

Tony Knowles, Governor

# Alaska

## Department of Community and Economic Development

### Division of Occupational Licensing

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### Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors(AELS)

November 5, 2002

Commissioner Joseph L. Perkins  
3132 Channel Drive  
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Perkins,

Through informal email correspondence it came to the AELS Board's attention that some state agencies may be using engineers to identify survey monuments as part of highway construction projects or other state projects. At its August 2002 meeting, the AELS Board specifically discussed the requirement for only registered professional land surveyors to utilize existing land survey monumentation when establishing construction centerlines or by referencing existing land survey monumentation adjacent to the project.


The Board expressed concern that some state agencies may be using architects, engineers or someone other than professional land surveyors to specifically recover, reference, describe, and utilize survey monuments while by statute only a land surveyor may do so. If engineers and architects use boundary monuments to establish where the structures are located on a parcel, they are practicing outside of their area of expertise.

AS 08.48.341 (13)", reads:

(13) "practice of land surveying" means the teaching of land surveying courses at an institution of higher learning, or any service or work the adequate performance of which involves the application of special knowledge of the principles of mathematics, the related physical and applied sciences, and the relevant requirements of law for adequate evidence of the act of measuring and locating land, geodetic and cadastral surveys for the location and monumentation of property boundaries, for the platting and planning of land and subdivisions of land, including the topography, alignment, and grades for streets, and for the preparation and perpetuation of maps, record plats, field note records, and property descriptions that represent these surveys;

The AELS Board encourages state agencies to use registered land surveyors to perform land surveying. The Board requests that any plan standardization guide for highways and airports would specifically require a registered land surveyor be responsible for the project location and make any adjustments to land survey boundaries, and rights of way necessary and that the work not be done by engineers or other department personnel.

Sincerely,



Robert Miller, Ph.D., P.E., Chair

*"Promoting a healthy economy and strong communities"*