



June 22, 2006

Structural and Civil Engineers of Nebraska:

In April, a proposal to provide a Structural Engineering Practice Act was sent to the engineering community in Nebraska through the local chapters of ASCE, SEAON and NSPE. This proposal recommended revisions to the state rules, regulations and statutes for licensure as a structural engineer in Nebraska by clarifying the requirements for licensure through examination, providing a clause for practicing engineers to “grandfather” in as structural engineers and attempting to define the practice of Structural Engineering.

The Structural Licensure Committee that presented this proposal received many constructive comments concerning the proposal from a meeting of the engineers scheduled in April and from numerous email messages. These comments have been greatly appreciated. A revised version of the proposal (following) for a Structural Engineering Practice Act has been developed utilizing many of the recommendations that were made following the initial proposal.

The proposed revisions to Title 110 have been revised to clarify the intent of the proposal and better define the requirements. For licensure by examination, a qualified engineer will be required to pass 16 hours of structural examination. These requirements are comparable to those recommended in the NCEES Model Law and similar to the requirements of other states increasing ease of licensure by comity. This proposal revises only the examination requirements for licensure. The current requirements for education, experience, application and continuing education remain the same.

The grandfathering clause has been revised slightly to clarify the intent. Licensed engineers practicing structural engineering in the state of Nebraska at the time the revisions are adopted will be eligible for licensure by grandfathering. The application process is to ensure engineers whose practice does not include structural design and analysis are not automatically given the authority to work in areas outside of their experience.

The greatest change to the proposal has been to the proposed revisions to the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act. This change was recommended by many in the engineering community and is more in keeping with the intent of the current code that engineers are limited to practice within their area of expertise. The intent of the proposal to protect the public by restricting the practice of Structural Engineering to qualified individuals is supported by the changes made to this section.

Included with this letter and the revised proposal is a survey that we request returned to the Licensure Committee. In addition to getting recommendations for changes to the proposal, this questionnaire will help gauge the amount of support for the recommended revisions to the current regulations and statutes. We encourage everyone to respond including those who are in full support of what is being proposed so the committee may determine the support from the engineering community.

Please return the survey to Susan Jorgensen at [SAJorgensen@leaodaly.com](mailto:SAJorgensen@leaodaly.com) or fax #402-391-8564 by Friday, July 14. If you wish to remain anonymous, the survey may be sent to SEAON, P.O. Box 540068, Omaha, NE 68154. Your comments, questions and recommendations are welcomed and encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Jorgensen, P.E.  
SEAON President

Proposed Revisions to  
**Title 110: Nebraska Administrative Code**  
**Chapter 1 through 11**  
**Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects**

Revise Section 2.5.4:

**“2.5.4. Licensure as a Structural Engineer.**

**2.5.4.1 Structural Examination:**

Sixteen hours of professional engineering examination shall be required for licensure as a Structural Engineer. Examination shall include the successful completion of:

1. The Structural I Examination, and the Structural II Examination, or
2. Sixteen hours of NCEES Structural Examination eight hours of which are the Structural II Examination.

**2.5.4.2. Grandfathering Clause.**

A Professional Engineer legally practicing structural engineering in the State of Nebraska when this act is adopted will be allowed to be licensed as a Structural Engineer without passing the required examinations provided all of the following requirements are met:

- A. On the effective date of this act, the engineer is licensed and in good standing with the Board as a Professional Engineer in the State of Nebraska, and
- B. The engineer has been previously qualified through education, experience and licensure to practice engineering in the field of structures in the State of Nebraska, and
- C. The engineer demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board through application that the engineer has experience in the duties typically provided by a Professional Structural Engineer regarding structures not identified as exempt by regulation or statute.”

Proposed Revisions to  
**The Engineers and Architects Regulation Act**  
**Section 81-3434**

**“(5) Practice of Structural Engineering:**

Buildings, Bridges and other structures including their individual structural system components, subject to building code requirements, that do not meet the exempted status as indicated in Nebraska’s Engineers and Architects Regulation Act or Title 110: Nebraska Administrative Code are required to be designed or analyzed under the responsible charge of a Licensed Structural Engineer.