



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: DECEMBER 1, 2023

Engineers and Geoscientists BC's Board of elected registrants and public representatives meets throughout the year. The following are the highlights of its December 1, 2023 meeting.

AGM MOTIONS

The Board discussed the three motions passed at Engineers and Geoscientists BC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and determined a path forward to consider them. Motions submitted at an AGM are non-binding but are presented for the Board's consideration.

The motions passed at the AGM were:

1. That the Board consider past surpluses when setting future annual licensing fees.
2. That the Board consider limiting future increases to no more than 2% per year.
3. That the Board consider that a larger seed fund be given to the new advocacy body to be spent on expenses of existing programs being transferred to it, plus a reasonable staffing budget for those programs.

With respect to Motions 1 and 2, the Board approved that these motions would be considered by the Audit and Risk sub-committee first, and then discussed at the February 16, 2024 Board meeting, in line with when the Board sets its annual Budget Guidelines.

With respect to Motion 3, the Board approved that it be brought forward for consideration at its April 19, 2024 meeting, in order to allow for enough time to gather relevant information from the independent advocacy body, which is still in the very early stages of being established.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The Board approved several proposed amendments to Engineers and Geoscientists BC's Bylaws. The proposed amendments:

- Modify the ways the Investigation Committee can take extraordinary action to protect the public (whereby Engineers and Geoscientists BC can issue suspensions or place limits on a registrant's practice prior to a disciplinary hearing) by enabling it to refer the matter to a sub-panel of the Investigation Committee, rather than convening the entire committee;
- Provide for public access (and possible access restrictions) to discipline hearing records, in line with the Open Court Principle; and
- Minor amendments and housekeeping to clarify Bylaw requirements, including for the fee schedule.

Following the meeting, the amendments were submitted to the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance for review.

Engineers and Geoscientists BC's current Bylaws are available at:
egbc.ca/About/Governance/Legislation-Bylaws.

NEW AND REVISED GUIDELINES APPROVED

The Board approved two guidelines for publication following legal and editorial review:

1. *Seismic Retrofit Guidelines, 2023 Edition, and Seismic Performance Analyzer I, Version 4.1*. This updated guideline refines the research and guidance in previous editions, specifically with respect to Vs30 (shear wave velocity in the top 30 m of soil) and site-specific response analysis (SSRA), updates to post-earthquake evaluations, and additional retrofit strategies, particularly for wood frame classrooms. Updates have also been made to the Seismic Performance Analyzer, a web-based tool that allows practitioners to instantly generate seismic resistance criteria for various types of construction.
2. *Professional Practice Guidelines – Development and Use of Seismic Microzonation Maps in BC, Version 1.0*. This new guideline supports professionals and other parties, including approving authorities, to develop, interpret, and apply seismic microzonation maps and to understand the role they play in community planning and operations. These guidelines were funded by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and complement the Metro Vancouver Seismic Microzonation Mapping Project.

OTHER REPORTS PRESENTED

The Board received reports from staff on several additional topics for information and discussion:

- An update on work underway to strengthen the processes governing the organization's data, including how various groups – including staff teams, committees, advisory groups, and the Board – access information;
- An update on the organization's Q1 financial standing and financial forecast;
- An update on work being done to respond to new legislation that aims to make the registration process for internationally-trained applicants more efficient; and
- An update on the work done by the Nomination Committee to prepare for the upcoming Board Nomination process, and feedback from the Board on desired skills and competencies to be considered as part of a gap analysis.

APPOINTMENTS

Audit and Practice Review Committee

Gordon McDonald, P.Eng. (Chair)

Louis Blom, CPA, CA (Vice Chair)

Hassan Nedadahandeh, P.Eng.

Mahilan Somasunderam, P.Eng.

Credentials Committee

Claudio Arato, P.Eng. (Chair)

James (Jim) Lowrie, P.L.Eng.

Investigation Committee

Peter Helland, P.Eng. (Chair)

Nomination Committee

Carol Park, P.Eng.

David Wells, JD (Lay Member)

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