ENGINEERS & GEOSCIENTISTS BRITISH COLUMBIA

REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GUIDANCE DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

Engineers and Geoscientists BC is responsible for establishing, monitoring, and enforcing the standards of practice, conduct, and competence for engineering and geoscience professionals. One way that Engineers and Geoscientists BC exercises these responsibilities is by publishing and enforcing the use of professional practice guidelines, as per Section 7.3.1 of the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Bylaws.

Depending on the scope and nature of the topic, written guidance can take two forms:

- Professional Practice Guidelines: These are larger in scope, take longer to prepare and follow a template which outlines a comprehensive approach to addressing professional practice concerns in the area of practice for which the guidance is prepared. Guideline development typically takes between 1 and 2 years.
- Practice Advisories: These are shorter documents focused on an issue that is time-sensitive or smaller in scope, and which does not warrant an entire practice guideline at the time of preparation. Advisory development typically takes less than 1 year.

Continuing education offerings are another option to consider when it is not the standard of practice that is unclear, but rather the education and communication around that standard.

ROLE OF GUIDANCE BY ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS BC

It is important to understand the difference between professional practice guidance and other types of guidance such as technical guidance and legislative compliance. Codes and standards typically set out technical requirements while demand-side legislation outlines how compliance is met within certain jurisdictional parameters. Professional practice guidance is not meant to either replace or expand upon technical guidance regarding how professionals undertake their work, but instead is there to outline what professionals need to consider when undertaking their professional work.

REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE

Requests for professional practice guidance go through a risk-based assessment, which includes consultation with volunteer advisory groups, to determine which topics are to be prioritized. In order to assist Engineers and Geoscientists BC appropriately consider a request, please fill out the following:

INFORMATION OF REQUESTOR

Name:

Role:

Contact information:

Reason for submitting request:

Timeframe within which requested guidance is needed:

INFORMATION REGARDING REQUEST

Is there an existing professional practice guideline or advisory on this topic?

- If yes – go to A
- If no – go to B

A. <u>Yes</u>

1. What is the name of the existing document?
2. Were you involved in the preparation of any previous versions of this document? If so in what capacity?

3. What are the issues you see with the current document? Please discuss either changes to legislation, changes to the standard of practice, or errors within the guidance.

4. Are you interested in assisting with a revision to the document if one is initiated?

5. Do you have subject matter experts you would suggest be involved?

B. <u>No</u>

1. Regarding the professional practice topic being requested, please fill out the following:
    a. Purpose of the guidance:
    b. Scope:
    c. Target audience:

2. What are the professional practice issues within this area of practice? Please be as specific as possible.

3. How broadly are these issues being encountered? For example, provide the number of applications/year, incidents/year, number of individuals/firms that carry out this work, geographic considerations, or any information you can share.

4. Are you aware of incidents of near-misses or failures within this area of practice of BC?

5. Is there legislation associated with this area of practice?

    a. What is the legislation? Does it reference the involvement of engineers/geoscientists specifically?

    b. Did this legislation recently change?

6. Are there other guidance or industry standard of practice documents available (e.g. industry guidance, regulatory bulletins, manuals, codes, standards, etc.) that you are aware of? Does the guidance provide a good overview of professional practice considerations?

7. Are there relevant parties that should be consulted with or involved in the development of this guidance? For example, industry associations, provincial ministries, municipalities, and so on.

8. In your opinion, what is the risk to public safety or the environment if guidance is not published in this area of practice?

9. Are you interested in assisting with development of a guidance document, should that be initiated? Do you have other subject matter experts you would suggest be involved?

10. Are you aware of any sources of funding for this document?