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***** EXAMINATION *****

NSPE CODE OF ETHICS

Preamble

Engineering is an important and learned profession. As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

Rules of Practice

1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
 - a. If engineers' judgment is overruled under circumstances that endanger life or property, they shall notify their employer or client and such other authority as may be appropriate.
 - b. Engineers shall approve only those engineering documents that are in conformity with applicable standards.
 - c. Engineers shall not reveal facts, data or information without the prior consent of the client or employer except as authorized or required by law or this Code.
 - d. Engineers shall not permit the use of their name or associate in business ventures with any person or firm that they believe are engaged in fraudulent or dishonest enterprise.
 - e. Engineers having knowledge of any alleged violation of this Code shall report thereon to appropriate professional bodies and, when relevant, also to public authorities, and cooperate with the proper authorities in furnishing such information or assistance as may be required.

Rules of Practice (continued)

2. Engineers shall perform services only in the areas of their competence.
 - a. Engineers shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields involved.
 - b. Engineers shall not affix their signatures to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any plan or document not prepared under their direction and control.
 - c. Engineers may accept assignments and assume responsibility for coordination of an entire project and sign and seal the engineering documents for the entire project, provided that each technical segment is signed and sealed only by the qualified engineers who prepared the segment.

3. Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
 - a. Engineers shall be objective and truthful in professional reports, statements, or testimony. They shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or testimony, which should bear the date indicating when it was current.
 - b. Engineers may express publicly technical opinions that are founded upon knowledge of the facts and competence in the subject matter.
 - c. Engineers shall issue no statements, criticisms, or arguments on technical matters that are inspired or paid for by interested parties, unless they have prefaced their comments by explicitly identifying the interested parties on whose behalf they are speaking, and by revealing the existence of any interest the engineers may have in the matters.

Rules of Practice (continued)

4. Engineers shall act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
 - a. Engineers shall disclose all known or potential conflicts of interest that could influence or appear to influence their judgment or the quality of their services.
 - b. Engineers shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by all interested parties.
 - c. Engineers shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable consideration, directly or indirectly, from outside agents in connection with the work for which they are responsible.
 - d. Engineers in public service as members, advisors, or employees of a governmental or quasi-governmental body or department shall not participate in decisions with respect to services solicited or provided by them or their organizations in private or public engineering practice.
 - e. Engineers shall not solicit or accept a contract from a governmental body on which a principal or officer of their organization serves as a member.

Rules of Practice (continued)

5. Engineers shall avoid deceptive acts.
 - a. Engineers shall not falsify their qualifications or permit misrepresentation of their or their associates' qualifications. They shall not misrepresent or exaggerate their responsibility in or for the subject matter of prior assignments. Brochures or other presentations incident to the solicitation of employment shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint venturers, or past accomplishments.
 - b. Engineers shall not offer, give, solicit or receive, either directly or indirectly, any contribution to influence the award of a contract by public authority, or which may be reasonably construed by the public as having the effect of intent to influencing the awarding of a contract. They shall not offer any gift or other valuable consideration in order to secure work. They shall not pay a commission, percentage, or brokerage fee in order to secure work, except to a bona fide employee or bona fide established commercial or marketing agencies retained by them.

CASE STUDIES

1. An engineer approves a set of electronic drawings that should but doesn't meet IEEE standards.
2. An engineer reveals some proprietary technology to his company's competitor.
3. An engineer's design of a street intersection is dangerous but the city is not notified.
4. An engineer designs gambling machines for a company engaged in illegal gambling.
5. An engineer knows an associate violates engineering ethics code and does not cooperate with the investigation by the board of registration.
6. An junior engineer sells the company client data base to a competitor.
7. The city building department investigates an engineering company and the company's employees do not cooperate.
8. An engineer approves drawings that do not meet his city planning department standards.
9. An engineer discusses a developer client's poor financial condition with another engineer.
10. An engineer certifies a faulty design and destroys confidential documents when investigated.
11. An engineer sells his plans to another engineer without the approval of his client.
12. An engineer's design meets city standards but not state standards.
13. A chemical engineer signs documents for a civil engineering project.
14. A structural engineer accepts a project to design a complex circuit board.

CASE STUDIES (continued)

15. An engineer takes a bribe from a contractor.
16. A mechanical engineer signs plans involving structural, chemical, and electronic expertise.
17. A structural engineer signs electronic designs.
18. An licensed engineer pays junior engineers to help prepare plans.
19. A structural engineer signs plans for the project engineer.
20. A structural, mechanical, and chemical engineer work to complete plans. The chemical engineer quits. The structural engineer tries to complete the chemical engineering work.
21. An engineer prepares excellent plans, but can never seem to give honest witness testimony about the plans.
22. A structural engineer attends city planning meetings on his own and offers advice on environmental affairs.
23. An engineer makes unfounded statements about his competition at city hall.
24. An engineer fails to pay his employees.
25. An employee of an engineer takes his boss's opinions and gives a twisted version to a developer client.
26. An engineer pays for repairing a street sign. He does not do any physical work.
27. An engineer gets a kickback for specifying expensive street lights in a contract.
28. An engineer works for adjoining clients who are having a dispute about water rights. The clients think they each have a private contract.
29. A city engineer works part-time for a developer with projects in the city.
30. An engineer working for two adjoining clients charges each client the full amount of the construction materials.

CASE STUDIES (continued)

31. An engineer does not disclose conflicts of interests on a sewer project.
32. A county engineer participates in private engineering decisions.
33. An engineer accepts his fee from two different parties on a project.
34. An engineer accepts a contract from a city council on which he serves.
35. An engineer knows of a potential conflict of interest.
36. A structural engineer by education represents his expertise to be chemical engineering.
37. An engineer serves as a church officer.
38. An engineer offers political contributions to get city work.
39. An engineer works weekends for free cleaning highway litter.
40. An engineer offers discounted fees in order to get more lucrative city projects.