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September 17, 2009

Re: CE Regulations

State Registration Board for
Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors
And Geologists
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, Pa 17105-2649
E-mail: ST-ENGINEER@state.pa.us

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

I received my P.E. License in Pennsylvania in 1972 on a reciprocal basis having passed a NYS written P.E. exam. I registered in PA because my family settled in Philadelphia after immigrating to America in 1903-1905. My father was still alive at that time and he shared my joy in securing registration in PA. In actuality, I only did one job in Philadelphia some years ago, but I maintain my license.

New York started continuing education credits (cec) some years ago and at first I recoiled because I thought it was a great imposition on PE's especially considering that I have continued to pursue education upgrades on my own. As a structural engineer, I frequently took courses given by the Portland Cement Association, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) et. al. These courses were given gratis and we were supplied with manuals such as the Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook and other pertinent information. The classes were held in a convenient location and notifications were given in sufficient time to make arrangements to attend.

Now that NY has adopted cec, a cottage industry of companies providing courses for credit has sprung up. However, they charge in some cases exorbitant fees. You should consider this before you adopt continuing education regulations. In addition, since I am already registered in two other states and I take courses there, some sort of reciprocity should be considered. For example, on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, I attended a very excellent lecture presented by Mr. Kenneth Schmitt of Hohmann and Barnard, Inc. about proper methods of connecting masonry units to minimize moisture, movement and mold in buildings. It was an excellent interesting lecture with very practical and useful information and the best part was it was free. The topic is also useful in PA. I hope my experience in this matter is of some use to you.

Very truly yours,

HAROLD WEINBERG, P.E.