
OVERVIEW AND FAQ OF NON-PRACTISING STATUS

VERSION 2.0

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ENGINEERS &
GEOSCIENTISTS
BRITISH COLUMBIA

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide guidance for Registrants of Engineers and Geoscientists BC who either elect to move to non-practising status or have non-practising life membership granted under Engineers and Geoscientists BC's prior bylaws.

This document is for guidance only and cannot apply in every circumstance. This document does not alter any obligations under the *Professional Governance Act*, S.B.C. 2018, c.47 (the "Act") or Engineers and Geoscientists BC's bylaws (the "Bylaws"). In the case of any conflict between this document and the Act or the Bylaws, the Act or the Bylaws take precedence.

NON-PRACTISING STATUS OR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Non-practising status gives Registrants of Engineers and Geoscientists BC who are not currently practising engineering or geoscience the option of maintaining a form of registration. Non-practising status allows Registrants to continue using the designations "P.Eng.", "P.Geo.", "P.L.Eng.", or "P.L.Geo." in a restricted manner, as explained below. Non-practising status also provides Registrants with other ongoing rights, such as the right to vote and the ability to participate in committees and advisory groups. **Non-practising Registrants must not engage in Reserved Practice. Non-practising Registrants have no greater right to engage in the Reserved Practice of professional engineering or geoscience than a member of the general public who is not a Registrant of Engineers and Geoscientists BC.**

AN EXPLANATION OF NON-PRACTISING STATUS

Following is a summary of acceptable and unacceptable activities for those with non-practising status:

CATEGORY	NON-PRACTISING REGISTRANTS CAN:	NON-PRACTISING REGISTRANTS CAN'T:
WORK	<p>Perform work that does not constitute the Reserved Practice of professional engineering or professional geoscience.</p> <p>Engage in Reserved Practice under direct supervision. See Engineers and Geoscientists BC's <i>Quality Management Guides- Direct Supervision</i>.</p> <p>Engage in a purely business role in an engineering or geoscience firm without providing technical feedback or guidance.</p>	<p>Perform work that constitutes the Reserved Practice of professional engineering or professional geoscience, this includes work done on an internal basis for the non-practising registrant's employer.</p> <p>Engage in a technical role in an engineering or geoscience firm providing technical feedback or guidance, including providing technical feedback or guidance solely on an internal basis.</p> <p>Use their manual or digital seal in any manner, or any copy, illustration, or imitation.</p>
ACT AS WITNESS	<p>Act as a factual witness in a court proceeding or administrative tribunal (i.e., testifying as to your knowledge of certain facts or events)</p>	<p>Act as an expert witness in a court proceeding or administrative tribunal concerning engineering or geoscience principles</p>

CATEGORY	NON-PRACTISING REGISTRANTS CAN:	NON-PRACTISING REGISTRANTS CAN'T:
MENTORSHIP AND TRAINING	<p>Mentor or train less experienced engineers or geoscientists on non-technical matters.</p> <p>Supervise trainees and non-Registrants on non-technical matters.</p>	<p>Mentor or train less experienced engineers or geoscientists on technical matters.</p> <p>Supervise trainees and non-Registrants on technical matters.</p>
COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY GROUPS	<p>Be appointed to and participate in committees and advisory groups to provide a non-technical perspective.</p>	<p>Participate in a committee or advisory group requiring the application of engineering or geoscience principles, which could be considered engaging in the Reserved Practice of professional engineering or geoscience.</p> <p>Engage in Reserved Practice while on a committee.</p>
USE OF TITLE	<p>Use one of the applicable titles or designations:</p> <p>For Engineers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Professional Engineer (Non-Practising) b) P.Eng. (Non-Practising) c) Professional Engineer (Retired) d) P.Eng. (Retired) <p>For Geoscientists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Professional Geoscientist (Non-Practising) b) P.Geo. (Non-Practising) c) Professional Geoscientist (Retired) d) P.Geo. (Retired) <p>For Licensees (as applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Professional Licensee Engineering (Non-Practising) b) P.L Eng. (Non-Practising) c) Professional Licensee Engineering (Retired) d) P.L.Eng. (Retired) e) Professional Licensee Geoscience (Non-Practising) f) P.L.Geo. (Non-Practising) g) Professional Licensee Geoscience (Retired) h) P.Geo. (Retired) 	<p>Use any of the applicable titles or designations:</p> <p>For Engineers: Professional Engineer, P.Eng., or any other variant, derivative, or equivalent of Professional Engineer/ P.Eng.</p> <p>For Geoscientists: Professional Geoscientist, P.Geo., or any other variant, derivative, or equivalent of Professional Geoscientist/ P.Geo. <i>For clarity, this includes titles with the words “geologist”, “geophysicist”, and “geochemist”. e.g., “P.Geo.”, “Professional Geochemist.”</i></p> <p>For Licensees: Professional Licensee Engineering, Professional Licensee Geoscience, P.L.Eng., P.L.Geo, or any other variant, derivative, or equivalent.</p>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WORK

1. Can I have non-practising status in British Columbia and engage in Reserved Practice with another provincial, territorial, state, or other regulator for engineering or geoscience practice?

