

WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

JUL 13 2016

WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

**BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF
REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

IN RE: OMNI CONSULTING SERVICES, INC.

C2016-22

CONSENT ORDER

Comes now the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers by Edward L. Robinson, P.E., its President, (hereinafter “the Board”) for the purpose of agreeing to resolve a Complaint seeking disciplinary action against Omni Consulting Services (hereinafter “Respondent Firm”). As reflected in this document, the parties have reached an agreement concerning the proper disposition of this matter, and the Board, upon approval of such agreement, does hereby **FIND** the following:

1. The matters set forth herein are within the jurisdiction of the Board, which is the state entity with the power and duty to regulate the practice of engineering in the State of West Virginia.
2. Respondent Firm is organized under the laws of the State of Georgia, with its principal place of business in Georgia.
3. Respondent Firm does not have the Certificate of Authorization (“COA”) required to practice engineering in West Virginia, nor does it qualify for same since Respondent Firm has no one qualified to serve as its engineer in responsible charge in this State.
4. Tom Daniel is the President and Owner of Respondent Firm.
5. It came to the attention of the Board that in November of 2015 an unidentified employee of Respondent Firm submitted unsealed civil and site work plans for an existing client – a restaurant chain -- to the City of Vienna.

6. The Board initiated Complaint Number C2016-22 at its regular meeting on March 22, 2016, which was filed and served on April 4, 2016, and then re-served on April 20, 2016, with a receive date of May 3, 2016.
7. Respondent Firm did not timely respond to the allegations in the Complaint.
8. Rather than identifying the employee that did the work and amending the Complaint to name that person, the Board has agreed to proceed solely against Respondent Firm with one count of aiding and abetting unlicensed practice and the firm violation of practicing engineering without a COA.
9. The Board has taken into account the following factors in reaching this settlement: Respondent Firm's candor, through its President, in communicating with this Board and cooperation in resolving this Complaint.
10. The Board, in its discretion, will not assess administrative costs although it is within its power to assess such costs, and administrative costs were incurred in the investigation, initiation and resolution of this complaint.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

11. The Board is the state entity with the power and duty to regulate the practice of engineering in the State of West Virginia, and matters related to such practice are within the jurisdiction of the Board. W. Va. Code § 30-13-1 *et seq.*
12. Tom Daniel, as the owner and President of Respondent Firm, has the power and authority to make admissions and otherwise act on behalf of Respondent Firm.
13. Failure to file a response to the complaint shall be deemed an admission of the factual allegations contained therein. W. Va. Code R. § 7-2-2.5.
14. It is unlawful for any person to practice engineering, as defined by West Virginia Code § 30-13-3(e), in the State of West Virginia unless that person is duly registered under the provisions of West Virginia engineering law. W. Va. Code § 30-13-2.

15. It is unlawful for any person to aid or assist another person in violating any provisions of West Virginia Code § 30-13-1 *et seq.* or the promulgated rules of the Board. W. Va. Code § 30-13-21(a)(8).
16. West Virginia engineering law allows a firm to practice engineering only upon the issuance of a certificate of authorization by the Board. W. Va. Code § 30-13-17.
17. The provisions of W. Va. Code § 30-13-21(a) are applicable as appropriate to unlicensed persons and firms. W. Va. Code §§ 30-13-21(b) and (d).
18. The Board is authorized to “assess civil penalties against any person who violates any provision of this article or any rule promulgated by the board for each offense in an amount determined by the board.” W. Va. Code § 30-13-21(b); see also W. Va. Code § 30-13-21(d)(4).
19. Practicing or offering to practice engineering, as defined by W. Va. § 30-13-3(e), without a license is an action that may subject a person to discipline by the Board, including a civil penalty up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). W. Va. Code R. § 7-1-15.1.
20. The penalty for aiding and assisting a violation shall be no more than the maximum penalty set forth in Board rule. W. Va. Code R. § 7-1-15.2.
21. Practicing or offering to practice engineering, as defined by W. Va. § 30-13-3(e), without a valid certificate of authorization is an action that may subject a firm to discipline by the Board, including a civil penalty up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). W. Va. Code R. § 7-1-15.1.
22. In determining the amount of a civil penalty to be assessed, the Board may consider such factors as the circumstances leading to the violation; the nature and severity of the violation and the risk of harm to the public; the extent to which the cited person or firm has cooperated with the Board and the Board’s investigation; and other matters as may be appropriate. W. Va. Code R. § 7-1-15.4.

23. The assessment of administrative costs is within the Board's sole discretion. W. Va. Code § 30-13-21(d)(4) and W. Va. Code R. § 7-1-14.4.

