



TO: The Professional Practice Committee

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Update on the Engineering Profession

DATE: April 21, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

This item will present a general update on the engineering profession.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

Proposed Handling

This item is submitted for information and discussion at the April 2014 meeting of the Professional Practice Committee.

Procedural History

The Office of the Professions routinely briefs the Professional Practice Committee with respect to the status of various professions and their professional boards in an effort to present the current state of the regulated professions. This item is the latest in a series of presentations.

Background Information

The State Board for Engineering and Land Surveying assists and advises the Board of Regents and the State Education Department in the licensure, discipline, and regulation of two of the five design professions. As the practice of engineering continues to evolve and new technology is developed, the profession has changed as a result.

Legislation signed into law in 2011 has affected the profession of engineering. The creation of design professional service corporations allows for a minority interest to be held by non-licensees in an engineering firm incorporated in accordance with the new law. Additionally, legislation known as the Infrastructure Investment Act permits the limited use of the design-build project delivery method for certain public projects in New York State. Design-build occurs when a single entity provides the design and construction services on a project. Although the professional services are provided by licensees, the professional services and the construction services are passed through a single entity, typically a general business corporation. In the absence of specific authorizing legislation, such as the Infrastructure Investment Act, the design and construction services would have to be provided by separate entities.

Additional challenges facing the engineering profession include the increased use of technology and specialization and the globalization of the profession. The State Board and the Board office consider numerous practice issues, trends in licensure, and proposed professional programs. The Engineering and Land Surveying Board also assists in the resolution of complaints of professional misconduct in fulfilling its role of assisting the Board of Regents and the State Education Department.

At the April meeting of the Professional Practice Committee, the Executive Secretary for the Engineering and Land Surveying Board will provide an update and discuss some of the trends and issues facing the engineering profession. In addition, she will be available to answer questions from the Committee.