



Texas Board of Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors



October 13, 2020

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Professional Surveyor Criminal History Record Check Requirement

Fingerprinting for RPLS is now open and must be completed prior to December 31, 2020.

In meeting with legislatively mandated fingerprinting requirements for all professional license holders, all active RPLS and LSLs licensees must complete a one-time, criminal history record check (CHRC) prior to renewing their license this year.

After successfully completing the electronic fingerprint session at the state contracted vendor IdentoGO, TBPELS will receive a file daily with information regarding any matches to the DPS or FBI databases. If electronic fingerprinting is not possible, licensees may have their fingerprints processed by any law enforcement agency and then submitted to the state vendor for the record check requirement.

The only exceptions to this requirement are currently inactive RPLS or RPLS who are also Professional Engineers and have previously met this requirement as part of their PE renewals. Please note: An RPLS who is in inactive status and does not do a background check will have to complete the background check requirement prior to returning to inactive status.

Emails were sent to all active RPLS with instructions and their unique applicant number to complete this process. If you did not get your notification, please drop us an email with your contact information to:

info@pels.texas.gov

[Slides from CHRC Webinar](#)

[CHRC Instructions](#)

[Webpage with Detailed Information](#)

[Frequently Asked CHRC Questions](#)

Land Surveyor Rule Hearing

October 14, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

TBPELS will hold a Rule Hearing to receive public comment on surveying rules published in the Texas Register. The agendas have links to observe via YouTube or participate via Zoom.

<https://pels.texas.gov/boardmeetings.htm>

Proposed Rules

On October 9, 2020, TBPELS posted amendments to Chapters 138 and 139 to implement necessary changes as required by House Bill (HB) 1523, 86th Legislature, Regular Session (2019), related to the merger of operations of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying into the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. The deadline for comment is November 8, 2020

<https://pels.texas.gov/proposed.htm>

Emergency Board Rule

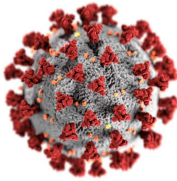
The TBPELS Board approved an emergency rule to extend the PE exam completion deadline due to COVID-19.

https://pels.texas.gov/downloads/EmergencyRule133_67_ExamExtension.pdf

New Law and Rules Document

Rule changes are very minor such as citation references and removal of delinquent student loan renewal restrictions.

<https://pels.texas.gov/downloads/lawrules.pdf>



COVID-19 News

COVID-19 NCEES Update

NCEES has released information about examinations and the Coronavirus. Please visit the NCEES page for more information.

<https://ncees.org/latest-information-on-covid-19-response/>

TBPELS Office Closed due to COVID-19 Pandemic

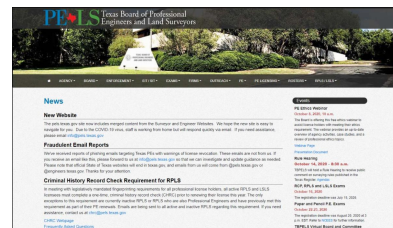
In order to do our part in the fight against COVID-19, the agency office building located at 1917 S. Interstate 35, Austin, Texas, is currently closed to the public. If you need to drop off paperwork in person, please use the drop box to the right of the front door. Mail is gathered daily. Processing times for any documents submitted, including public information act requests, will be delayed. Staff is primarily teleworking. Send your emails to info@pels.texas.gov This email is monitored throughout the day during normal work hours. Your message will be routed and responded to by the appropriate department. Refer to this page for all agency operations affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. <https://pels.texas.gov/covid19.htm>

New Website

The pels.texas.gov site now includes merged content from the Surveyor and Engineer Websites. We hope the new site is easy to navigate for you. Check it out at:

<http://pels.texas.gov>

If you need assistance, please email info@pels.texas.gov





Surveyor Fee Changes

At the August, 2020 TBPELS Board meetings, new fees were approved for Land Surveyors. Application and renewal fees were reduced, duplicate certificate fees were eliminated, exam fees did not change. Refer to:

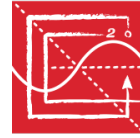
<https://pels.texas.gov/downloads/SurveyorFeesFY21.pdf>

Exam News

October 22-23, 2020

PE Exams

Refer to [NCEES](https://ncees.org) for further information.



NCEES

*advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors*

NCEES Fall 2020 PE Exam Changes

Due to the cancellation of the April 2020 pencil-and-paper administration, the October administration will be a two-day event with some exams offered on Thursday, October 22 and some on Friday, October 23. For more information, visit <https://ncees.org/october-2020-exam-administration-updates/>

October 16, 2020

RPLS, LSLS and RCP (Reciprocal) Exams

Proctored by TBPELS staff at the Norris Center in Austin, Texas. All examinees should have received exam location information, exam protocols, and admission tickets. If you have not, please contact staff at: licensing@pels.texas.gov

Exam Day Guidelines - https://pels.texas.gov/downloads/SurveyorExams2020_Guidelines.pdf

Regular Quarterly Board Meetings

Information for the May and August 2020 Board and Committee Meetings is available on our website at: <https://pels.texas.gov/boardmeetings.htm>

Disciplinary Actions

All enforcement actions approved in the Board meeting are posted on the TBPELS website. Enforcement actions are reported based on the date of the Board meeting at which the actions were taken. <http://pels.texas.gov/disciplinary.htm>

New Vice-Chair and Secretary

The Board appointed Lamberto (Bobby) Ballí, P.E. from Boerne, Texas as the new Board Vice-Chair and Rolando Rubiano, P.E. from Harlingen, TX as the new Secretary.



Future Meetings

The next meetings will be held virtually November 18-19, 2020 and will be live streamed on YouTube. Refer to our website for agendas and links to attend the meetings.

<https://pels.texas.gov/boardmeetings.htm>

Previous Meeting Recordings

The meeting recordings have been posted on the agency YouTube Channel.

<https://pels.texas.gov/recordings.htm>

Viewing these recordings or attending the live stream qualifies for continuing education credit under the category of self-directed study. A maximum of five credit hours may be accrued for engineer self-directed study. The maximum credit for surveyors is four hours.



Open Agency Positions

TBPELS has an opening for an Analyst and two Investigators. Refer to the page link below for the job descriptions and instructions to apply.

<https://pels.texas.gov/employment.htm>

Technical Experts Needed

We are looking for qualified technical experts to assist the Board in making effective determinations on engineering and surveying enforcement cases.

We are currently accepting resumes of Texas Licensed Professional Engineers (PE), Texas Registered Professional Land Surveyors (RPLS), and Licensed State Land Surveyors (LSLS) who are experts in their field.

Refer to the website for information and instructions to submit your resume.

https://pels.texas.gov/technical_experts.htm



Webinars and Outreach

TBPELS gives face-to-face outreach presentations and webinars, as available and at no charge, all over the state to license holders, associations, societies, and companies.

Please note: Due to an abundance of caution related to the COVID-19 / Coronavirus situation, TBPELS has decided not to conduct any face-to-face meetings through the end of December. Webinars and video conferences are being held. Schedule your event by clicking on the link below.

<https://pels.texas.gov/outreach.html>

Webinars are given on ethics to provide an up-to-date overview of agency activities, case studies, and a review of professional ethics topics. The free webinars have been so well received that we added additional events each month. Refer to the webinar page for registration links, specific dates and times.

<https://pels.texas.gov/webinars.html>

TBPELS Board Members:

Dr. Sina K. Nejad, P.E., P.Eng. - Chair

Lamberto Ballí, P.E. - Vice-Chair

Rolando Rubiano, P.E. - Secretary

Albert Cheng - Treasurer

Catherine Norwood, P.E.

Ademola Adejokun, P.E.

Rolando Rubiano, P.E.

Kiran Shah

Mark J. Neugebauer, R.P.L.S., L.S.L.S.

Coleen M. Johnson, R.P.L.S.

Marguerite "Margo" McClinton Stoglin, Ph.D.

Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

<http://pels.texas.gov>

info@pels.texas.gov

Phone: 512-440-7723