



**IN THE MATTER OF THE *PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE ACT*
S.B.C. 2018, CHAPTER 47**

and

IN THE MATTER OF GEOFFREY FASH WENSEL, P.ENG. (LICENSE #37394)

ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS BC FILE NO. T21-012

CONSENT ORDER

Background

1. On July 30, 2023, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia, doing business as Engineers and Geoscientists BC, issued a Citation to Geoffrey Fash Wensel P.Eng., pursuant to section 66(1) of the *Professional Governance Act*, S.B.C. 2018, c.47 (the “PGA”).
2. Engineers and Geoscientists BC and Mr. Wensel now wish to resolve this matter by way of a Consent Order pursuant to section 73(2) of the *PGA* to avoid the need for a disciplinary hearing.
3. Mr. Wensel consents to the disposition set out below.

Legislation

4. On February 5, 2021, the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 116 (the “EGA”) was repealed and replaced by the *PGA*.
5. The conduct at issue spanned the period where the *EGA* was replaced by the *PGA*. The conduct at issue is considered pursuant to the *EGA* insofar as it relates to conduct that took place prior to February 5, 2021, and under the *PGA* insofar as it related to conduct that took place on or after February 5, 2021.

6. Under the *EGA*, the conduct in question is considered pursuant to sections 30(9)(b) and 30(9)(c) of the *EGA*, and the *Bylaws* and *Code of Ethics* under the *EGA*.
7. Under the *PGA*, the conduct is considered pursuant to sections 66(1) and 75(5) of the *PGA*, and the *Bylaws* and *Code of Ethics* under the *PGA*.
8. Pursuant to sections 35(2) and 36(1)(c) of the *Interpretation Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 238, investigations commenced under the *EGA* carry on procedurally under the *PGA*.

Admissions

9. Mr. Wensel admits the allegations set out in the Citation, namely that he demonstrated unprofessional conduct contrary to the *EGA* in relation to his design of a residence in Vancouver, B.C., between September 2018 and August 2020 (the “Project”), by:
 - a. undertaking the Project without having sufficient knowledge or expertise in the use of steel moment frames in residential construction;
 - b. undertaking the Project without having sufficient knowledge or expertise in concepts related to lateral design more generally, whether for wood construction or steel construction;
 - c. preparing drawings dated February 19, 2019, July 25, 2019, September 19, 2019, April 24, 2020, and June 20, 2020 (the “Drawings”) that contained numerous inadequacies, omissions and design errors in relation to the Project’s lateral load resisting systems, including in the following areas:
 - i. shear connections from drag struts to shear walls;
 - ii. connections of bottom of shear walls to floor;
 - iii. second floor diaphragm;
 - iv. steel moment frame members;
 - v. steel moment frame connections;
 - vi. concrete foundation for moment frame;
 - vii. main floor wood shear walls;
 - viii. shear connection of shear walls to foundation;
 - ix. concrete foundations beneath shear walls;
 - x. first floor side shear walls (front-back direction);

- d. preparing drawings for an exterior canopy on the back of the residence that were insufficiently detailed and inadequately designed for the loads on the structure; and
 - e. failing to maintain adequate records regarding the Project, including failing to adequately record and track changes made to the Drawings and the purposes for which the Drawings were issued.
10. The conduct described above in paragraph 9 was also contrary to certain principles of the *Code of Ethics* of Engineers and Geoscientists BC and in force between October 2018 and February 5, 2021. In particular,
- a. Principle 2, which required registrants to undertake and accept responsibility for professional assignments only when qualified by training or experience; and
 - b. Principle 3, which required registrants to provide an opinion on a professional subject only when it is founded upon adequate knowledge.
11. The conduct described above in paragraph 9(e) was also contrary to section 14(b)(1) of the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Bylaws under the *EGA*, as they stood at the time, which required all members and licensees to establish and maintain documented quality management processes for their practices, which required, as a minimum, retention of complete project documentation, which may include, but is not limited to correspondence, investigations, surveys, reports, data, background information, assessments, designs, specifications, field reviews, testing information, quality assurance documentation, and other engineering and geoscience documents for a period of 10 years.
12. Mr. Wensel also admits that he committed professional misconduct, contrary to the *PGA*, when, between September 2021 and 2024, he withheld relevant documents during an investigation contrary to section 104(3) of the *PGA* and Bylaw 9.7.5(1)(d).
13. The conduct set out above at paragraph 12 was also contrary to certain principles of the *Code of Ethics*, attached as Schedule A to the *Bylaws* of Engineers and Geoscientists BC. In particular:
- a. the Preamble, which provides that Registrants must act at all times with fairness, courtesy and good faith toward all persons with whom the registrant has professional dealings, and in accordance with the public interest. Registrants must uphold the values of truth, honesty and trustworthiness and safeguard human life and welfare and the environment;
 - b. Principle 3, which requires that registrants must have regard for the common law and any applicable enactments, federal enactments or enactments of another province; and

