



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2016-3A

Kathy Hart, Executive Director
State Board of Licensure for Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors
220 NE 28th Street, Ste. 120
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

January 7, 2016

Dear Executive Director Hart:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding agency action that the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors intends to take with respect to professional engineer application 33734. The proposed action is to deny the application because the applicant lacks sufficient experience for individuals with applicant's degree type under the Board's rules. The applicant received an engineering degree not considered equivalent to an accredited engineering degree in the United States, which means that the applicant must have six years of experience under the supervision of a professional engineer.

Oklahoma law authorizes the Board to "[e]stablish and amend minimum standards for the practice of engineering and land surveying." 59 O.S.Supp.2015, § 475.8(A)(1). Oklahoma law also requires that, to be licensed as a professional engineer, an applicant must have a qualifying engineering degree with four years of experience under the supervision of a professional engineer or the applicant must have a degree from a "related science program" with six years of supervised experience. 59 O.S.Supp.2015, § 475.12(A)(1)(b)-(c). Evidence before the Board indicated that applicant's foreign degree was not the equivalent of an accredited engineering degree and that applicant did not have six years of experience under the supervision of a professional engineer to qualify for licensure under the "related science program" rule. The Board may reasonably believe that the applicant does not currently qualify for licensure as a professional engineer.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State of Oklahoma's policy to protect the public welfare in the licensure of professional engineers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Pruitt".

E. SCOTT PRUITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA