

REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTERING THE PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING & GEOSCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONS

September, 1997

Introduction

The Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland & Labrador (PEG-NL) regulates the engineering and geoscience professions in this province. PEG-NL is given this responsibility by the Engineers and Geoscientists Act (Act). Similar to legislation for other professions, the primary purpose of the Act is the protection of the public interest, in particular as that interest relates to public safety, health and welfare. The Act specifies registration requirements for individuals and organizations who practice engineering or geoscience in Newfoundland and Labrador.

PEG-NL believes that organizations practicing engineering or geoscience or employing professional engineers and geoscientists genuinely wish to conduct their operations with the highest regard for the safety, health and welfare of both their employees and the general public. These *Requirements and Guidelines* were developed in a spirit of helping such organizations to organize and administer the practice of engineering and geoscience in the most effective way. That is to meet the needs of these organizations and their employee engineers and geoscientists, as well as responding to the interests of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador in accordance with the Act.

Each professional engineer or geoscientist must take personal responsibility for work done by him/her or for work done under his/her supervision in compliance with the Act.

Requirements & Guidelines

1. All persons practicing engineering and geoscience as defined under the Act are required to be registered with PEG-NL as a licensed professional. In all cases, this includes those practicing within the province. In other cases it means those living outside the province but practicing engineering and geoscience for application within this province.
2. All persons in this province who use the titles "P. Eng." or "P. Geo.", or put themselves forward as engineers or geoscientists, or who have a title that denotes them as an engineer or a geoscientist, or who are responsible for engineering or geoscience decisions, are required to be a professional licensed by PEG-NL.
3. Documentation of engineering and geoscience decisions must be signed by a professional licensed with PEG-NL. Items such as drawings, reports and memos indicating such decisions must be signed by the professional(s) taking professional responsibility for the work.
4. When engineering or geoscience work is being performed, those professionals closest to the work are usually in the best position to accept responsibility for the work. In some cases this means the person actually doing the work; in some cases

it means that person's supervisor. In other cases, it can mean a professional who may be somewhat removed from doing detailed work, but who makes decisions regarding the integration of various components of engineering or geoscience work

5. Those who supervise or manage engineering and geoscience professionals are not always licensed professional engineers or geoscientists themselves. In these cases, it is important that these managers or supervisors do not themselves make engineering or geoscience decisions, or otherwise "practice" these professions. It is essential that these managers or supervisors understand the types of engineering and geoscience decisions that professional engineers and geoscientists reporting to them make and the professional responsibility attached to that work and to those decisions. The first responsibility of such a professional is for the safety and welfare of the public and this should also be a primary concern of the organization and its management team.
6. The ongoing professional development of engineers and geoscientists is an important aspect of the continuing and increasing worth of the professionals to the organization for which they work and to society. It is recommended that an organization take an active role in the continuing professional development of engineers or geoscientists in their employ.
7. An important element of maintaining an atmosphere of professionalism within an organization is the leadership in these matters shown by senior engineers and geoscientists in the organization. Among the things that such leaders can do to enhance professionalism within their organization, include;

- Encourage and support participation in professional associations, such as PEG-NL; and in technical associations, such as;
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE);
- Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE);
- Geological Association of Canada (GAC);
- And many others.
- highlight professional development activities to their professional staff and encourage participation.
- Insist on professional registration for all practicing engineers and geoscientists, those using the titles P. Eng. or P. Geo., and those putting themselves forward as engineers and geoscientists, and encourage registration in all other cases.

8. Many engineering and geoscience activities are undertaken jointly by a number of organizations, through the use of consultants, joint ventures or other organizational forms. It is important to recognize the various professional responsibilities that each firm and each professional engineer or geoscientist undertakes within each firm. Division of responsibilities between firms and individuals should not impede the quality of engineering or geoscience decisions that are being made. Such organizations must be especially cognizant that professional responsibility is properly allocated and assumed.