

**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER  
PO BOX 5839  
MC ALLEN, TEXAS 78502-5839**

**1-800-522-0139**

**kh@acnet.net**

---

**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 Petroleum Design advertises on the local radio. ABC Petroleum Design will pay a ten per cent finders fee for any type of petroleum engineering work referred to them.
2. CFG Petroleum 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 Petroleum Group.
3. JJQ Petroleum Partners gives the local mayor free consulting advice for his real estate projects in exchange for engineering work referrals.
4. RPX Petroleum Associates has two large engineering projects involving different clients, LLQ Interests and CCQ Enterprises. When prospective clients of LLQ Interests call RPX Petroleum Associates with questions regarding product design, RPX Petroleum Associates refers the prospective clients to CCQ Enterprises.
5. XXY Petroleum Experts employs only petroleum engineers. Their board of registration requires a special examination for performing seismic design. The engineers at XXY Petroleum Experts have never taken the seismic exam. XXY Petroleum Experts periodically performs reservoir design requiring seismic expertise.
6. QQY Petroleum Engineers has drilled several water wells for the city where several accidents have occurred because of poor design.
7. RQF Petroleum Consultants has built several service roads which they know do not meet county specifications.

**CASE STUDIES (continued)**

8. The president of QPQ Petroleum Design Group tells the county commissioners that an unknown source told him (the president) that another engineering company makes faulty designs.
9. RVQ Petroleum Designers pays contractors for their recommendations to drilling companies.
10. AQQ Petroleum Consulting accepts payments from contractors to make the latter sole bidders on certain projects.
11. YQX Petroleum Associates uses the most expensive contractors for the construction projects that they have designed. One of their clients objects; YQX Petroleum Associates then gives the work to a notoriously incompetent contractor.
12. YYF Petroleum Design prepares bids for a client's project. The brother of the president of YYF Petroleum 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 Petroleum Consultants offer to drill a well for a public library project at reduced rates. Their design is faulty.
14. CQM Petroleum Constructors make a report that knowingly contains false statements.

**CASE STUDIES (continued)**

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