



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Consumer Protection

March 1, 2010

To Town Clerks:

Enclosed please find a statement concerning the release of digital files of surveying maps and engineering plans. Please distribute this to your GIS, Planning, Zoning, Building and Wetland agencies, and any other agencies that might rely on such data.

The State Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors developed this statement pursuant to a public hearing held on January 12, 2010 to address circumstances which may be causing confusion and concern.

Please distribute the above immediately. Questions or comments may be addressed by writing or calling the Board office at (860) 713-6142.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anthony D'Andrea".

Anthony D'Andrea, PE & LS
Chairman
Board of Examiners for Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

In the Matter of
Maps and Plans in Digital Form

Docket No. 10-46

DECLARATORY RULING

The State Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (the "Board") is charged by Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 391, §§ 20-299, et seq., with regulating the practice in Connecticut of professional engineering and land surveying. It has, pursuant to statute, enacted regulations which further address Connecticut's requirements.

The Board has been advised that various municipal agencies are seeking to require licensed land surveyors and professional engineers to provide certain data in digital format for use by the municipalities.

The release of land surveying maps, plats, reports and other official documentation is subject to the requirements for signature and seal set forth in Sections 20-300-10 and 20-300b-20 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

The Board recognizes the potentially negative consequences of providing detailed land surveying and engineering information in transparently editable, digital formats. Because of this, vector CADD versions of survey maps or engineering plans shall only be released to licensed design professionals working cooperatively on a project as part of a client's design team.

Vector CADD files include drawings in any digital format that can be invisibly modified without the knowledge or approval of the preparer, or subsequent users of the data. (Vector CADD file types include, but are not limited to, DWG, DXF, SHP and SHX formats.)

Portable Document Format (PDF) and raster image files are more difficult to alter, and unauthorized changes are easier to detect. To facilitate inclusion of accurate survey and/or engineering information into Geographic Information Systems, PDF and raster image files are acceptable for distribution to public agencies. (Raster image file types include, but are not limited to, JPEG, TIFF and BMP formats.)

These statements were developed by the State Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to protect the public by providing guidance to authorities concerning which types of data may be provided by licensed land surveyors and professional engineers in accordance with State regulations. Again, it is the position of the Board that land surveyors and professional engineers are not permitted to release unsealed materials in violation of State statutes and regulations. Should this occur, the offending licensee would be subject to discipline by the Board.

Questions or comments can be addressed by contacting the Board at (860) 713-6145.



Anthony L. D'Andrea, Chairman
Board of Examiners for Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors

March 1, 2010