CONSENT OF RESPONDENT FIRM

Respondent Omni Consulting Services, through its President and Owner, Tom Daniel, who has affixed his signature hereon, agrees to the following:

24. Respondent Firm is aware of its right to be represented by counsel and to pursue this matter through appropriate administrative and/or court procedures, including its right to a formal hearing before the Board, and Respondent Firm intelligently and voluntarily waives these rights provided the Board accepts the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Order.
25. Respondent Firm admits that no one in its employ has a license to practice engineering in the State of West Virginia at the time it provided engineering services in West Virginia, in violation of West Virginia engineering law.
26. Respondent Firm admits that it did not have a COA at the time it practiced engineering in West Virginia, in violation of West Virginia engineering law, and at this time still does not qualify for same.
27. Respondent Firm acknowledges that it cannot practice engineering in this State until it qualifies for a COA, and a COA has been issued by this Board.
28. Respondent Firm accepts the findings set forth above and consents to the entry of this Consent Order freely and voluntarily and not under duress, restraint or compulsion.
29. Respondent Firm acknowledges that this Consent Order is being executed for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to the above-styled matter. In this regard, Respondent Firm authorizes the Board to review and examine all investigative

file materials concerning Respondent Firm's activities in West Virginia in consideration of this Consent Order.

30. Should the Board not approve this Consent Order, Respondent Firm waives any objections to the Board or any of its members participating in the adjudication of this matter. This paragraph is binding on Respondent Firm even if the Board does not approve this Consent Order.
31. Respondent Firm acknowledges that the Board may reject this proposal, notice and hold a hearing, and, upon adjudication, impose such sanctions of a disciplinary nature as it deems appropriate.
32. Respondent Firm understands that this Consent Order constitutes a full and final settlement of this matter, and nothing in this Consent Order or the circumstances giving rise to the same may be the subject of any appeal or other civil or administrative actions except an action by the Board to enforce the terms of this Consent Order, but that nothing in this Consent Order prohibits the Board from considering this disciplinary action or the circumstances giving rise to the same with regard to any future disciplinary matter involving Respondent Firm which may be before this Board.
33. Respondent Firm understands that the Complaint and this Consent Order are public records which, together with other public documents in the file, must be made available upon legal request in accordance with the State's Freedom of Information Act.
34. Respondent Firm agrees that the sum and substance of the Complaint and this agreement in part or in their entirety will be set forth in Board publications and on the Board's website, as well as other appropriate placements, including the non-public enforcement exchange database administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).

35. Respondent Firm acknowledges that non-compliance with this Consent Order may result in the rescission of this agreement, the reinstatement of the Complaint, the summary revocation of any license or certificate which may have been issued to Respondent Firm by the Board, and the addition of any other charges which may arise or ensue from Respondent Firm's non-compliance with this Consent Order.
36. Respondent Firm acknowledges that proof of any material misstatement or misrepresentation made in connection with this matter will result in the rescission of this agreement, the reinstatement of the Complaint, the summary revocation of any license or certificate which may be issued to Respondent Firm by the Board, and the addition of any other charges which may arise or ensue from providing false information to the Board in violation of West Virginia engineering law.

ORDER

1. On the basis of the foregoing, and upon entry of this Consent Order, the Board hereby **ORDERS** that this Consent Order shall serve as settlement of Complaint Number C2016-22 pursuant to West Virginia Code § 30-13-22(b).
2. Respondent Firm is prohibited from practicing engineering in the State of West Virginia until such time as Respondent Firm qualifies for and has been issued a COA by the Board.
3. The Board **ORDERS** Respondent Firm to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for aiding and assisting the practice of engineering in West Virginia without a license.

4. The Board **ORDERS** Respondent Firm to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for practicing engineering in West Virginia without a certificate of authorization.
5. The civil penalties imposed herein totaling Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) must be paid within thirty (30) days of the date of entry set forth below, such amount to be made payable to the W. Va. P.E. Board for transfer to the general fund of the State of West Virginia upon receipt.
6. The sum and substance of the Complaint and this agreement in part or in their entirety shall be set forth in Board publications and on the Board's website, as well as other appropriate placements, including the non-public enforcement exchange database administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).
7. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Order shall be immediate cause for further disciplinary action by the Board.
8. If the civil penalties imposed herein are not timely paid, this Consent Order may be summarily enforced in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County without further notice to Respondent Firm upon application by the Board for the entry of a Judgment Order for the total amount of payment agreed to herein (\$500.00), together with pre-judgment interest from the date of the President's signature hereon, post-judgment interest from the date of entry of the Judgment Order and all costs of any enforcement action(s), which judgment shall be fully executable in accordance with applicable law.
9. This matter shall be closed upon execution of this Consent Order by both parties and the full payment of the civil penalties agreed to herein.

10. This Consent Order constitutes a full and final settlement of this matter, and nothing in this Consent Order or the circumstances giving rise to same may be the subject of any appeal or other civil or administrative actions except an action by the Board to enforce the terms of this Consent Order. This shall not prohibit the Board from considering this disciplinary action or the circumstances giving rise to the same with regard to any future disciplinary matter involving Respondent Firm which may come before this Board.
11. This Consent Order relates solely to matters set forth in West Virginia engineering law and does not evidence compliance with any other laws of the State of West Virginia or its political subdivisions, nor should any such compliance be implied.

AGREED TO BY:



OMNI CONSULTING SERVICES
By its President, **TOM DANIEL**



DATE

ENTERED into the records of the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers this 9th day of July, 2016.

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

By:



EDWARD L. ROBINSON, P.E.
BOARD PRESIDENT