



ENGINEERS &
GEOSCIENTISTS
BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

AND

IN THE MATTER OF ZHANCHAO ZHAO, P.ENG. (LICENCE #:30258)

**ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS BC FILES T21-013, SR24-014,
SR24-016 AND SR24-022**

CONSENT ORDER

Background

1. On October 31, 2017, Engineers and Geoscientists BC and Dr. Zhanchao Zhao, P.Eng., entered into a Consent Order imposing conditions on Dr. Zhao's registration pursuant to section 32.1 of the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 116 (the "EGA"), which was amended on December 1, 2018, and further amended on July 31, 2019 (the "Further Amended Consent Order").
2. The Further Amended Consent Order provides in paragraph 4(J) that:
 - J. The scope of Dr. Zhao's practice shall be restricted to structural engineering of Part 9 wood frame buildings (the "Practice Restriction"). If a Part 9 wood frame building includes any Part 4 components, an independent review of the overall structural integrity of the entire building must be completed by a separate engineer using the *Checklist and Signoff for an Independent Review* form found in the Association's *Quality Management Guidelines: Documented Independent Review of Structural Designs*. Dr. Zhao must provide the independent review to the Authority Having Jurisdiction.
3. The Further Amended Consent Order took effect on July 31, 2019, and remains in effect.

4. On September 26, 2024, Engineers and Geoscientists BC issued four Citations against Dr. Zhao pursuant to section 66(1) of the *Professional Governance Act*, S.B.C. 2018, c. 47 (the “PGA”).
5. The first Citation for file T21-013 sets out allegations regarding Dr. Zhao’s engineering work in relation to: a single family house located at [REDACTED], Surrey, BC; a single family house located at [REDACTED], Surrey, BC; a single family house located at [REDACTED], Surrey, BC; a single family house located at [REDACTED], Surrey, BC; and an aluminum patio cover located at [REDACTED], Coquitlam, BC (the “First Citation”).
6. The second Citation for file SR24-014 sets out allegations regarding Dr. Zhao’s engineering work in relation to a steel building for a project located at [REDACTED], Delta, BC (the “Second Citation”).
7. The third Citation for file SR24-016 sets out allegations regarding Dr. Zhao’s engineering work in relation to a project located at [REDACTED], Richmond, BC (the “Third Citation”).
8. The fourth Citation for file SR24-022 sets out allegations regarding Dr. Zhao’s engineering work in relation to a project located at [REDACTED], Richmond, BC (the “Fourth Citation”).
9. Engineers and Geoscientists BC and Dr. Zhao now wish to resolve these matters by consent pursuant to section 73(2) of the *PGA* in order to avoid the need for a disciplinary hearing.

Legislation

10. Some of the conduct at issue in the First Citation took place at a time when the *EGA* was in force. The *EGA* was repealed and replaced by the *PGA* on February 5, 2021. As a result, Engineers and Geoscientists BC considered the conduct in the First Citation that took place when the *EGA* was in force pursuant to sections 30(9)(b) and 30(9)(c) of the *EGA* and the Bylaws and *Code of Ethics* under the *EGA*.
11. 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*.
12. The conduct at issue in the Second Citation, the Third Citation and the Fourth Citation took place when the *PGA* was in force.

Admissions

T21-013 – The First Citation

13. Dr. Zhao admits that he violated paragraph 4(J) of the Further Amended Consent Order by providing the following geotechnical engineering services in relation to a single family house located at [REDACTED], Surrey, BC (the “[REDACTED] Project”):
 - a. on or around February 24, 2020, he authenticated a Schedule B for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance to the authority having jurisdiction that the design of the geotechnical components of the plans and supporting documents prepared by him in support of the application for the building permit substantially complied with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety except for construction safety aspects.
14. Dr. Zhao admits that he violated paragraph 4(J) of the Further Amended Consent Order by providing the following structural engineering services and geotechnical engineering services in relation to a single family house located at [REDACTED], Surrey, BC (the “[REDACTED] Project”):
 - a. on or around March 13, 2020, he authenticated a Schedule A for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby confirming that he was retained as the coordinating registered professional for the [REDACTED] Project and would be required to ascertain that the design would substantially comply with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety and that the construction of the [REDACTED] Project would substantially comply with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety except for construction safety aspects; and
 - b. on or around March 13, 2020, he authenticated a Schedule B for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance to the authority having jurisdiction that the design of the geotechnical components of the plans and supporting documents prepared by him in support of the application for the building permit substantially complied with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety except for construction safety aspects.
15. Dr. Zhao admits that he violated paragraph 4(J) of the Further Amended Consent Order by providing the following geotechnical engineering services in relation to a single family house located at [REDACTED], Surrey, BC (the “[REDACTED] Project”):
 - a. on or around August 10, 2020, he authenticated a Schedule B for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance to the authority having jurisdiction that the design of the geotechnical components of the plans and

supporting documents prepared by him in support of the application for the building permit substantially complied with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety except for construction safety aspects.

16. Dr. Zhao admits that he violated paragraph 4(J) of the Further Amended Consent Order by providing the following geotechnical engineering services in relation to a single family house located at [REDACTED], Surrey, BC (the "[REDACTED] Project"):
 - a. on or around August 10, 2020, he authenticated a Schedule B for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance to the authority having jurisdiction that the design of the geotechnical components of the plans and supporting documents prepared by him in support of the application for the building permit substantially complied with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety except for construction safety aspects.
17. Dr. Zhao admits that he violated paragraph 4(J) of the Further Amended Consent Order by providing the following structural engineering services in relation to an aluminum patio cover located at [REDACTED], Coquitlam, BC (the "[REDACTED] Project"), which is not a Part 9 wood frame building under the British Columbia Building Code:
 - a. on or around July 9, 2021, he authenticated a Schedule B for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance to the authority having jurisdiction that the design of the structural components of the plans and supporting documents prepared by him in support of the application for the building permit substantially complied with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety except for construction safety aspects.
18. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraphs 13-16 constitutes unprofessional conduct under the *EGA*.
19. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraphs 13-16 is contrary to section 14(a) of the *Code of Ethics* of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, as it was at the time, which required all members and licensees to, among other things, uphold the values of truth, honesty and trustworthiness and safeguard human life and welfare and the environment.
20. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 17 constitutes conduct unbecoming a registrant under the *PGA*.
21. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 17 constitutes professional misconduct under the *PGA*.

22. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 17 is contrary to the *Code of Ethics*, attached as Schedule A to the Bylaws of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, which requires registrants to act in accordance with the public interest and uphold the values of truth, honesty, and trustworthiness.

SR24-014 – The Second Citation

23. Dr. Zhao admits that he violated paragraph 4(J) of the Further Amended Consent Order by providing the following structural engineering services in relation to a steel building for a project located at [REDACTED], Delta, BC (the “[REDACTED] Project”), which is not a Part 9 wood frame building under the British Columbia Building Code:
- a. on or around January 12, 2024, he authenticated a Schedule B for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance to the authority having jurisdiction that the design of the structural components of the plans and supporting documents prepared by him in support of the application for the building permit substantially complied with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety except for construction safety aspects.
24. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 23 constitutes conduct unbecoming a registrant.
25. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 23 constitutes professional misconduct.
26. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 23 is contrary to the *Code of Ethics*, attached as Schedule A to the Bylaws of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, which requires registrants to act in accordance with the public interest and uphold the values of truth, honesty, and trustworthiness.

SR24-016 – The Third Citation

27. Dr. Zhao admits that he violated paragraph 4(J) of the Further Amended Consent Order by providing the following structural engineering services in relation to a project located at [REDACTED], Richmond, BC (the “[REDACTED] Project”), which is not a Part 9 wood frame building under the British Columbia Building Code:
- a. on or around September 18, 2023, he authenticated a Field Review Report for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance that the structural components of the [REDACTED] Project satisfied the requirements of the British Columbia Building Code; and
 - b. on or around January 22, 2024, he authenticated a Schedule B for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance to the authority having jurisdiction that the design of the structural components of the plans and supporting

documents prepared by him in support of the application for the building permit substantially complied with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety except for construction safety aspects.

28. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 27 constitutes conduct unbecoming a registrant.
29. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 27 constitutes professional misconduct.
30. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 27 is contrary to the *Code of Ethics* attached as Schedule A to the Bylaws of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, which requires registrants to act in accordance with the public interest and uphold the values of truth, honesty, and trustworthiness.

SR24-022 – The Fourth Citation

31. Dr. Zhao admits that he violated paragraph 4(J) of the Further Amended Consent Order by providing the following structural engineering services in relation to a project located at [REDACTED] Richmond, BC (the “[REDACTED] Project”), which is not a Part 9 wood frame building under the British Columbia Building Code:
 - a. on or around April 13, 2022 and December 12, 2023, he authenticated a Field Review Report for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance that the structural components of the [REDACTED] Project satisfied the requirements of the British Columbia Building Code; and
 - b. on or around December 12, 2023, he authenticated a Schedule B for the [REDACTED] Project, thereby giving his assurance to the authority having jurisdiction that the design of the structural components of the plans and supporting documents prepared by him in support of the application for the building permit substantially complied with the British Columbia Building Code and other applicable enactments respecting safety except for construction safety aspects.
32. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 31 constitutes conduct unbecoming a registrant.
33. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 31 constitutes professional misconduct.
34. Dr. Zhao admits that the conduct set out above in paragraph 31 is contrary to the *Code of Ethics* attached as Schedule A to the Bylaws of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, which requires registrants to act in accordance with the public interest and uphold the values of truth, honesty, and trustworthiness.

Disposition

35. By consent, this Consent Order is made pursuant to section 73 of the *PGA*.
36. Dr. Zhao's registration with Engineers and Geoscientists BC is cancelled effective the date of this Consent Order (the "Cancellation Date").
37. Dr. Zhao agrees not to apply for reinstatement as a professional engineer ("P.Eng.") or apply to register for any other designation with Engineers and Geoscientists BC for a period of three years after the Cancellation Date (the "Cancellation Period").
38. If Dr. Zhao applies for reinstatement of his registration in Engineers and Geoscientists BC after the Cancellation Period, he must re-apply, at his own expense, as if he were a first time applicant for the P.Eng. designation, and meet all eligibility requirements per the Bylaws of Engineers and Geoscientists BC at the time of application, including:
 - a. the academic requirements;
 - b. the experience requirements, including demonstration of a minimum of four years of satisfactory engineering work experience through the completion of a competency self-assessment and the provision of at least four validators who can confirm the work experience;
 - c. legal and ethical requirements, including successfully completing the National Professional Practice Examination, and the Professional Engineering and Geoscience Practice in BC Online Seminar;
 - d. good character and repute requirements; and
 - e. any other requirements deemed necessary by the Credentials Committee.
39. Dr. Zhao will pay a penalty of \$10,000 to Engineers and Geoscientists BC. This amount will be paid by four equal installments to be paid every month over the next four months following the date of this consent order.
40. Dr. Zhao will pay \$10,000 to Engineers and Geoscientists BC towards the legal and investigative costs incurred in this matter. This amount will be paid by four equal installments to be paid every month over the next four months following the date of this consent order.

Consequences of the Consent Order

41. 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.

- 42. This Consent Order has the same force and effect as an Order made under section 75 of the *PGA*.
- 43. Dr. Zhao has received independent legal advice regarding the content of this Consent Order.
- 44. Dr. Zhao 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 Dr. Zhao and the members of the Discipline Resolution Panel of Engineers and Geoscientists BC this 15th day of September 2025.

<original signed by>

Zhanchao Zhao, P.Eng.

<original signed by>

Print Name of Witness

<original signed by>

Signature of Witness

<original signed by>

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

<original signed by>

Warren Funt
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel

<original signed by>

Roz Nielsen, P.Eng.
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel