

Earl Strom, PLS  
Complaint #05-28

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, Earl Strom, P.L.S., hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to a formal reprimand, payment of a civil penalty of \$5,000.00 and investigative costs of \$551.50.

  
EARL STROM, P.L.S.

Dated: 3/20/06

c. Michael Edelson, Esq.



JON S. CORZINE  
Governor

## New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

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State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors  
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By Certified and Regular Mail

March 3, 2006

Earl Strom, P.L.S.  
15502 Racetrack Road  
Odessa, FL 33556-2920

RE: I/M/O Earl Strom, P.L.S.  
Complaint No. 05-28

### Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Filing a Formal Disciplinary Complaint

Dear Mr. Strom:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (hereinafter the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information concerning your professional conduct in connection with a survey you prepared for property located at 301 Carnegie Center, Princeton, New Jersey.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you are in violation of the following:

1. N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and N.J.A.C. 13:40-1.3(a) in that you failed to utilize a proper title block on the survey;
2. N.J.S.A. 45:8-36.3(a) and (b) in that you failed to obtain a corner marker waiver and show the required notation on the survey; and
3. N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) in that you permitted the title block of an unlicensed entity to be placed on the survey which misrepresents the scope of services provided by you and the unlicensed entity.

As a result of the foregoing, the Board has preliminarily determined that the above violations are sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that decision, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter in an attempt to avoid the initiation of more formal proceedings if you consent to the following terms:

1. Agree to a formal reprimand upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter in connection with all of the above violations;
2. Payment of a civil penalty totaling **\$1,000.00** to be paid **immediately** upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter in connection with your violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and N.J.A.C. 13:40-1.3(a);
3. Payment of a civil penalty totaling **\$1,500.00** to be paid **immediately** upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter in connection with your violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8-36.3(a) and (b);
4. Payment of a civil penalty totaling **\$2,500.00** to be paid **immediately** upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter in connection with your violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b); and
5. Payment of investigative costs in the amount of **\$551.50** to be paid **immediately** upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter in connection with all of the above violations.

In making a determination, you should know that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25 any person who engages in conduct which is in violation of any provision of the statutes and regulations administered by the Board shall, in addition to any other sanctions provided by statute, be liable for a civil penalty of not more than **\$10,000.00** for the first violation and not more than **\$20,000.00** for the second and each subsequent violation. However, in an effort to resolve this matter amicably, the Board offers to settle on the terms stated above. If you are willing to resolve this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and returning it to the Board office within 15 days. In such event, this letter shall be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of formal proceedings. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, you may be assessed civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts herein or any additional facts are found to so warrant, enter an order requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General Michelle Albertson, who may be reached at (973) 648-2975.

If you elect to settle this matter, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer shall be considered withdrawn and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of formal proceedings.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

By:



ARTHUR RUSSO  
Executive Director

cc: B. Michelle Albertson,  
Deputy Attorney General