Yes. Engineers and Geoscientists BC governs the Reserved Practice of professional engineering and professional geoscience in British Columbia. You can engage in Reserved Practice in another jurisdiction, if registered there, while having non-practising status with Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

However, engaging in Reserved Practice with another provincial, territorial, state, or other engineering or geoscience regulator does not entitle you to engage in the Reserved Practice of engineering or geoscience in British Columbia.

2. Can non-practising Registrants participate in business or community matters on a voluntary and unpaid basis?

Non-practising Registrants can only participate in business or community matters if, while doing so, they do not engage in the Reserved Practice of professional engineering or geoscience, regardless of whether they are compensated or not.

3. As a non-practising Registrant, must I continue to partake in Continuing Education?

No. There are no Continuing Education requirements for non-practising Registrants.

However, the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Code of Ethics still applies to non-practising Registrants. It states that Registrants must:

Have regard for the common law and any applicable enactments, federal enactments, or enactments of another province (Principle 3);

Have regard for applicable standards, policies, plans, and practices established by the government or Engineers and Geoscientists BC (Principle 4);and

Maintain competence in relevant specializations, including advances in the regulated practice and relevant science. (Principle #5)

Additionally, if a non-practising Registrant wishes to apply to reinstate their practising status, they must demonstrate that they remain current in their intended field of practice.

4. Can I act as a validator for experience competencies gained by those seeking registration or licensure?

As a general rule, non-practising Registrants must not act as validators for technical competencies unless the competencies relate to a prior time when the non-practising Registrant had the ability to engage in the Reserved Practice.

Non-practising Registrants can answer the additional feedback questions in the Competency Experience Reporting System on behalf of an applicant if they relate to a prior time when the non-practising Registrant had the ability to engage in the Reserved Practice and worked with the applicant.

5. Am I exempt from audits and practice reviews if I elect non-practising status?

No, proactive compliance audits apply to all Registrants, except for those specifically exempted in Section 8.6(3) of the Bylaws. Reactive practice reviews apply to all Registrants except for those specifically exempted in Section 8.9(1) of the Bylaws. For additional information on the compliance audit program, refer to Engineers and Geoscientists BC's [Guide to the Compliance Audit Program for Individual Registrants](#).

On a practical level, those with non-practising status are unlikely to be the subject of a practice review. However, non-practising Registrants who elect to resume practising status may be the subject of a practice review. For additional information on the Practice Review Program, refer to Engineers and Geoscientists BC's [Guide to the Practice Review Program for Individual Registrants](#).

6. Can I avoid an investigation or discipline if I elect non-practising status?

Changing your status to non-practising will not affect any active investigation or disciplinary matter and will not stop an investigation or discipline arising. Engineers and Geoscientists has jurisdiction over practising and non-practising Registrants as well as former Registrants with respect to their past conduct.

7. What are the ramifications if I (inappropriately) resume the practice of professional engineering or professional geoscience work?

Non-practising Registrants who engage in Reserved Practice are in contravention of the Bylaws and are subject to potential investigation and discipline.

8. I do not currently have the ability to engage in the Reserved Practice in British Columbia. Can I apply for non-practising status?

No, non-practising status is only available to current practicing Registrants of Engineers and Geoscientists BC and applicants whose prior registration as a non-practising Registrant has been cancelled. It is not available to new applicants or Trainees (EITs or GITs).

9. What must I do to reinstate as a Practising Registrant?

If non-practising Registrants wish to reinstate as Professional (practising) Registrants, they will be required to make an application for reinstatement as a Professional (practising) Registrant, demonstrate that they remain current in their intended field of practice, are compliant with the Continuing Education requirements, and pay the applicable fees as set out in the Bylaws.

For further information on reinstating practising status, visit: egbc.ca/Registration/Individual-Registrants/How-to-Apply/Reinstatement-of-Status/Reinstate-Practice-Rights

NAME AND TITLE

10. Must I use the qualifiers “Non-Practising” or “Retired” if I have non-practising status, or can I shorten the qualifiers?

If you have non-practising status, then you must use the qualifiers in their full form: “Non-Practising” or “Retired”. You are not permitted to shorten them.

E.g., Prohibited: P.Geo (N-P) Permitted: P.Geo (Non-Practicing)

Prohibited: P.Eng (Ret.) Permitted: P.Eng (Retired)

11. Can I choose to qualify my non-practising status as either “Non-Practising” or “Retired”?

Yes, the decision whether to use the qualifier “Non-Practising” or “Retired” is up to each individual who holds non-practising status. While Engineers and Geoscientists BC encourages individuals to choose one or the other qualifier and use it consistently, individuals who hold non-practising status may use either qualifier or alternate between qualifiers.

12. Will my name appear on Engineers and Geoscientists BC’s online Registrant Directory if I elect non-practising or retired status?

Yes, your name will continue to appear on Engineers and Geoscientists BC’s online [Registrant Directory](#), with an indication that you hold non-practising status.

SEAL

13. Can I keep my manual seal?

Yes. Non-practising Registrants may keep their manual seal, but they are not permitted to use it, or any copy, illustration, or imitation of it.

14. What happens to my digital seal if I elect non-practising status?

Your digital seal will be inactivated automatically, and you are not permitted to use it during the interim before inactivation.

BENEFITS FOR NON-PRACTISING REGISTRANTS

15. Will I still receive publications and communications from Engineers and Geoscientists BC?

Yes. You will still receive publications and communications from Engineers and Geoscientists BC, including *Innovation* magazine.

16. Can I participate in an Engineers and Geoscientists BC committee, or non-technical advisory group?

Yes. A non-practising Registrant can participate in an Engineers and Geoscientists BC committee or a non-technical advisory group, provided that the application of professional engineering or geoscience principles is not required. However, the four regulatory committees (Audit and Practice Review Committee, Credentials Committee, Discipline Committee, and Investigation Committee) require a majority of committee members to have the ability to engage in the Reserved Practice, but non-practising Registrants may sit on these committees as well.

17. Can I still attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM)?

Yes. Non-practising Registrants may still attend and vote at the AGM.

18. Are non-practising Registrants still eligible to participate in the Secondary Liability Insurance Program?

For any questions regarding your secondary professional liability coverage, contact the Program Hotline at 1.877.245.3820. For additional information, refer to our [Secondary Liability Insurance webpage](#).

19. I plan to quit engineering or geoscience permanently. Do I have to elect to move to non-practising status?

No. As an alternative to electing to move to non-practising status, you have the option of resigning your registration entirely. However, becoming a non-practising Registrant conveys a number of benefits that are not available to those who resign, including the ability to continue using a form of the P.Eng. or P.Geo. designations (with the qualifiers “Non-Practising” or “Retired”), the right to vote, and the ability to participate on committees and advisory groups.

REINSTATING PRACTISING STATUS

20. Is non-practising status meant for Registrants going on leave?

Non-practising status is an option for Registrants on leave. Registrants should determine whether the intended duration of their leave merits converting to non-practising registration. It is recommended that Registrants take into account the implications of electing non-practising status, such as not being able to engage in the Reserved Practice, the restricted title, and the requirements for reinstatement to practicing status, including reapplication fees. See Engineers and Geoscientists BC’s [Policy on re-engaging in Reserved Practice](#).

21. Do I have to report my non-practicing status annually? How do I do it?

As a non-practising Registrant, you will declare your non-practising status annually by June 30 of each calendar year when you complete the mandatory [Annual Reporting](#) of information that is required to be published on the Register. It is a straightforward process.

22. Is there a cost for changing my status to practicing status?

Yes. For fees and estimated reinstatement times, see Engineers and Geoscientists BC’s [Policy on Re-engaging in Reserved Practice](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on resuming practice status:
 - Refer to the EGBC’s website at www.egbc.ca/Registration/Individual-Registrants/How-to-Apply/Reinstatement-of-Status/Non-Practising-Registrant.
 - Contact the Registration department by email at register@egbc.ca.
- For further guidance on the activities you can perform related to professional engineering and professional geoscience as a Non-practising Registrant:
 - Contact the Legislation, Ethics, and Compliance department by email at enforcement@egbc.ca or the Practice Advice Team by email at practiceadvisor@egbc.ca.

VERSION NUMBER	PUBLISHED DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
2.0	October 18, 2023	Updated content to conform with the <i>Professional Governance Act</i> and updated Bylaws.
1.0	February 6, 2021	Initial version.