



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

June 15, 2009

To whom it may concern:

The Connecticut 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 by Connecticut-registered land surveyors that various municipal agencies are seeking to require registered land surveyors 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 has not approved the use of digital or electronic signatures in lieu of these requirements, and current regulations do not permit their use.

The Board recognizes the potentially negative consequences of providing, without a mechanism for authentication, detailed land surveying information in transparently editable, digital formats. Because of this, vector CADD versions of official surveys shall not be released to unlicensed individuals, public agencies not under the supervision of licensed design professionals, or the general public at large.

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.)

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

This letter, concerning release of digital survey data by licensed land surveyors, is for immediate distribution to your GIS, Planning, Zoning, Building and Wetland agencies, and any other agencies that might rely on spatial data provided by land surveyors.

These statements were developed by the Connecticut 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 in accordance with State regulations. Again, it is the position of the Board that land surveyors 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.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony D'Andrea".

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