

Report to the NCEES Participating Organizations Liaison Council

**From: American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
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- The waiver clause in the model law was not passed in Baltimore. ASPRS views this as a potential hindrance to comity. However, as states implement licensing for photogrammetrists, they are finding practical alternatives, such as specifying various forms of “specialty licenses defining areas of expertise within surveying.
- State activity
 - SC – The 3-year savings period for new areas of professional practice 1) geodetic surveyor, 2) photogrammetric surveyor and 3) GIS surveyor expires June 30 2004. While there is no provision to extend the savings clause until national exams are in place, the SC licensure information has been aggressively distributed to practitioners nationwide. It’s not a ideal situation, but there has been a good faith effort on both sides, the Board and industry, to make a smooth transition in SC.
 - VA – After numerous public hearings and consultation with industry association, a final set of recommendations are being written by the Photogrammetry Stakeholders Committee to present to DPOR. Recommendations will specify areas of limited practice, including photogrammetric surveying, as land surveyor – C. It is proposed that a savings clause be in effect until 2007, and after that extended if national exams covering photogrammetric practice are not in place at that time.
 - FL – Florida continues to present challenges to highly qualified firms and individuals practicing photogrammetry nationwide to obtain a PSM license. Comity applications are denied to those grandfathered in other state under model law guidelines. The conventional examination, education and experience route is ostensibly available, but in practical terms requires a photogrammetrist to demonstrate minimal competence in land surveying, not in photogrammetry. Furthermore anyone passing the current set of required exams is not demonstrating minimal competence in photogrammetry or remote sensing by doing so. Therefore it is ASPRS’ contention that the existing process does not truly protect the public. ASPRS supported language drafted in summer 2002 by FSMS to create a route of entry by comity for those grandfathered in other states, until such time as more appropriate exams are in place. The Florida Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers refused to support the proposed language.
- Rita Lumos of EPS Committee made a presentation on the NCEES Model Law and the LS PAKS study at the MAPPS (Management Association of Private Photogrammetric Surveyors) meeting in October. The presentation was well-received by the MAPPS membership, although there were some concerns expressed about the scope of the PAKS study. The EPS committee has acknowledged those concerns. The photogrammetric community (and some others within the surveying community) still

advocates a depth and breadth approach. The PAKS study will not yield an ideal exam in our view, but it is a step in the right direction. We appreciate the good faith effort of those on the EPS Committee, and we recognize the need to have 10 states request more extensive changes to the surveying exams.

- The movement of jobs offshore is a subject we are all hearing a lot about in the press. It's not only the furniture, garment and computer industries that are being affected. Photogrammetric mapping and remote sensing still requires a significant amount of manual digitizing and editing to produce final deliverable products, and we are feeling increasing pressure to provide high-quality mapping services at ever decreasing prices. Ironically, the pressure to subcontract work offshore comes mostly from the government sector. The vast majority of customers for mapping in the US are ultimately government entities - federal, state and local. Their budgets have been affected by economic forces and the redirecting of agency funding to defense and homeland security. Many photogrammetric, remote sensing and mapping companies are establishing relationships with offshore firms in response to this demand for low-cost labor. On the plus side, US firms are finding that international relationships can provide opportunities to grow, by extending their reach into international markets where our advanced technology can make a real difference in solving engineering, environmental and land management problems on a global scale.

This pressure to subcontract offshore is occurring at the same time states are moving to include photogrammetric mapping in the definition of the professional practice of surveying, following the NCEES Model Law. This presents some obvious challenges. Issues, such as the definition of responsible charge as it relates to subcontracting of mapping tasks domestically and offshore, are being discussed with more speculation than fact. The situation is further complicated by the fact that individual state laws differ regarding matters of subcontracting, requirements for licensure of government employees who do professional work, etc. ASPRS would like to be prepared to provide information and guidance to its membership as we all try to sort this world of conflicting requirements and pressures. If any other organization within the POLC has experience in these areas, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss and learn.