



## OSBEELS Response to Situation Surrounding COVID-19 and Status of Board Operations

This Letter Was Last Updated as of **March 18, 2020**

Greetings,

The Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering & Land Surveying (OSBEELS) would like to provide our registrants and stakeholders with an update as a result of the recent news and uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. We are actively monitoring the situation around COVID-19 and how it may affect the status of our agency and its processes. **As of March 18**, the agency and staff are maintaining normal business operations and will continue to adhere to the direction provided by the State of Oregon Governor's office. Please review the below sections for information pertaining to specific Board services and meetings.

### Monthly Board and Committee Meetings

Earlier this month, the Governor's office gave direction to state agencies to halt all agency-sponsored activities that exceed 25 or more people and asked Oregonians to avoid being around more than 10 people at a time. The Governor's direction is set to expire on April 17 and we will know more at this time regarding the status of state departments resuming normal meeting practices. We are actively exploring alternative methods for holding upcoming Board and Committee meetings in a manner that will adhere to restrictions enacted by the Governor's office. The Board intends to find an acceptable method for holding scheduled meetings in order to continue to conduct essential business functions while maintaining the health and safety of agency staff and Board members.

### June 30 Renewal Cycle

At this time, registrants, who are due to renew this upcoming renewal cycle are expected to submit their applications for renewals and supporting documents in compliance with the June 30 renewal date. Due to the current environment, we ask registrants be patient in receiving follow-up communications and confirmation from the Board office in 1-3 days. We anticipate being able to process renewal applications in a timely manner and provide new registration information and pocket cards within 2 months of when a completed renewal application packet is received by the office.

### Is OSBEELS Reducing the PDH Requirements During the June 30 Renewal Cycle

We understand due to COVID-19 some educational conferences or activities may be postponed past the June 30 deadline, or cancelled all-together, causing a hardship. At this time, the OSBEELS is still requiring registrants to provide proof of completion of 30 PDHs as part of their application for renewal. We'd like to remind registrants that there are other, acceptable options for earning your PDHs, such as qualifying web-based or videotaped courses. There are a number of other options identified in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 820-010-0635. If you have any questions whether an activity qualifies for continuing education, we encourage you to reach out to the Board at [OSBEELS.info@oregon.gov](mailto:OSBEELS.info@oregon.gov).

### Upcoming Oregon-Specific Professional Exams

At this time, the Board is postponing both the April 17th Water Rights exam and April 18th Oregon-Specific Land Surveying exam. Our agency is actively looking at alternative dates in July for hosting the exam and will follow up with confirmed participants when updates are available. All confirmed participants for the April exams will be deferred to the July exam administering once finalized. We are currently also allowing Oregon-Specific Land Surveying (4-hour) exam participants the option to defer exam fees and application materials to the October 24 administering. Please let the Board office know and we can coordinate the deferral process for you.

Should you have any questions or concerns, and need to reach the Board office we ask that you contact us via email at [OSBEELS.info@oregon.gov](mailto:OSBEELS.info@oregon.gov) at this time to ensure we receive your message. The COVID-19 outbreak is a rapidly changing situation from a public health perspective. The OSBEELS is committed to keeping you informed and taking the appropriate measures to ensure the health and safety of our staff, state registrants, exam participants, and members of the public. We will continue to provide updates in the coming weeks. Please let us know if you have any questions at this time.

Regards,

Jason Barbee  
Board Administrator