



ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2020-17A

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

June 29, 2020

Dear Executive Director Hart:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action that the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors intends to take pursuant to case 2019-079. After a hearing, the Board concluded that the respondent and his firm practiced engineering without a license, did not submit a permanent professional engineer application after being issued a temporary license, and did not respond to the Board when the initial Complaint was made. The Board proposes to impose \$7,000 in administrative penalties for these counts.

Oklahoma law provides that, “[i]n order to safeguard life, health and property, and to promote the public welfare,” it is unlawful for unlicensed persons “to practice or to offer to practice engineering or land surveying in this state[.]” 59 O.S.Supp.2019, § 475.1. A firm practicing or offering to practice engineering or land surveying services in this state must be “issued a certificate of authorization by the Board.” *Id.* § 475.21(A)(2). The Board may “levy administrative fines . . . if a person or entity . . . [f]ail[s] to comply with any of the provisions of [this Act] or any of the rules or regulations pertaining thereto.” *Id.* § 475.18(A)(4). The Board may reasonably believe that the disciplinary action is necessary to deter future violations.

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 proposed action advances the State’s policy to protect public welfare.

MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

ETHAN SHANER
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL