

# IN THE MATTER OF THE *PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE ACT* S.B.C. 2018, CHAPTER 47

### AND

# IN THE MATTER OF SCOTT RILEY WILSON, P.ENG.

# ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS BC FILES T22-016 AND T23-001

## CONSENT ORDER

### Background

- On March 28, 2024, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia, doing business as Engineers and Geoscientists BC, issued two Citations against Scott Riley Wilson, P.Eng., pursuant to section 66(1) of the *Professional Governance Act*, S.B.C. 2018, c. 47 (the "*PGA*").
- 2. The first Citation for file T22-016 set out allegations regarding Mr. Wilson's engineering work for projects located in the District of Lillooet (the "First Citation").
- 3. The second Citation for file T23-001 set out allegations regarding Mr. Wilson's engineering work concerning the inspection and assurance of two bridges as safe for industrial use (the "Second Citation").
- 4. Engineers and Geoscientists BC and Mr. Wilson now wish to resolve these matters by consent pursuant to section 73(2) of the *PGA* in order to avoid the need for a disciplinary hearing.

### Legislation

5. The conduct at issue in the Second Citation took place at a time when the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 116 (the "*EGA*") was in force.

The *EGA* was repealed and replaced by the *PGA* on February 5, 2021. As a result, Engineers and Geoscientists BC considered Mr. Wilson's conduct at issue in the Second Citation pursuant to sections 30(9)(b) and 30(9)(c) of the *EGA* and the Bylaws and Code of Ethics under the *EGA*.

- 6. Pursuant to sections 35(2) and 36(1)(c) of the *Interpretation Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 238, investigations commenced under the *EGA* carry on procedurally under the *PGA*.
- 7. The conduct at issue in the First Citation took place when the PGA was in force.

### Admissions

# T22-016 – The First Citation

- 8. Mr. Wilson admits that he demonstrated professional misconduct contrary to the *PGA* with respect to:
  - a. a retaining wall at by:
    - i. failing to document all the field reviews conducted by him or by employees or delegates under his supervision;
    - ii. failing to document a change in the design for the retaining wall;
    - iii. failing to provide design drawings with sufficient and consistent detail regarding the construction of the retaining wall; and
    - iv. failing to provide sufficient detail or articulate his methodology in the documents he prepared, including in a July 6, 2021 memorandum, in which he stated only that the "retaining wall is constructed per design" and the "retaining wall is complete and structurally safe," without any substantiation or analysis; and
  - b. a retaining wall at by:
    - i. failing to document all of his inspections of the site;
    - ii. failing to provide sufficient detail or articulate his methodology in documents he prepared, including in a technical memorandum dated November 4, 2021, in which he concluded that the "[r]etaining wall as constructed is considered structurally safe and adequate for intended use" without further analysis or discussion of his methodology; and
    - iii. including in a memorandum dated March 29, 2021, two pages of design drawings that did not relate to the retaining wall in question; and

- c. the geotechnical services he provided for a rezoning application at by failing to provide sufficient detail or articulate his methodology in his geotechnical hazard assessments dated May 13, 2021, and August 20, 2021.
- 9. The conduct set out at paragraph 8 is contrary to the Code of Ethics, in particular:
  - a. Principle 1, which requires that registrants hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public, the protection of the environment, and promote health and safety within the workplace;
  - b. Principle 4, which requires that registrants have regard for applicable standards, policies, plans, and practices established by the government or Engineers and Geoscientists BC; and
  - c. Principle 12, which requires that registrants undertake work and documentation with due diligence and in accordance with any guidance developed to standardize professional documentation for the applicable profession.

