with the 24-month suspension imposed by the Tennessee Board, which shall terminate upon Harris providing notice of his completion of his Tennessee suspension; and (4) complete the 60 PDH Texas Tech Engineering Ethics course within six months. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on July 28, 2023.

NON-DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Cases Closed with a Written Admonishment – 6

PE - admonishments for CPD violations – 5 (late renewal audits)

PE/PLS - admonishment for CPD violations – 1 (late renewal audit)

Case Closed with No Action – 3

PE – CPD (2021 random audit) – no violation - 1

PE – CPD (invalid exemption claim) – no violation – 1

Firm (engineering) – withdrew business entity permit application – no violation - 1