

Oct 24, 2005

Power point presentation and discussion lead by Janet Sinclair concerning Draft document entitled “Mandatory CPD Guideline” dated June 2005

Refer to scanned DRAFT accompanying this summary note.

Proposal:

Complete 30 hours per year on a three-year rolling average. 3 year total of 90 hours.

Maximum of 20 hours taken from formal courses

Maximum of 20 hours taken from informal seminars, conferences, trade shows, etc.

Maximum of 10 hours of participation, presentations and other contributions

Program requires enabling amendment to the current Act with a bylaw vote passing with 2/3 majority of those who vote. No quorum necessary.

Those members then required to participate include members with practicing rights (both provincial members and international members) and those in training. Those who may be exempt may include retired (non practicing), those not practicing who do not have an influence over the profession, and special circumstance exemptions.

Discussion related reporting requirements, auditing and compliance and enforcement with a comparison between the June 2005 DRAFT and Alberta’s experience

Feedback includes comments such as:

1. Technical books should get more weight than Journals
2. Breach of the Code of ethics was more usual than breach of competence
3. Some members felt there should be recognition for Professional Practice (existing work hours), that with work included hours required to log would be 80 compared to 50 hours where work was not included.
4. Members thought some technical content should be required (in the current proposal, APEGBC says level of technical content is not required to be reported)
5. Feedback is members expect administrative costs will be high
6. Ramping up of administrative fines for failure to comply with a CPD program is seen as a good thing.
7. Generally the “bar” should be set high
8. The number of hours is too high
9. EIT/GIT professional experience should count
10. Part Time practitioners should be exempt
11. Companies should share responsibility for training
12. CPD reports should be made due at the time of the payment of dues

Discussion

1. There are not sufficient courses offered in the north to allow reasonable probability of logging required formal course time. Travel expenses are high. Time lost to travel is high by comparison with the lower mainland. Compulsory training may come as a penalty to any professional living and working in the north. Edmonton is closer than Vancouver.

Noted that more courses are available on line from more institutions. APEGBC is preparing a hosting list.

2. Issue of trust. Is a statutory declaration required. What benefit is there in reporting? CPD is intended to help with reducing liability by increasing competency. While professional development does not ensure competency, it will help.

It is noted that Lawyers must report even if the reporting is zero.

3. Some members think the reading of journals should not really be considered as counting as part of formal professional development. The thought was reading of journals is something that everyone should be required to do without having to report the time spent. There is no control being considered over the quality of the reading material.

It was noted that accountants require certain courses with established content. APEGBC does not recommend specific courses and see limiting opportunity as non-beneficial. There is a need to be flexible. There must be opportunity in all areas.

4. Some expression of concern for the fact that formal learning is independently marked.
5. Concern for any standard that will only set the minimum for participation, formal and informal training.
6. Issue of what liability does APEGBC take on knowing someone does not have his 90 hours?
7. The current proposal in response to non compliance is first a letter, then a 2nd letter with a fine of \$150, then a third letter with a fine of \$150, then notice that the member was being sent to investigation. Once into investigation there would be no turning back until the investigation was complete and action taken. In Alberta the APEGGA model simply had the member removed from the roster.

The APEGGA model requires 50 PDH from work practice, puts more emphasis on informal hours, only applies to those who have a technical influence on engineers and geoscientists and only applies to those who actively practice in the province.

Discussion caused a reaction and concern for the extent to which member dues would be going toward the cost of investigation of non-compliance with the CPD program rather than toward investigating those who may now be practicing engineering and/or geosciences without a licence. Members do not see enough enforcement on people practicing without a licence. Will there be too much funding going toward the review of licensed members when there is already a concern for lack of visibility in enforcing the Act against non-members?

One thought was to adopt a model similar to APEGGA where members were taken off the register as a possible way of controlling costs of administering the CPD program.

Challenge to Peace River Branch Members

Review June 2005 Draft and provide written comment to Janet Sinclair, BSc, RT who can be reached at jsinclair@apeg.bc.ca or by calling 1-888-430-8085

Schedule calls for revisions to the draft early in 2006 with changes to the Act in 2006 and a bylaw vote in 2006 or 2007. Remember to keep track of this issue on News and Views and to participate on the on line forum available at the www.apeg.bc.ca website.

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