

Licensing and registration system by professional bodies normally serve two purposes:

- 1 The setting of standards for entry to the practice of the professions; and,
- 2 The development of guidelines or standards for maintaining currency and enhancement of knowledge and expertise of an individual's practice, generally known as continuing professional development standards.

While recognizing the role of the professional body in the development of standards for continuing professional development, it is also recognized that a person's professional development is closely tied to his/her individual interests and aspirations. As such, to be effective, the guiding principles of these programs must incorporate sufficient flexibility for a self-directed approach to learning which supports individuals in their current job and their long-term career objectives. The PEG policy on professional development is designed to embrace these concepts and to fulfil the requirements of the Regulations which state that:

1. A professional member, licensee or member in training shall comply with the requirements of PEG's professional development program guidelines established by the Council.
2. The Registrar shall cancel the registration of a professional member, licensee or member-in-training who fails to comply with subsection (1).
3. Notwithstanding subsection (1) and (2), the Council may, in PEG's professional development program guidelines, establish circumstances under which a professional member, licensee or member-in-training would be exempt from the requirements of those guidelines or a provision of those guidelines.

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The competent practice of Engineering and Geoscience includes continuing education and professional development. This is interpreted to mean:

- 1 Continuing professional development will apply to all members who are deemed to be practicing engineering or geoscience including those who are managing or impacting the practice of engineering or geoscience.
- 2 Continuing professional development will apply to all members who are not practicing but wish to maintain the right to practice.
- 3 Acceptable professional development activities are defined as activities which relate to the practice of engineering and geoscience.

#### **PRACTICING AND NON-PRACTICING STATUS**

At the time of admission to the professions, all professional members were engaged in the practice of either engineering or geoscience. However, as careers evolve some professional members cease to practice engineering or geoscience and take on other duties. Under the traditions established by PEG and all other professional engineering and geoscience licensing bodies in Canada, such persons continue to be eligible as professional members of their respective associations. For the purpose of the Professional Development Program, a distinction is drawn between those members who practice engineering and geoscience and those who do not.

#### **PRACTICING MEMBERS**

A practicing professional member can be identified as a Professional Engineer or Professional Geoscientist who is engaged in work which includes engineering and geoscience, either directly or indirectly. Engineering and geoscience work is performed indirectly by supervision of others who perform such duties or through engineering and geoscience management.

A test on whether the work of the member is considered to be the practice of engineering or geoscience would be confirmed by determining whether the duties performed by the member meet the definition of acceptable experience required for licensure by the PEG Board of Examiners.

In general, engineering work includes the application of engineering theory through analysis, design, testing methods and implementation methods. This would also include the teaching of engineering, the development of codes and standards, or advising on the preparation of legislation and regulations which have impact on the practice of professional engineering. Engineering management is also considered the practice. This includes supervision of other engineers, project management and the management of technology.

Similarly, geoscience work includes the application of geoscience theory through the design and implementation of geoscientific programs, compilation and processing of data, assessment and interpretation of geoscientific data, and the preparation of technical reports. This also includes the teaching of geoscience, the development of codes and standards, and advising on the preparation of legislation and regulations which have impact on the practice of professional geoscience. Geoscience management is also considered the practice. This would include supervision of other geoscientists and project leadership.

### **NON-PRACTICING MEMBERS**

Those members whose work does not qualify as the practice of engineering and geoscience as referenced above are considered to be non-practicing members.

It is recommended that members who are currently non-practicing but expect to resume practice in the future comply with the Professional Development Guideline. This will facilitate the immediate and direct access to practice at any time upon declaration to PEG. Non-practicing members who do not comply with the program guidelines will be subject to conditions set by the Board of Examiners in order to resume practice.

Should a non-practicing member wish to maintain practicing rights, there are additional requirements which provide a greater emphasis on “technical” activities. Refer to *PEG’s Professional Development Program Guideline* for details.

### **APPLYING FOR NON-PRACTICING STATUS**

All members of PEG must complete a Professional Development Member Profile Form. This form should be revised and resubmitted by the member as often as there is a material change in the content or at minimum every three years. Within this form, the member must declare their status as practicing or non-practicing. Confirmation of member status by PEG will be based on the duties described on this form. Initial confirmation of practicing or non-practicing status will be provided to the member by the Registrar in consultation with the Professional Development Committee. An appeal of the decision of the Registrar will be addressed by the Board of Examiners.

### **OTHER EXEMPTIONS**

Exemptions will be available for members who are retired, on maternity leave, long-term leave or in the case of illness. For the period of the exemption, a member’s participation in the program is

suspended. The normal 3 year cycle period is resumed after the exemption period ends.

Any members whose exemption from the Professional Development Program has been granted by PEG will maintain the right to use their professional designation(s) but not the right to practice during the exemption period.

**POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

The procedures and requirements for compliance with this Policy are outlined in a booklet entitled *PEG's Professional Development Guideline*. This Guideline applies to all practicing members and non-practicing members who wish to retain the right to resume their practice without being subject to examination or review.

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Effective January 2005