



A P E G S

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Do I need Permission to Consult?

Section 17 of the Regulatory Bylaws requires that an "eligible member who wishes to offer consulting engineering or geoscience services, directly or indirectly, shall obtain permission to consult". Consulting engineering or consulting geoscience services are engineering or geoscience services provided by a member to be used by persons other than the employer of that member. Permission to consult is in addition to maintaining an annual membership and licence.

An "employee" engineer or geoscientist is not required to obtain permission to consult if the professional engineering or professional geoscience services are used by the employer and not provided, directly or indirectly, to another person. For example, a professional geoscientist employed by an oil company involved in oil and gas exploration and development as an exploration geologist is not required to obtain permission to consult. The same professional geoscientist providing services on a consulting basis is required to obtain permission to consult. APEGS considers that a person working as a "contract employee" (as opposed to a permanent employer employee relationship) to be an employee and thus not required to obtain permission to consult.

The bylaw provides that an eligible member can obtain permission to consult within an area or areas of practice in which he or she is competent. The applicant provides the area(s) of practice in which he or she proposes to offer consulting services in accordance with the guide to describing area(s) of practice. In most cases, the permission is granted as requested; however, in some cases the description may be reworded. Members are reminded of their ethical obligation to offer services, advise on or undertake professional assignments only in areas of their competence and to practice in a careful and diligent manner.

The holder of permission to consult in the area(s) of practice to which documents prepared by or under his or her supervision is required to place his or her signature and registration number on all documents prepared under his or her supervision within the certificate of authorization seal appearing on the document. Holders of permission to consult shall not offer consulting services nor supervise professional activities in an area of practice other than that for which permission to consult has been acknowledged.

There is no application fee associated with permission to consult.