- c. Principle 4, which requires that registrants must have regard for applicable standards, policies, plans, and practices established by the government or Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

Disposition

- 14. By consent, this Consent Order is made pursuant to section 73 of the *PGA*.
- 15. Mr. Wensel's registration in Engineers and Geoscientists BC is suspended for a period of six months commencing on June 14, 2025 (the "Suspension Period").
- 16. During the period from the date of the execution of this Consent Order to the Suspension Period, Mr. Wensel will:
 - a. limit his practice to those project files that he is currently engaged on and will not take on any new project files or other engineering work; and
 - b. make reasonable arrangements for the orderly transfer of his ongoing professional engineering project files to other professional engineers.
- 17. On or before the end of the Suspension Period, Mr. Wensel must provide written notice to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has, at his own expense, completed the following courses provided by Engineers and Geoscientists BC:
 - a. the Professional Engineering and Geoscience Practice in BC Online Seminar;
 - b. the Retaining Project Documentation Webinar;
 - c. the Update on the 2018 BC Building Code: Parts 4,5,6,7 and 10 Webinar; and
 - d. the Updates to Part 4 of the 2023 BC Building Code Webinar.
- 18. Six months after the completion of the Suspension Period, Mr. Wensel agrees to undergo a practice review conducted by Engineers and Geoscientists BC (the "Practice Review"), at his own expense. The precise timing and process of the Practice Review will be determined by the Audit and Practice Review Committee.
- 19. As of the effective date of this Consent Order, Mr. Wensel agrees that he will be restricted from providing professional engineering services in relation to buildings incorporating any structural steel except for Part 9 (or equivalent) buildings incorporating simply supported steel beams, or simply supported steel columns, or both, so long as the buildings do not incorporate any steel-to-steel connections (the "Practice Restriction").
- 20. If Mr. Wensel wishes to lift or modify the Practice Restriction set out in paragraph 19, he must provide written notice to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has successfully completed a for-credit version of the educational course offered by Structural Engineers Association of British Columbia titled "C13 Structural Steel

Design for Buildings” or an equivalent course agreed upon in writing by Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

21. If Mr. Wensel successfully lifts the Practice Restriction set out in paragraph 19 by completing the requirements set out in paragraph 20, all of his work related to the Practice Restriction must be subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Mr. Wensel will be supervised by a professional engineer who is a registrant of Engineers and Geoscientists BC (the “Supervising Professional”), and who is approved in writing and in advance by the Registrar of Engineers and Geoscientists BC. The Supervising Professional must provide “direct supervision” as that term is defined in the Quality Management Guides – Guide to the Standard for Direct Supervision (Version 3.0 – June 15, 2023) (the “Direct Supervision”).
 - b. The Direct Supervision will continue for a period of six months or six projects related to the Practice Restriction, whichever comes later.
 - c. At the conclusion of the period of Direct Supervision set out in paragraph 21(b), the Supervising Professional must provide to Engineers and Geoscientists BC a written report regarding Mr. Wensel’s performance and an opinion regarding whether Mr. Wensel requires a further period of direct supervision.
 - d. If the Supervising Professional is of the opinion that Mr. Wensel requires further direct supervision, the Direct Supervision will continue for an additional period of three months or three projects related to the Practice Restriction, whichever comes later (the “Extended Direct Supervision”).
 - e. At the conclusion of the Extended Direct Supervision set out in paragraph 21(d), the Supervising Professional must provide a written report regarding Mr. Wensel’s performance.
 - f. The costs of the Supervising Professional providing the Direct Supervision and the Extended Direct Supervision, if applicable, and preparing the reports referenced above, will be borne by Mr. Wensel.
22. Mr. Wensel will pay \$10,000 to Engineers and Geoscientists BC contemporaneous with the execution of this Consent Order as a contribution towards the legal and investigative costs incurred in this matter.
23. In the event that Mr. Wensel fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, his registration with Engineers and Geoscientists BC will be, or will remain, suspended until every default has been remedied in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order.

Consequences of the Consent Order

24. The full text of this Consent Order will be published on the website of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, and a summary will be published in print and electronic publications, including in public communications and on the Engineers and Geoscientists BC website.
25. This Consent Order has the same force and effect as an Order made or penalty imposed under section 75(6) of the *PGA*.
26. Mr. Wensel has received independent legal advice regarding the content of this Consent Order.
27. Mr. Wensel and Engineers and Geoscientists BC agree that this Consent Order may be executed in counterparts and delivered as an electronic document.

This Consent Order is approved and accepted by Mr. Wensel and the members of the Discipline Resolution Panel of Engineers and Geoscientists BC this 19 day of May, 2025.

<original signed by>

Geoffrey F. Wensel, P.Eng.

Natalia Bouvier

Name of Witness

<original signed by>

Emily Cheung, P.Eng., FEC
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel

<original signed by>

Signature of Witness

<original signed by>

Sean Liaw, M.Eng., BEP, FEC, P.Eng.
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel

<original signed by>

David Wende, LL.B., CPA (Hon.)
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel