
NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

Policy

Subsurface Utilities Location Data Policy				
NUMBER: BP-1012-01	REV. NO.: <u>1</u> (Revisions: Underlined or Struck-through)		ORIGINAL BOARD APPROVAL:	12/08/2010
			LATEST COMMITTEE REVIEW:	07/19/2019
BOARD APPROVED	11/13/2019			
CATEGORY(IES)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveying	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unlicensed	<input type="checkbox"/> Seal		
ORIGINATION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveying Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Determining the location data of Subsurface Utilities, and the reporting or mapping, falls within the definition of land surveying under G.S. 89C-3(7)(a) and must be performed by a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) or under the responsible charge of a PLS as defined in Board Rule 21-56.0701(c)(3). Any location data generated by delineators is only for the use of the PLS in performing a survey of the subsurface utilities and should be noted with a disclaimer to that effect. The preliminary subsurface utility map with a disclaimer by the delineator, that the location data is not to be relied upon for accuracy and is only for appropriate use by a PLS or PE, may be used by a PE for Preliminary Planning Purposes. If equipment other than survey grade accuracy equipment is used on the survey, a statement indicating the equipment, procedure, and position tolerances (21-56.1608) used for the work must be clearly stated on the plat or work product.

Specifically, it falls within the following paragraphs of G.S. 89C-3(7)(a):

2. Locating, relocating, establishing, or laying out the alignment or elevation of any of the fixed works embraced within the practice of professional engineering;
5. Determining the configuration or contour of the earth's surface or the position of fixed objects on the earth's surface by measuring lines and angles and applying the principles of mathematics or photogrammetry;
7. Creating, preparing, or modifying electronic or computerized data, including land information systems and geographic information systems relative to the performance of the practice of land surveying.

Designating the presence of a subsurface utility and marking its approximate horizontal position on the ground surface does not require a PLS. (Reference Source: ASCE Standard Guideline for Collection and Depiction of Existing Subsurface Utility Data.) ~~Physically finding and marking in the field the location of the utilities does not require a PLS.~~