### T23-001 – The Second Citation

- 10. Mr. Wilson admits to the allegations set out in the Second Citation, namely that in connection with his inspections and assurances, by completing a Crossing Assurance Statement ("CAS"), of two forest service road bridges with serial numbers R2461 ("Bridge 1") and R1-916-83887 ("Bridge 2"), used for the purpose of accessing a logging operation, he demonstrated unprofessional conduct contrary to the *EGA* by:
  - a. failing to observe or document that:
    - i. neither bridge was fully bearing on, nor secured, to the log sills;
    - ii. both bridges' bearing plates were not centred, and the sill logs were not sawn flat; and
    - iii. on Bridge 2, the lower angle bracing at the abutment was damaged; and

(together, the "Undocumented Deficiencies")

- b. failing to require that the Undocumented Deficiencies and the following issues be addressed prior to assuring both bridges as safe for use:
  - i. Bridge 1 was missing a section of guard rail;
  - ii. there were unsecured panels on both bridges; and

iii. there were missing delineators, bridge signs, and log fenders on both bridges; and

(together, the "Deficiencies")

- c. preparing the CAS for both bridges despite the Undocumented Deficiencies and the Deficiencies, and including the following misrepresentations by declaring that he:
  - i. conducted field reviews of both bridges during construction, when he was not retained to inspect the bridges at the time of construction; and
  - ii. prepared as-built/record drawings for both bridges and that he had prepared a General Arrangement Design, when he had not; and
- d. relying on unauthenticated design drawings that appeared to be for bridges at a different location with a different design, when he knew or ought to have known that they were not accurate.
- 11. The conduct described at paragraphs 10(a) and (b) is contrary to section 14(b)(3) of the Bylaws, as it stood at the time, which required all members and licensees to establish and maintain documented quality management processes for their practices, including documented field reviews.
- 12. The conduct set out at paragraph 10 is contrary to the Code of Ethics, as it stood at the time, in particular:
  - a. Principle 1, which required that members and licensees hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public, the protection of the environment, and promote health and safety within the workplace;
  - b. Principle 2, which required that members and licensees undertake and accept responsibility for professional assignments only when qualified by training or experience; and
  - c. Principle 3, which required that members and licensees provide an opinion on a professional subject only when it is founded upon adequate knowledge and honest conviction.

### Disposition

- 13. By consent, this Consent Order is made pursuant to section 73 of the PGA.
- 14. Mr. Wilson's registration in Engineers and Geoscientists BC is suspended for a period of eight months commencing on October 30, 2024 (the "Suspension Period").

- 15. Prior to the end of the Suspension Period, Mr. Wilson must provide written notice to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has completed, at his own expense, the Professional Engineering and Geoscience Practice in BC Online Seminar.
- 16. Prior to the end of the Suspension Period, Mr. Wilson must provide written notice to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has completed, at his own expense, the following educational courses provided by Engineers and Geoscientists BC:
  - a. Documented Field Reviews During Implementation and Construction, published on October 20, 2021;
  - b. Retaining Project Documentation, published on December 7, 2021; and
  - c. New Load Limits for BC Forest Bridges, published on November 18, 2020.
- 17. Prior to the completion of the Suspension Period, Mr. Wilson will:
  - a. provide written notice to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has successfully completed the *Geotechnical Site Investigation and* Instrumentation course provided by EPIC Training, at his own expense, or obtain prior written approval from Engineers and Geoscientists BC to take an equivalent course; and
  - b. provide a declaration to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has read and is familiar with the following Engineers and Geoscientists BC Guidelines:
    - i. the Professional Practice Guidelines: Retaining Wall Design, Version 1.1, published on February 25, 2020;
    - ii. Quality Management Guides: Guide to the Standard for the Authentication of Documents, Version 4.0, published on June 15, 2023; and
    - iii. Quality Management Guides: Guide to the Standard for Documented Field Reviews During Implementation or Construction, Version 3.0, published on June 15, 2023.
- 18. Twelve months after the completion of the Suspension Period, Mr. Wilson will undergo a Practice Review conducted by Engineers and Geoscientists BC (the "Practice Review"), at his own expense. The precise timing and process of the Practice Review will be determined by the Audit and Practice Review Committee.
- 19. Effective immediately, Mr. Wilson agrees that he will be restricted from practising in any area involving the design, installation, or certification of forest crossings, or acting as the Coordinating Registered Professional or the Professional of Record as defined in the *Professional Practice Guidelines: Professional Services*

*in the Forest Sector – Crossings.* Version 3.0, published on December 15, 2021 (the "Practice Restriction").

- 20. If Mr. Wilson wishes to lift or modify the Practice Restriction set out in paragraph 19, he must:
  - a. provide a declaration to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has read and is familiar with the *Professional Practice Guidelines: Professional Services in the Forest Sector – Crossings*, Version 3.0, published on December 15, 2021; and
  - b. provide written notice to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has successfully completed the following educational courses offered by Engineers and Geoscientists BC:
    - i. Joint Guidelines: Professional Services in the Forest Sector Crossings, Version 3;
    - ii. New Load Limits for BC Forest Bridges; and
    - iii. Professional Roles and Responsibilities for the Life Cycle of Forest Road Crossings.
- 21. If Mr. Wilson successfully lifts the Practice Restriction set out in paragraph 19 by completing the requirements set out in paragraph 20, all of his work related to the Practice Restriction must be subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Mr. Wilson will be supervised by a professional engineer who is a registrant of Engineers and Geoscientists BC (the "Supervising Professional"), and who is approved in writing and in advance by the Registrar of Engineers and Geoscientists BC. The Supervising Professional must provide "direct supervision" as that term is defined in the *Quality Management Guides Guide to the Standard for Direct Supervision* (Version 2.0 February 17, 2021) (the "Direct Supervision").
  - b. The Direct Supervision will continue for a period of twelve months or ten projects related to the Practice Restriction, whichever comes later.
  - c. The Supervising Professional must provide to Engineers and Geoscientists BC a written report regarding Mr. Wilson's performance every two months during the period of Direct Supervision.
  - d. At the conclusion of the period of Direct Supervision set out in paragraph 21(b), the Supervising Professional must provide to Engineers and Geoscientists BC a written report regarding Mr. Wilson's performance and an opinion regarding whether Mr. Wilson requires a further period of direct supervision.

- e. If the Supervising Professional is of the opinion that Mr. Wilson requires further direct supervision, the Direct Supervision will continue for an additional period of six months (the "Extended Direct Supervision").
- f. At the conclusion of the Extended Direct Supervision set out in paragraph 21(e), the Supervising Professional must provide a written report regarding Mr. Wilson's performance.
- g. The costs of the Supervising Professional providing the Direct Supervision and the Extended Direct Supervision, if applicable, and preparing the reports referenced above, will be borne by Mr. Wilson.
- 22. Mr. Wilson will pay \$23,650 to Engineers and Geoscientists BC contemporaneous with the execution of this Consent Order towards the legal and investigative costs incurred in this matter.
- 23. In the event that Mr. Wilson fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, his registration with Engineers and Geoscientists BC will be suspended until every default has been remedied in accordance with this Consent Order.

## **Consequences of the Consent Order**

- 24. The full text of this Consent Order will be published on the website of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, and a summary will be published in print and electronic publications, including in public communications.
- 25. This Consent Order has the same force and effect as an Order made under section 75 of the *PGA*.
- 26. Mr. Wilson has received independent legal advice regarding the content of this Consent Order.

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27. Mr. Wilson and Engineers and Geoscientists BC agree that this Consent Order may be executed in counterparts and delivered as an electronic document.

This Consent Order is approved and accepted by Mr. Wilson and the members of the Discipline Resolution Panel of Engineers and Geoscientists BC this <u>23</u> day of October 2024.

<original signed by>

Scott Riley Wilson, P.Eng.

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Print Name of Witness

<original signed by>

Signature of Witness

<original signed by>

Derek Cooper, P.Eng. Member, Discipline Resolution Panel

<original signed by>

Emily Cheung, P.Eng., FEC Member, Discipline Resolution Panel

<original signed by>

Gerald Matier Member, Discipline Resolution Panel