

MINUTES
Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
August 14, 2025 - 9:00 am

Physical Meeting Location:

Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
 1917 S. Interstate 35
 Austin, TX 78741

Discuss and Possibly Act on the Following Agenda Items:

1. Preliminary Matters - Officer Presiding

A. Call to Order

Ms. Karen Friese, P.E., Chair, called the Policy Advisory Committee meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to order at 9:00 a.m. (NOTE: all votes are unanimous unless noted.)

B. Roll Call

Ms. Trevino called the roll. It was noted, for the record, that a quorum was present.

The following Committee members were present:

Karen Friese, P.E., Chair
 Ademola Adejokun, P.E.
 Roberto Moreno, P.E.
 Kiran Shah

Mr. Steven Ogle, Assistant Attorney General and General Counsel for the Board, was present to provide legal counsel to the Board.

The following staff members were present:

Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E.	Executive Director
Rick Strong, P.E.	Director of Licensing
Michael Sims, P.E.	Director of Compliance and Enforcement
Mason Schoolfield	Director of Operations
Jeff Mutscher	Chief Financial Officer
Elissa Mazza	Staff Attorney
Ed Brannan, P.E.	Technical Engineering Specialist
Brian Waltman, P.E.	Technical Engineering Specialist
Odilia Trevino	Executive Administrator

C. Excuse absent Committee members

All members were present.

D. Welcome Visitors

Dr. Sina Nejad, P.E., P.Eng., Board Chair; Mark Neugebauer, R.P.L.S., L.S.L.S., Board Member; Catherine Norwood, P.E., Board Member; Albert Cheng, Board Member; Coleen Johnson, R.P.L.S., Board Member; Jon Hodde, R.P.L.S., Advisory Board Member; Govind Nadkarni, P.E., Advisory Member; and Stephanie Stanford, P.E., Southwest Engineers, present on behalf of TSPE, were present.

E. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. May 15, 2025, Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Moreno/Shah) to approve the May 15, 2025, Policy Advisory Committee minutes as presented.

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

3. Policy Advisory Opinion Request Regarding How Information Technology Services Fall Under Electrical Engineering As They Relate to the Public Work Exemption Found in The Texas Engineering Practice Act (Policy Advisory Opinion Request No. 73)

Mr. Sims discussed the Policy Advisory Opinion request which was submitted by Rudy Juarez with Halff on February 11, 2025. He stated that the Act and Rules were reviewed, and the term “electrical engineering” as used in the public work exemption is not defined. However, certain information technology services have historically not been considered to be the practice of engineering. Therefore, the project in question would not qualify as an engineering project and would not require an engineer to be involved.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Adejokun/Shah) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Board meeting on August 14, 2025, to accept the response, as prepared, for PAO Request #73.

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

RULE CHANGES to IMPLEMENT SENATE BILL 1259 (89th Regular Session)

4. Recommendation on Proposal of Amendments to 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 131, Subchapter H - Engineering Advisory Opinions, Including Retitling the Subchapter to Advisory Opinions

- §131.101 - Subject of an Advisory Opinion
- §131.103 - Request for an Advisory Opinion
- §131.107 - Receipt, Review, and Processing of a Request
- §131.109 - Compilation of Advisory Opinions
- §131.111 - Time Period

Dr. Kinney gave a briefing on the changes to implement legislative changes in Senate Bill 1259. Mr. Sims discussed the rule change prohibiting anonymous policy advisory opinion requests.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Moreno/Shah) to recommend to the Board at its Regular Quarterly Board meeting on August 14, 2025, to approve for the Rule changes to be posted to the Texas Register for public comment.

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

5. Future Committee Meetings: Agenda items, dates, locations, and other arrangements

No issues were presented or addressed for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

6. Adjourn

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Moreno/Shah) to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

Date Board approved minutes: 11/20/2025