

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Oral Interview for Initial Licensure of Steve Pilcher
March 7, 2018
3:30pm
Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
1755 East Plumb Lane, Suite 130
Reno, NV 89502
(775) 688-1231

Committee Chairman, Bob LaRiviere, called the meeting to order at 3:35pm at the Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors office, 1755 East Plumb Lane, Suite 130, Reno, Nevada 89502. Interview Committee members also included, Greg DeSart, PE, and Kent Anderson, PE. Also present was Patty Mamola, Executive Director and Sarah Wiley, Administrative Assistant, and Steve Pilcher, oral interview candidate for initial licensure.

1. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made as follows: Bob LaRiviere, PLS, member from the north and current board chair; Patty Mamola, executive director of the board; Greg DeSart, PE, board member from the south; Kent Anderson, PE, board member from the south; Steve Pilcher, oral interview candidate currently employed by NV Energy; and Sarah Wiley, administrative assistant.

3. Steven Pilcher oral interview, consideration for initial licensure as a Civil Engineer

Mr Anderson explained to Mr Pilcher that they had questions on his application and needed clarification. Regarding sales at Jensen; experience needs to be in engineering, not in sales, the committee would like an explanation of what the sales experience encompassed. Mr Pilcher stated he used his engineering knowledge to make sales. Mr Pilcher stated he educates his customer, who is the contractor or engineer developing the land, to sell them his stone water treatment unit. He explained that it is all engineering, but once he's done with the engineering, the goal is to sell a unit to make a profit for the company.

Mr Anderson asked Mr Pilcher what kind of engineering he does during that process. Mr Pilcher stated that he would start with the site plan to see where the location and how large the area was to calculate what the requirements were for removing certain contaminants. He explained that different counties and states had different requirements for contaminants to be removed and he would need to calculate which unit would be best to target certain contaminants whether they were heavy metals or trash and debris. He would size accordingly depending on the area of the storm water runoff, and then conduct tests to see which unit could handle a certain flow.

Mr DeSart asked Mr Pilcher to provide an example of what calculations are performed when he sells a unit. Mr Pilcher explained that one of the first units he sold was in South Lake Tahoe and he could not

remember the exact calculations and what was required. He said that they would have looked at the fifty year storm event, the storm water runoff flow, rainfall intensity, storm water area. Then tests would have been done for each size unit that could handle certain flow which they had calculated for the site.

Mr DeSart questioned Mr Pilcher on whether the site he worked on was a subdivision? Mr Pilcher stated it was a subdivision either residential or commercial.

Mr DeSart asked Mr Pilcher if there was a civil engineer that was doing the grading or hydrology plan for sites. Were they the ones who provided you with the flows? Mr Pilcher stated yes, he would communicate with the engineers as well as contractors.

Mr DeSart asked if the engineers would provide reports or provide numbers and you would cross reference that to your model number. Mr Pilcher stated yes, the engineers would provide spreadsheets and tables.

Mr LaRiviere asked if Jensen had licensed civil engineers on staff and if there was a site engineer providing the grading plan? Mr Pilcher stated that Jensen has licensed engineers on staff as well as engineers that were on the project.

Mr Anderson asked Mr Pilcher if his work with Nevada Power relates to civil engineering. Mr Pilcher stated that it is a lot different and is more electrical. He further explained that the position he is in now is to fill in some gaps and workload that was needed and it is geared more toward electrical operations, monitoring grid and seeing where outages are and responding to them. He receives requests for taking out a substation, however many banks are in them, to perform scheduled maintenance so we can go back and look at the historical amps during the peak times in Las Vegas to see if they could switch the load off or onto other circuits.

Mr LaRiviere asked Mr Pilcher if he is seeking a civil license or an electrical license? Mr Pilcher stated a civil license.

Mr DeSart asked Mr Pilcher what engineering calculations he is doing at Nevada Power. Mr Pilcher stated that he is not doing as much as he would like but he is still learning, there are certain tables and spreadsheets that they are using for basic PVI, but not as much as he would like.

Mr DeSart asked Mr Pilcher if he is working as a licensed engineer at Nevada Power and if it is as a civil or electrical engineer? Mr Pilcher stated he is working as an electrical engineer.

Mr DeSart asked Mr Pilcher when he graduated. Mr Pilcher stated he graduated in 2013.

Mr LaRiviere stated that Mr Pilcher has enough experience between Jensen and Nevada Power with approximately 4 ½ years between both firms. Mr DeSart said that the question is if the experience is relevant, whether it's engineering experience. Mr Pilcher said that the new position did not have as much as he would like, but it was a good opportunity at the time for a change and financially for his family. He went on to explain that there were a lot of changes that were not known at the time of taking the position. He stated that he believes obtaining his PE license right now would allow him to be more valuable for other positions within the company that he would like to pursue. Being in operations is fun,

responding to outages and knowing that you are the person able to take care of a large outage is rewarding, but he does miss the more hands on design and engineering that he did while at Jensen.

Mr DeSart asked Mr Pilcher if he will have more opportunities to do engineering with Nevada Power before he attains his PE. Mr Pilcher stated yes, also, someone with a PE is more valuable to get those positions with the company versus other people applying.

Mr DeSart asked Mr Pilcher if he understood the concern, because once you're a PE you are the engineer in responsible charge, it's not the time to start learning how to do engineering after being licensed. Mr Pilcher stated that yes he understood the concern. Mr DeSart further explained that all engineers continue learning throughout their career, but that you must have relevant experience to be in actual responsible charge. Mr Pilcher agreed.

Mr Anderson asked Mr Pilcher if he would be comfortable taking the position of engineer in charge if granted a PE license, since part of the responsibility of the PE is not only that they oversee the project, but the welfare of the public and your whole career depends upon working in your area of expertise. Mr Pilcher stated yes, he would.

Mr DeSart asked Mr Pilcher if there are civil engineers he could work under. Mr Pilcher stated he is not sure of any licensed civil engineers, but there are two or three that he currently works under in the same department currently.

Mr LaRiviere stated that there would not be a decision made at this meeting. The committee could only make a recommendation today and that recommendation would be made to the board tomorrow. Mr Pilcher could attend tomorrow's board meeting, or check with staff after the board meeting if he would like to know the board's decision.

4. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

5. Adjourn

Mr LaRiviere adjourned the meeting at 3:48pm.