# Texas Board of Professional Engineers
## Policy Advisory Regarding Engineering Aspects of Public Works Facilities Assessments

June 18, 2009

**Background**: This policy advisory request is based on the submitter's review of several Requests for Proposals (RFPs) that included the requirement of cost data on engineering services that were associated with public works projects. The examples submitted had key phrases such as "assessment shall capture... structural, mechanical and electrical conditions..." and "estimate repairs... major structural, major mechanical, etc." The Texas Board of Professional Engineers (Board) agrees that these example activities are considered engineering.

**Research**: A simple internet search of the phrase "facility assessment" revealed a large variety of consultants and completed assessment projects. Projects varied widely in scope and included everything from information technology projects (internet and phone capability), public usability (does facility perform intended function) to full engineering assessments of structural, mechanical and electrical systems. Consultants included urban planning firms, engineering firms, and public research and demographics firms. Given the wide variety of projects, both engineering and non-engineering, possible under the "facilities assessment" title, it will be necessary to consider each facility assessment project individually for engineering components that would require qualification based consultant selection.

**Engineering Aspects**: Facility assessment projects that include any component of engineering and are public works projects must be procured with a qualification based selection process as prescribed in Section 2254.004 of the Texas Government Code. Engineering services include but are not limited to:

1) Engineering assessment of the structural integrity or soundness of a building or other structure.
2) Engineering assessment of the structural integrity of a building foundation and underlying supporting soil.
3) Engineering assessment of building mechanical and electrical systems.
4) Engineering assessment of building roof internal drain systems.

Examples of assessments that would not require the services of a professional engineer include:

1) Assessment of historical significance of structure or facility.
2) Assessment of building or property's highest and best use.
3) Assessment of information technology systems in building (telephone and/or internet capacity).