



GEORGIA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS BOARD

Professional Land Surveyors Statutory Scope of Civil Design

SB425 in the 2018 General Assembly clarified aspects of the legal authorization of certain Professional Land Surveyors to engage in the design of certain projects and facilities in Georgia. These Professional Land Surveyors are authorized under OCGA 43-15-13 and have a secondary license designation in their Licensure record of "Hydrology and design authorized." Professional Land Surveyors who are so authorized may engage in the following scope of services as defined in OCGA 43-15-2(6)(D) (ii through iv):

(D) The design, platting, and layout, incidental to subdivisions of any tract of land by a land surveyor, of:

(ii) Erosion and sediment control plans, including detention ponds, provided that no impoundment shall be designed on a live (perennial) stream; provided, further, that such detention ponds:

0) Contain no more than five acre-feet of water storage at maximum pool (top of dam) or are no more than ten feet in height for any storage pond;

(I) Are no more than six feet in height for a permanent (wet) storage pond; or

(II) Contain no more than three acre-feet of water storage at maximum pool (top of dam) if the height is more than ten feet but less than 13 feet for a dry storage pond;

(iii) Storm water management plans and facilities, including hydrologic studies and temporary sediment basins, provided that the contributing drainage area shall not be larger than 100 acres; and

(iv) Extension of existing water distribution piping and gravity sewers, eight inches in diameter or smaller, provided that off-site length shall not exceed 1,000 feet, the design and construction of which shall conform to the local government ordinances and regulations, and such extensions shall be subjected to the review and approval of a local government which has been delegated approval authority by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

All actively licensed Professional Land Surveyors (including those without the Hydrology and Design Authorization) may engage in the preparation of Grading plans and site plans (see OCGA 43-15-2(6)(D)(I) as well as preparation of Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plans as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements - provided that the surveyor holds the required Design Professional credential issued by Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) and that such plans do not include elements included in the scope of service above (unless the surveyor is also Hydrology and Design Authorized).

It is the intent of this letter to notify the general public and local officials of the extent and limitations of Professional Land Surveyors to engage in the practice of civil design services under Georgia Law. If you have any questions, please contact the Board office.