IN THE MATTER OF:  

KENNETH C. JOHNSON, P.L.S.  

RESPONDENT  

CASE NO.: 2010-67  

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 Kenneth C. Johnson, P.L.S. [hereinafter "Respondent"], hereby agree to the following:  

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional land surveyor, number PLS - 4866. At all times material hereto, Accu-Line Surveying, Inc. was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional land surveying firm, number VF - 389; however, its license was in an expired status from April 1, 2001 through June 28, 2010. At all times material hereto, Respondent was the owner and supervising professional of Accu-Line Surveying, Inc.  

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of an Application to Renew Expired Firm License, in which Accu-Line Surveying, Inc. admitted that it practiced and/or offered to practice land surveying in the State of Louisiana during which time its Louisiana professional land surveying firm license was expired. The investigation disclosed that (a) between April 1, 2001 and June 28, 2010 Accu-Line Surveying, Inc. admittedly provided land surveying services on approximately five thousand five hundred twenty-five (5,525) projects in Louisiana, (b) during at least a portion of this time advertised itself in the Jennings-Lake Arthur, Louisiana AT&T Real Yellow Pages under the heading “Surveyors-Land” and (c) during at least a portion of this time maintained a website which (i) listed its office address as being in Sulphur, Louisiana and its firm name as “Accu-Line Surveying, Inc.”, (ii) described its services as including boundary surveying and other types of surveying and (iii) identified its principal as being “K. Carl Johnson, P.L.S.”
La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16) prohibit licensees from practicing and/or offering to practice land surveying in the State of Louisiana with an expired license. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12) prohibits licensees from aiding or assisting another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. La. R.S. 37:698(H) permits the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12), 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. 37:698(A)(9), (12) and (16) and 37:698(H) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that (a) Accu-Line Surveying, Inc.'s license to practice and/or offer to practice land surveying in Louisiana was expired from April 1, 2001 through June 28, 2010, (b) during this time period Accu-Line Surveying, Inc. practiced and/or offered to practice land surveying in Louisiana and (c) Respondent aided or assisted Accu-Line Surveying, Inc. in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board.

By letter dated August 30, 2010, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that he may have violated La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12), relative to the aiding or assisting of another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further disciplinary 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 his 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 one hundred fifty-eight and 74/100 ($158.74) dollars, (c) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Examination, (d) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Examination and (e) the publishing 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.

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Respondent admits to violations of the referenced laws and/or rules regarding the aiding or assisting of another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that he will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of his 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 his own behalf, and he hereby waives this right and his right to appeal; and he states affirmatively that he has been afforded all administrative remedies due him under the law.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order, Respondent does hereby waive his right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses in his 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 he fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) that he has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with him 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 the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of one hundred fifty-eight and 74/100 ($158.74) 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 successfully complete the Board’s online Louisiana Laws and Rules Examination with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and
4. Respondent shall successfully complete the Board’s online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Examination with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date 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 9-20-2010

By: [Signature]
DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Secretary

DATED 9-9-2010

KENNETH C. JOHNSON, P.L.S., Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of
Kenneth C. Johnson, P.L.S.

[Signature]
Print Name [Signature]

[Signature]
Print Name [Signature]