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### **Guidance on Permissible Use of Professional Titles by Retired Professional Engineers**

Retired professional engineers with no intention of returning to practice sometimes inquire into the permissibility of using professional titles.

Vermont law provides that “No person shall use in connection with the person's name any letters, words, or insignia, including ‘Professional Engineer,’ ‘P.E.,’ ‘PE,’ or ‘P.Eng.,’ indicating that the person is a professional engineer unless the person is licensed ...” 26 V.S.A. § 1162.

The Board considers that a retired engineer holding an inactive license from this Board lawfully may identify himself or herself as a Professional Engineer using terms or parenthetical indicators unambiguously indicating to listeners or readers his or her *past* licensure status. The act to avoid is “indicating” active licensure.

Examples of permissible, non-misleading use of titles are:

- In spoken communication, “Retired Engineer.”
- In written communication, use of parenthetical signals to clarify license status, e.g.:
  - John Doe, P.E. (ret.)
  - Jane Doe, P.E. (retired)
  - John Doe, P.E. (retired 2015)

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*This guidance is intended to clarify the obligations of former Board licensees who retired in good standing and ceased to hold active licenses. Any act of the General Assembly addressing the same question, or creating a retired-status license, whether compatible or incompatible with this guidance, shall nullify this document.*