Structural Engineering as a Distinct Discipline for PEGNL Permit to Practice Purposes - FAQs

1. Structural Engineering is part of the Civil Engineering Program. Why does PEGNL want to separate it?

The separation is only for the purpose of issuing PEGNL permits to practice to firms and individuals who offer engineering services directly to the public. Stemming from some structural failures and PEGNL discipline cases in recent years, the need has been identified to give special consideration to the licensing of firms to practice structural engineering. While accredited civil engineering programs in Canada include the necessary structural curriculum, a member must also acquire experience specifically in the structural field to the satisfaction of PEGNL’s Registration Committee. A civil engineering degree combined with general civil experience will not be sufficient to become licensed to practice structural engineering.

2. I have a permit to practice in civil engineering but I also practice structural. What do I need to do?

If your permit to practice is listed as Civil (Structural) no action on your part is required at this time.

If your permit to practice is listed as Civil without the Structural endorsement, and if you wish to continue to practice structural engineering, you need to apply immediately for a permit to practice structural engineering. The form is located on the PEGNL website under Application Forms and is also available through the following link:

Adding a Discipline or Member in Responsible Charge to a Permit

3. Am I able to continue to practice structural engineering while my application is being processed?

If PEGNL has received your completed application by June 1st, 2015 you will be permitted to carry on your normal practice until your new application has been processed. The number of new applications that will result from this change is unknown but we expect substantially more than our Registration Committee normally handles, therefore processing times may increase.

4. Almost all of my practice is in the civil discipline but sometimes I do a very small amount of structural in association with the civil work. Do I need a Permit to Practice Structural Engineering?

You must apply for a Structural Permit clearly setting out the type of structural work that you do and describing in detail your professional experience in that regard. The Registration Committee will review your application and may decide:

- the structural work you do is deemed to be ancillary to your civil work and therefore no permit for the structural discipline is required
- the nature of the structural work you do warrants a permit and your professional experience qualifies you to practice structural engineering (permit to practice structural engineering granted)
• the nature of the structural work you do warrants a permit but your professional experience does not qualify you to practice structural engineering (permit to practice structural engineering denied)
• other findings as decided by the Committee

5. When will the PEGNL website list the disciplines for which a Permit to Practice is valid?

This will depend upon the number of applications received by June 1st, 2015. The Registration Committee will process these applications as quickly as possible and once those applications received by June 1st have been processed, the PEGNL permit to practice website will be populated with the applicable permits for each discipline.

6. What if I apply after June 1st?

Applications received by June 1st will be given priority and when those have been completed, later applications will be processed. The PEGNL website will be updated to show the disciplines for which each permit holder is licensed to practise once the permits received by June 1st have been processed. Therefore, your record on the website will not show you as being licensed to practice structural until your application has been reviewed.

7. Will my permit cost increase if I add the structural discipline?

Fees for PEGNL permits are dependent on the number of disciplines for which licensure is granted. The annual fees are shown below. If you are currently licensed to practice civil engineering only and the structural discipline is added to your permit, your new fee will be $764. If however, you are practicing structural but not civil and you remove the civil discipline from your permit, your fee will remain at $564. PEGNL has waived the fee for the extra discipline in 2015 so any increase will apply to 2016 and beyond.

• One discipline - $564
• Two disciplines - $764
• Three or more disciplines - $1,031

8. Do I have to pay the $220 Application Fee?

Not if you apply in 2015. PEGNL is waiving the application fee for all current civil permit holders who apply in 2015 for a permit to practice structural engineering.

9. I have a Civil Permit to Practice with the Structural endorsement. Will my permit cost increase?

Please refer to question 7 above. In 2016 and beyond you will pay fees on the basis of two disciplines if you maintain practices in both the Civil and Structural disciplines.
10. Is a permit to practice structural engineering required in any other province in Canada?

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act* requires that PEGNL license Permit Holders by discipline. The legislations in other provinces however, do not require this.

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) however, has special requirements for licensing the practice of structural engineering which have been implemented as a result of some structural design deficiencies which occurred in B.C. in the recent past.

Also, arising from the recent Elliott Lake Commission in Ontario there was a recommendation “mandating that a Structural Adequacy Report of existing buildings be prepared and sealed by professional engineers who are certified as structural engineering specialists” by Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO). PEO has accepted this recommendation so it is likely that such certification will be implemented there in the near future.