

MARYLAND STATE BOARD  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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BEFORE THE

\*

MARYLAND STATE BOARD

v.

\*

FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

THOMAS HICKS

\*

COMPLAINT NO.: 12-PE-11

Respondent

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

### CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the Maryland State Board for Professional Engineers (the "Board") based on the referenced complaint filed with the Board against Thomas Hicks ("Respondent"). Based on the complaint and information obtained in an investigation, the Board determined that further administrative action against the Respondent was appropriate. Prior to the initiation of disciplinary action, including the issuance of charges and a formal hearing on the charges, the Board and the Respondent agreed to resolve the complaint by entering into this Consent Order.

1. Whereas, pursuant to the Maryland Professional Engineers Act ("the Act" in Business Occupations and Professions Article, Title 14, Sections 14-101 *et seq.*, Annotated Code of Maryland), the Board is responsible for licensing and regulating persons engaged in the provision of professional engineering services in the State of Maryland.

2. Whereas the Respondent was licensed previously by the Board as a professional engineer in the State, under License Number 8562.

3. Whereas the Respondent's license expired on or about August 14, 1998.

4. Whereas the Respondent acknowledges that, through an oversight on his part, he did not apply to renew the license.

5. Whereas the Respondent states that during the period in which his license was lapsed, he was employed by the State of Maryland and did not need to have a license issued by the Board in order to perform his duties for the State.

6. Whereas the Respondent however, continued to use the title of professional engineer in correspondence, reports, and other communications with the public.

7. Whereas Section 14-502 of the Act requires a person to be authorized by the Board to engage in the practice of engineering before using the title of "professional engineer" in the State.

8. Whereas the Respondent acknowledges that he used the title while his license was lapsed in apparent violation of Section 14-502 of the Act, agrees to a finding of a violation of Section 14-502, and agrees to pay a civil penalty of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for the violation.

9. Whereas the Respondent has applied to reinstate his license to engage in the practice of engineering in the State.

10. Whereas the Respondent has no prior violation history with the Board.

11. Whereas the Respondent agrees to abide by the Act, Title 14, Business Occupations and Professions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and enters this Consent Order freely, voluntarily, and with the opportunity to consult with counsel.

THEREFORE, IT IS, on this 31<sup>ST</sup> day of May, 2012, By THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,

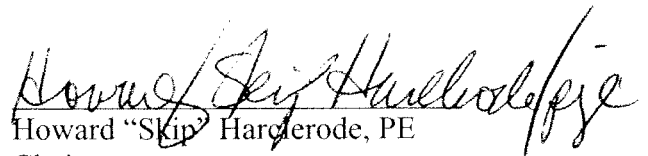
ORDERED, that the Respondent violated Md. Code Ann., Bus. Occ. and Prof. Section 14-502 (2010); and it is further

ORDERED, that the Respondent pay a civil penalty of \$3000 for the violation of Md. Bus. Occ. and Prof. Section 14-502(2010); and it is further

ORDERED, that upon the Respondent's payment of the civil penalty, and provided he meets the requirements for reinstatement and pays the reinstatement fee, the Respondent's application for the reinstatement of his license shall be approved; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Board's records and publications shall reflect the terms of this Consent Order.

  
Thomas Hicks

  
Howard "Skip" Harderode, PE  
Chairman  
State Board for  
Professional Engineers