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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES ETHICS GUIDELINES

Preamble

Consulting engineering is an important and learned profession. The members of the profession recognize that their work has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by consulting engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity and must be dedicated to the protection of public health, safety and welfare. In the practice of their profession, consulting engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior which requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct on behalf of the public, clients, employees and the profession.

Fundamental Canons

Consulting engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act in professional matters for each client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid improper solicitation of professional assignments

CASE STUDIES

1. ABC Civil Design advertises on the local radio. ABC Civil Design will pay a ten per cent finders fee for any type of civil engineering work referred to them.
2. CFG Civil Group is owned by Carby Freque, PE. He has no other employees. He solicits other engineering companies for their job histories. Then he tells future clients that the other engineering company employees are employed by his CFG Civil Group.
3. JJQ Civil Partners gives the local mayor free consulting advice for his real estate projects in exchange for engineering work referrals.
4. RPX Civil Associates has two large engineering projects involving different clients, LLQ Interests and CCQ Enterprises. When prospective clients of LLQ Interests call RPX Civil Associates with questions regarding product design, RPX Civil Associates refers the prospective clients to CCQ Enterprises.
5. XXY Civil Experts employs only civil engineers. Their board of registration requires a special examination for performing seismic design. The engineers at XXY Civil Experts have never taken the seismic exam. XXY Civil Experts periodically performs structural design requiring seismic expertise.
6. QQY Civil Engineers has designed several street intersections for the city where several accidents have occurred because of poor pavement design.
7. RQF Civil Consultants has designed several sewers which they know do not meet county specifications.

CASE STUDIES (continued)

8. The president of QPQ Civil Design Group tells the county commissioners that an unknown source told him (the president) that another engineering company makes faulty designs.
9. RVQ Civil Designers pays contractors for their recommendations to land developers.
10. AQQ Civil Consulting accepts payments from contractors to make the latter sole bidders on certain projects.
11. YQX Civil Associates uses the most expensive contractors for the construction projects that they have designed. One of their clients objects; YQX Civil Associates then gives the work to a notoriously incompetent contractor.
12. YYF Civil Design prepares bids for a client's project. The brother of the president of YYF Civil Design owns a plumbing company and bids on the project. The brother bids \$47,000. The lowest bid is \$45,000. The president forges his brother's bid to \$42,000. The client approves the low bid of \$42,000. Later, the president issues several false change orders after the project starts.
13. ZXT Civil Consultants offer to perform design for a public library project at reduced rates. Their design is faulty.
14. CQM Civil Constructors make a report that knowingly contains false statements.

CASE STUDIES (continued)

15. An engineer for RQI Civil Contractors accepts electrical design work for which he has no experience. RQI Civil Contractors have no electrical engineers.
16. The city engineer has a professional engineering stamp which shows his registration number and says PE. The city engineer only studied general civil engineering in the university. His practical experience only involved civil engineering. The city engineer refuses to contract any structural, electrical, or chemical engineering work.
17. BBQ Civil Engineering designs a public building which later collapses. Independent investigation shows BBQ Civil Engineering made a poor analysis of the soil tests.
18. AQQ Civil Group pays a secretary at the office of the local association of construction contractors to prepare bids for the association construction projects that AQQ Civil Group wants to do.
19. QXQ Civil Consultants tells their city council that they have the best structural design engineers. QXQ Civil Consultants has no structural engineers.
20. QXQ Civil Consultants receive a structural design project from their city council. They perform the project. Their design has structural defects.