



Executive Committee Meeting

April 16, 2025 | 12:30 pm

Virtually via Microsoft Teams:

[Join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 255 722 719 944

Passcode: KZ9E9tX9

Dial in by phone

[+1 253-372-2181,,978963733#](#)

Phone conference ID: 978 963 733#

In person:

7122 W. Okanogan Place,

Building E, Room 303

Commissioners' Hearing

Room, 3rd floor

Kennewick, WA, 99336

Committee: Marjorie Lund, PE, SE, Board Chair
Doug Hendrickson, PE, Vice Chair
Dave Peden, PE, SE, Past Board Chair

Support staff: Ken Fuller, PE, Director
Kristina Horton, PLS, Deputy Director
Mackenzie Wherrett, Executive Assistant
Bryce Dickison, Administrative Assistant
Shanan Gillespie, Regulatory Program Manager
Ian Shelley, Senior Financial Consultant
Elizabeth Lagerberg, AAG

Discussion topics

- Financial Report (*Ian*)
- Legislative Update (*Ken*)
- Review Communications & Correspondence (*Ken*)
- Outreach Strategic Planning Discussion (*Greg*)
- Strategic Planning Items Discussion

Strategic Planning Items

- Remain engaged and informed on deregulation.
- Emphasis on outreach and education.
- Measure performance & gain stakeholder feedback that's relevant and useful for improving our agency.
- Measure the licensing system software functionality from stakeholders.
- Early engagement with professional organizations in rulemaking.

Previous Action Items

- Staff to work on a license review/report out document regarding all three of the professions the Board regulates and provide it to the Board at a future meeting. *Will be provided at future meeting when complete. No updates for this meeting.*



RE: Proposal for Consideration of a Professional Engineering Discipline in Broadband Infrastructure

From Fuller, Ken (BRPELS) <Ken.Fuller@brpels.wa.gov>

Date Fri 3/21/2025 10:36 AM

To Wherrett, Mackenzie (BRPELS) <Mackenzie.Wherrett@brpels.wa.gov>

Cc Engineers (BRPELS) <BRPELS.Engineers@brpels.wa.gov>; Horton, Kristina (BRPELS) <Kristina.Horton@brpels.wa.gov>

For the Board Information and discussion at the next meeting. I will reach out to Matt can gain more information.

Ken

From: Engineers (BRPELS) <BRPELS.Engineers@brpels.wa.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 10:05 AM

To: Fuller, Ken (BRPELS) <Ken.Fuller@brpels.wa.gov>; Horton, Kristina (BRPELS) <Kristina.Horton@brpels.wa.gov>

Subject: FW: Proposal for Consideration of a Professional Engineering Discipline in Broadband Infrastructure

For you

Vonna

From: Matt Wentz <mew@gowbe.com>

Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 3:53 AM

To: Engineers (BRPELS) <BRPELS.Engineers@brpels.wa.gov>

Subject: Proposal for Consideration of a Professional Engineering Discipline in Broadband Infrastructure

External Email

Dear Washington State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to respectfully request that the Board consider the need for a dedicated Professional Engineering (PE) designation in **Broadband Engineering**, encompassing **fiber optics**, **copper-based transmission**, and **wireless communication systems**.

As the **Vice President of Engineering for WBE Technologies** here in Washington State, I've witnessed firsthand the growing demand for licensed professionals in the broadband field—particularly as large-scale infrastructure projects become more complex and publicly funded. With over **13 years of global experience designing, installing, and troubleshooting fiber optic, copper, and wireless networks**, I've come to believe that the absence of a specialized PE credential in this domain presents both a gap in professional oversight and a missed opportunity to raise the standards of broadband system design and safety.

[Why a Broadband PE is Critically Needed](#)

- **Public Safety:** Modern broadband deployments deal with a wide array of risks—including AC/DC power systems, grounding and bonding, RF exposure, and laser transmission.

These systems, if improperly engineered, pose serious hazards to technicians, the public, and the infrastructure itself. A PE specializing in broadband would bring the same ethical and technical rigor we expect in other engineering disciplines.

