

NMPS Board Meeting – December 7, 2019  
NM Board of Licensure and Basis-of-Bearing  
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Without being punitive and looking for a responsible way to solve the problem, what steps can and should be taken by NMPS to eliminate the embarrassing requirements for basis of bearing in the NM Minimum Standards for Surveying?

The New Mexico State Board of Licensure (BOL) for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors adopted Minimum Standards for Surveying in New Mexico effective July 24, 2016. Section 12.8.2.9.J (6) contains the statement, “the basis of bearings used in the survey which shall be based upon: (a) New Mexico (NM) state plane coordinates with specifics to elevation, vertical datum, horizontal datum, zone, mapping angle, ground to grid factor used if using a modified ground system.” Without getting into a discussion of grammatical construction, the requirement (when using a modified system) to include elevation and vertical datum elements is irrelevant to basis of bearing.

That irrelevance was called to the attention of the BOL at the NMPS Annual Conference in March 2016.

The BOL seemed to ignore that information as the Minimum Standards were published with the offending wording in the July 24<sup>th</sup> Version of the Minimum Standards. In subsequent correspondence I expressed my opinion that I know of no competent surveyor who would vote to approve (or include) such wording in the Minimum Standards. I was accused of calling Board members incompetent. My answer is, “yes, in that regard, they acted in an incompetent manner.”

It was my aspiration that the NM BOL would take immediate steps to remove the offending wording. In my experience (being licensed since 1973 in 8 different states), we all make mistakes. But when problems arise (as they will and do) the process is to identify the issue(s) and work together to rectify the problem. That has not happened in this case. It seems that in the 3 plus years since the Minimum Standards were adopted that members of the BOL are more interested in proving their right to include bad information in the Minimum Standards than to promote good surveying practice – the beneficiaries being the surveying profession and the citizens of New Mexico.

So, which is the more serious failing (both individually and as members of the BOL) - violating Canon 3 of the Surveyor’s Creed & Canons by acting outside the area of professional competence and expertise or failing to protect the health, safety and welfare of New Mexico Citizens and refusing to correct a defect in the Minimum Standards? I believe that both deserve the attention of the NMPS and that NMPS should do what we can to affect corrective action by the NM BOL.

Repeating the question - without being punitive and looking for a responsible way to address both issues, what steps can and should be taken by NMPS to eliminate the embarrassing requirements for basis of bearing in the NM Minimum Standards for Surveying?

## SURVEYOR'S CREED AND CANONS

*As a Professional Surveyor, I dedicate my professional knowledge and skills to the advancement and betterment of human welfare.*

*I pledge:*

*To give the utmost of performance;*

*To participate in none but honest enterprise;*

*To live and work according to the laws of humankind and the highest standards of professional conduct;*

*To place service before profit, honor and standing of the profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations;*

*In humility and with need for Divine Guidance, I make this pledge.*

- Canon 1.** *A Professional Surveyor should refrain from conduct that is detrimental to the public.*
- Canon 2.** *A Professional Surveyor should abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to the practice of surveying within the licensing jurisdiction.*
- Canon 3.** *A Professional Surveyor should accept assignments only in one's area of professional competence and expertise.*
- Canon 4.** *A Professional Surveyor should develop and communicate a professional analysis and opinion without bias or personal interest.*
- Canon 5.** *A Professional Surveyor should maintain the confidential nature of the surveyor-client relationship.*
- Canon 6.** *A Professional Surveyor should use care to avoid advertising or solicitation that is misleading or otherwise contrary to the public interest.*
- Canon 7.** *A Professional Surveyor should maintain professional integrity when dealing with members of other professions.*



**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS**