

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION 2024-15A

Kathy Hart, Executive Director Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors 220 N.E. 28th St., Ste. 120 Oklahoma City, OK 73105 March 13, 2024

Re: Griswold Tower Software and Griswold, Case No. 2022-050

Dear Executive Director Hart:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding disciplinary action the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors intends to take in Case No. 2022-050 against Respondents, Griswold Tower Software and Griswold. Respondent Griswold's Oklahoma and North Carolina licenses are currently suspended.

Title 59, section 475.8(A) of the Oklahoma Statutes empowers the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors ("Board") to regulate the practice of engineering in the State of Oklahoma and discipline persons who "violat[e] any terms imposed by the Board." 59 O.S.2021, § 475.18(A)(9).

In December 2021, Respondents entered into a Consent Order after admitting guilt to offering to practice and/or practicing engineering in Oklahoma without a valid Certificate of Authorization and/or license. Respondents were reprimanded and agreed to pay administrative penalties of \$7,000 within ninety days of the consent order. Additionally, Respondent Griswold's license was suspended until North Carolina lifts their license suspension, at which time Respondent may reapply for an Oklahoma license. In March 2022, the Respondents were notified that the payment of the penalties were past due. On November 30, 2023, the Board's prosecutor brought formal charges against the Respondents alleging Respondents failed to comply with the consent order as approved by the Board.

Having heard clear and convincing evidence of Respondents' guilt, the Board proposes to (1) revoke Respondent Griswold's engineering license and order Respondent to pay a \$2,000 administrative fine as to count II; and (2) order Respondent Griswold Tower Software to pay a \$2,000 administrative fine as to count I. The Board may reasonably believe the proposed action is necessary to deter future violations.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the proposed action taken by the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors is in accordance with the State's policy to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

ROB JOHNSON GENERAL COUNSEL