

## **THE BOARD FINALIZES POSITION ON INCIDENTAL SURVEYING PRACTICE.**

As you may recall, past editions of the Board's *Journal* have contained articles in one form or another that discussed the issues surrounding the Board's study of whether and how to allow professional engineers to perform a limited amount of field measurements toward their development of topographic features.

The Board adopted a Position Statement that will serve as the primary guideline in this area of authorized overlapping practice. The following position statement is provided to give a measure of clarification of how the Board views this activity and the expectations that must be followed by those who choose to do this work.

### **Board Position Statement**

Since 1947 the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors has apparently instructed Professional Engineers that it was acceptable to the Board for engineers to perform a limited amount of surveying when such work was a direct part of the engineer's design responsibilities.

While there is little established written evidence since that time in the form of an administrative rule, policy or position statement, there are articles where the Board has produced a general response to questions about this practice. That response was most often found in the Board Newsletter and Board Journal.

After thorough study of this subject involving input from stakeholders and comments from the office of the Attorney General, the Board has found that the relationship between some work of professional engineers and the practice of land surveying has a historical and logical connection. This connection is further illustrated by the fact that many professional engineers in the past had some formal instruction in surveying techniques within the academic curriculum for an engineering degree.

**It is the Board's Position that it is an allowable activity for professional engineers to perform limited topographic surveying under the following conditions:**

- 1. That the work performed is limited to the making of field measurements and mapping for the illustration of topographic features.***
- 2. That the work performed by the professional engineer is developed for his or her own use toward the development of an engineered design.***
- 3. That the work performed by the professional engineer is performed in a manner that is consistent with the topography's intended purpose.***

***4. That the professional engineer is competent and conversant in the techniques to correctly develop and map topographic information.***

The Board retains the right to investigate any and all complaints against professional engineers for alleged unlicensed practice of land surveying. However, if a professional engineer undertakes topographic mapping and does so in compliance with the four conditions outlined above, their actions will not be the basis for disciplinary action.