

**LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1443
(225) 925-6291**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	CASE NO.: 2010-21
)	
ALLIANCE WOOD GROUP ENGINEERING, L.P.)	
)	
RESPONDENT)	
)	
)	
)	

CONSENT ORDER

The Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board [hereinafter the "Board"], by and through its Executive Secretary, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and Alliance Wood Group Engineering, L.P. [hereinafter "Respondent"], by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was not licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, and therefore it was not authorized to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana. Respondent subsequently became licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF-4604, effective June 24, 2010.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of information and documents which suggested that Respondent had provided false information on its application for firm licensure to the Board. The investigation disclosed that Respondent stated on its Application for Firm License, dated January 18, 2010, that its engineering license had never been the subject of a disciplinary action by another state. However, in 2007 the Texas Board of Professional Engineers [hereinafter the "Texas Board"] had taken disciplinary action against Respondent for maintaining a website which unlawfully identified several of its unlicensed employees as professional engineers in Texas. In a Consent Order dated November 14, 2006, approved on February 8, 2007, in connection with File No. E-29299, the Texas Board ordered Respondent to immediately cease and desist its unlawful actions and to pay an administrative penalty of \$1,290. Respondent states that it mistakenly failed to disclose the disciplinary action in Texas.

During the investigation, the Board also received information and documents which suggested that Respondent may have engaged in the unlicensed practice of and/or offering to practice engineering in Louisiana. The investigation disclosed that between August 2007 and April 2010 Respondent provided engineering services on the following projects in Louisiana: (a) the Bobcat Gas

Storage facility in Port Barre, Louisiana; **(b)** the Spectra Energy Egan Station Horsepower Addition in Jennings, Louisiana; **(c)** the Louisiana portion of the Kinder Morgan Mid-Continent Express Pipeline Meter Stations; **(d)** the Mira Compressor Station in Mira, Louisiana; **(e)** a compressor station in Hall Summit, Louisiana; **(f)** the expansion of a compressor station in Tallulah, Louisiana; **(g)** a booster compressor station near Castor, Louisiana; and **(h)** the “Haynesville – Vixen Station, AFE” in Vixen, Louisiana.

La. R.S. 37:700(A)(3) prohibits any fraud, deceit, material misstatement, or perjury or the giving of any false or forged evidence in applying for a license. La. R.S. 37:681 and 37:700(A)(1) and (7) prohibit the practicing of and/or offering to practice engineering and the use of the word “engineering” in a person’s name or form of business or activity in the State of Louisiana without proper licensure. La. R.S. 37:700(H) permits the Board to take enforcement action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:681 and La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1), (3) and (7), upon a finding of guilt following the preferral of charges, notice and hearing and a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:681 and 37:700(A)(1), (3) and (7) and 37:700(H) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that **(a)** Respondent mistakenly failed to disclose material information on its application for firm licensure to the Board, **(b)** between August 2007 and April 2010 Respondent was not licensed to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in Louisiana and **(c)** during this time Respondent practiced and/or offered to practice engineering and used the word “engineering” in its name in Louisiana without proper licensure.

By letter dated August 5, 2010, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that it may have violated **(a)** La. R.S. 37:700(A)(3), relative to the commission of any fraud, deceit, material misstatement, or perjury or the giving of any false or forged evidence in applying for a license and **(b)** La. R.S. 37:681 and La. R.S. 37:700(A)(1) and (7), relative to the practicing and/or offering to practice engineering and the use of the word “engineering” in a person’s name or form of business or activity in the State of Louisiana without proper licensure.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further enforcement action and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent of its own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to **(a)** pay a fine of two thousand five hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars; **(b)** pay administrative costs of seven hundred

ninety seven and 20/100 (\$797.20) dollars; (c) to submit to the Board its employment policies relative to engineers; (d) to submit to the Board its policies concerning the accomplishment of internal and contracted engineering work; and (e) the publication of this Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary of this matter in the Board's official journal, the Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal, and the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent admits to violations of the referenced laws and/or rules regarding (a) the commission of a material misstatement in applying for a license and (b) the practicing and/or offering to practice engineering and the use of the word "engineering" in a person's name or form of business or activity in Louisiana without proper licensure. Respondent acknowledges present awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that it will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of its right to be represented by counsel before the Board and/or to appear at any hearing personally or by counsel and present witnesses and evidence in its own behalf, and it hereby waives this right and its right to appeal; and it states affirmatively that it has been afforded all administrative remedies due it under the law.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by its signing this Consent Order, Respondent does hereby waive its right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses in its behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent hereby represents (a) that it fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) that it has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with it by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument and (c) that the sanctions set forth in this Consent Order do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board and Respondent agree that:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine of two thousand five hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of seven hundred ninety seven and 20/100 (\$797.20) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

3. Respondent shall submit to the Board its employment policies relative to engineers, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

4. Respondent shall submit to the Board its policies concerning the accomplishment of internal and contracted engineering work, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

5. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website and a summary of this matter shall be printed in the official journal of the Board, the Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal, and reported to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name; and

6. This Consent Order shall not become effective unless and until it is accepted and signed by and on behalf of the Board. Should the Board not accept and sign this Consent Order, it is agreed that presentation of this matter to the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its members from further participation, consideration or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD

DATED 31 January 2011

BY: Donna D. Sentell
DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Secretary

ALLIANCE WOOD GROUP ENGINEERING, L.P.,
Respondent

DATED 13 Dec 10

BY: Ron Bohannan
RON BOHANNAN, Vice President Engineering

Witnesses to the signature of
Alliance Wood Group Engineering, L.P.

Mayra N. Gant
Print Name: Mayra N. Gant

Print Name: _____