- **Design Accountability:** As networks evolve, the integration of fiber, power systems, copper loops, wireless backhaul, and multi-vendor equipment requires sound engineering practices. Having a licensed engineer who is specifically trained and certified in these areas would ensure code compliance, performance optimization, and long-term reliability.
- **Technology Complexity:** My own background includes not only physical network design but also **systems and software engineering**—a necessary blend in today's broadband ecosystem. With a **Bachelor of Science in Sound Design Technology (focused in frequency and optics)** and a **Master of Science in Information Technology specializing in cybersecurity**, I've approached broadband from multiple dimensions, recognizing that the signal path, power envelope, and data layer are all part of a single, mission-critical system.
- **Standardization & Trust:** Across Washington and nationwide, local governments and funding agencies increasingly require PE-stamped plans for broadband builds, even though no dedicated credential exists to ensure those engineers are qualified specifically in broadband technology. This creates inconsistency and potential liability. A Broadband PE discipline would help formalize the expectations for safety, competency, and ethics in broadband infrastructure.

Suggested Scope for a Broadband PE Discipline

This new track could cover:

- **Fiber Optic Systems** (route design, splicing, loss budgeting, laser safety, grounding)
- **Copper Transmission** (AC circuit interaction, surge protection, legacy interfacing)
- **Wireless Networks** (RF exposure, tower design, signal propagation, interference mitigation)
- **Troubleshooting & Systems Integration** (OTDR, RF sweep, protocol analysis, testing tools)
- **Safety and Compliance** (OSHA, NEC, NESC, environmental and permitting concerns)
- **Digital and Analog Data Transmission and Reception** (Modulation, Quantum Physics, Theory)

With broadband now recognized as essential infrastructure—much like roads, water, and power—now is the time to ensure it is designed and implemented with the same care, professionalism, and accountability. I respectfully urge the Board to consider opening a discussion or initiating a working group to explore the creation of a **Broadband PE certification or endorsement**. I am desperately seeking this certificate for myself and would be honored to contribute to this effort. I would happily collaborate with industry professionals to quickly develop curriculum and exams at no cost.

Thank you for your continued commitment to engineering excellence in Washington State. I appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Matthew Wentz

Vice President Engineering Solutions

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WBE Technologies LLC

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RE: Topic Discussion for the Board - WA PE Seal

From Fuller, Ken (BRPELS) <Ken.Fuller@brpels.wa.gov>

Date Fri 3/28/2025 2:46 PM

To achavezknight@gmail.com <achavezknight@gmail.com>

Cc Horton, Kristina (BRPELS) <Kristina.Horton@brpels.wa.gov>; Wherrett, Mackenzie (BRPELS) <Mackenzie.Wherrett@brpels.wa.gov>

Asa,

We have received your email and note your desire to have the board review your request. We will transmit your email to the Board as a communication for their review and determination of how they would like to respond. The process of the Board may take a few months as any discussion with action will need to go thru a Board Committee and then to the entire Board.

In the interim you are welcome to attend the next Board meeting, April 17,2025 either virtually or in person, Link (<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbrpels.wa.gov%2Fboard%2Fboard-meetings&data=05%7C02%7CMackenzie.Wherrett%40brpels.wa.gov%7Cde64b1987d764e12b70908dd6e420910%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638787952088537182%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIiIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&data=BrbJgRX%2FKk6m0uNwKTfRjLdvuAkdMzKerPqQAj67HCM%3D&reserved=0>). If you wish you may provide a public comment during the open session. The agenda and details of the meeting will be published on the BRPELS website (link above) within the next week so please check back.

Thank you,

Ken

Ken Fuller, PE
Director

Washington State
Board of Registration for
Professional Engineers &
Land Surveyors

541.647.7265

ken.fuller@brpels.wa.gov

Notice: This email and your response may be considered a public record and may be subject to disclosure under Washington's Public Records Disclosure Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW.

From: Asa Chavez-Knight <achavezknight@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 2:35 PM
To: Engineers (BRPELS) <BRPELS.Engineers@brpels.wa.gov>
Subject: Topic Discussion for the Board - WA PE Seal

External Email

Hello,

As a new WA PE, it has come to my attention that the design of our stamp/seal includes George Washington. I believe there are a number of ethical and cultural reasons this should not longer be accepted.

I'd like to pose this as a topic of discussion for the Board at their next meeting. I'd like to be invited to listen in, if possible.

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I fully recognize and understand that this may be a larger state wide issue, but I am confident I am not the only one with this concern.

Thank you,
Asa Chavez-Knight