



**ENGINEERS &
GEOSCIENTISTS**
BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

and

**IN THE MATTER OF EERIK MATTHEW LILLES, P.Eng.
ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS BC FILE NO. T21-038**

CONSENT ORDER

Background

1. On March 27, 2025, pursuant to section 66(1) of the *Professional Governance Act*, S.B.C. 2018, c. 47 (the “PGA”), the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia, doing business as Engineers and Geoscientists BC, issued a citation to Eerik Matthew Lilles, P. Eng., which citation was subsequently amended on September 25, 2025 (the “Citation”).
2. The Citation set out allegations regarding engineering services provided by Mr. Lilles between June 2017 and May 2019 in relation to an existing onsite sewerage system (the “Original System”) and in relation to the design, construction and repair of a new onsite sewerage system (the “Sewerage System”), both located on a residential property in Smithers, BC (the “Property”).
3. Engineers and Geoscientists BC and Mr. Lilles wish to resolve this matter by consent pursuant to section 73(2) of the *PGA* to avoid the need for a disciplinary hearing.
4. Mr. Lilles consents to the disposition set out below.

Legislation

5. On February 5, 2021, the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 116 (the “EGA”) was repealed and replaced by the *PGA*.

6. The conduct of Mr. Lilles took place at a time when the *EGA* was in force. As a result, 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. 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

8. Mr. Lilles admits that he demonstrated unprofessional conduct in relation to engineering services he provided for the Original System, and in relation to engineering services he provided for the design, construction, and repair of the Sewerage System, particulars of which are that Mr. Lilles:
 - a. authenticated a letter to the Property owners on or about July 6, 2017, in which he opined on behalf of Bulkley Valley Engineering Services Ltd. that the Original System at the Property did not pose an immediate environmental or health risk without documenting or recording the basis for or reasons in support of that opinion;
 - b. Failed to conduct an adequate investigation in relation to the Original System by not estimating the volume of pumped flow from the septic tank to the dispersal field in order to understand the loading on the Original System;
 - c. Failed to conduct an adequate site and soil evaluation, or ensure that an adequate site and soil evaluation was conducted at the Property in support of the Sewerage System designed by him, which failures include not:
 - i. undertaking sufficient soil investigations to estimate the depth to water table and the Seasonal High Water Table, contrary to sections II-3.3.3 and/or section III-3.3.2.2 of the Sewerage System Practice Manual Version 3 (the "SPM");
 - ii. describing and including key information relating to depth to water table and/or the limiting layer in the site and soil evaluation report, contrary to section II-3.3.3 of the SPM;
 - iii. conducting sufficient permeameter measurements or percolation tests within the dispersal area of the Sewerage System, contrary to:
 1. section II-3.3.2 of the SPM, which requires four permeameter measurements or percolation tests to be conducted within a dispersal area; and/or

2. section III-8.3.3.3, Volume III-Appendices of the SPM, which requires six permeameter measurements to be conducted within a dispersal area where there is greater than 10 times difference between the highest and lowest permeameter measurement results;
- d. Failed to design the Sewerage System in a manner consistent with the SPM and/or a specified alternative practice, including:
 - i. by selecting a Kfs of 125mm/day as the basis of design when this was not the median or middle Kfs value of all permeameter measurements taken at the Property, contrary to section III-8.3.3.3, Volume III-Appendices of the SPM;
 - ii. by selecting a sand mound system without performing sufficient investigations or collecting sufficient information to justify this selection in circumstances where the median or middle Kfs value from all permeameter measurements was less than 75 mm/day, and the selection of a sand mound system therefore departed from Table II-7 and/or Table II-23 of the SPM;
 - e. Failed to construct, install and/or commission the Sewerage System, or ensure that the Sewerage System was constructed, installed and/or commissioned in a manner consistent with the SPM and/or a specified alternative practice, which failures include:
 - i. providing insufficient detail on drawings and specifications for the Sewerage System as to how the Original System was to be decommissioned;
 - ii. not completing a sieve analysis of the sand used for the sand mound for the Sewerage System to verify the quality of that sand, in or around the time of initial construction and/or installation of the Sewerage System;
 - iii. not recording the distal pressure (squirt height) for all laterals of the Sewerage System, contrary to section III-6.10.3.5 of the SPM;
 - iv. not recording that the risers to the septic tank were adequately sealed;
 - v. not recording that testing and/or verifying the water tightness of the septic tank was completed;
 - vi. inaccurately depicting the septic tank supplied and installed for the Sewerage System on the Sewerage System drawings, including the dimensions and baffling of the septic the tank;

- f. Failed to file information with Northern Health Authority (“NHA”) as required by the SPM and/or the *Sewerage System Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 326/2004 (the “SSR”) for the Sewerage System including:
 - i. a record of design rationale despite the departures from the SPM alleged above, contrary to section III-1.1 of the SPM;
 - ii. information about the type, depth and porosity of the soil at the site of the Sewerage System, contrary to section 8(2) of the SSR;
 - g. Failed to seek the opinion of a geotechnical engineer or hydrogeologist before finalizing the design for, constructing and/or attempting to repair the Sewerage System given the highly variable subsurface conditions at the Property indicated in the 2017 permeameter measurement results and the recorded information about the Property;
 - h. Failed to inform NHA of a potential health hazard caused by the Sewerage System between in or about May 2018 and May 2019 despite there being circumstances indicating a potential health hazard caused by the Sewerage System;
 - i. Failed to document field reviews of the Sewerage System; and
 - j. Failed to create and maintain adequate project documentation in relation to the design and installation of the Sewerage System.
9. The conduct set out above at paragraph 8 is contrary to Principle 1 of the Engineers and Geoscientists BC’s Code of Ethics (the “Code of Ethics”), as it stood at the time, which required that all members and licensees shall hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public, the protection of the environment and promote health and safety within the workplace.
10. The conduct above at subparagraphs 8(c) (d) and (g), and/or your attempts to repair the Sewerage System between May 2018 and May 2019, is contrary to Principle 2 of Code of Ethics, as it stood at the time, which required that members and licensees undertake and accept responsibility for professional assignments only when qualified by training or experience.
11. The conduct set out above at subparagraph 8(i) and (j) is contrary to section 14(b) of the Engineers and Geoscientists BC’s Bylaws, as they then were, which required that all members and licensees shall establish and maintain documented quality management processes for their practices, including:
- a. 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 minimum period of 10 years;

- b. regular documented checks of engineering and geoscience work using a written quality control process appropriate to the risk associated with the work; and
- c. documented field reviews by, or under the direct supervision of, members or licensees, of their domestic projects during implementation or construction.

Disposition

- 12. By consent, this Consent Order is made pursuant to section 73 of the *PGA*.
- 13. Mr. Lilles' registration in Engineers and Geoscientists BC is suspended for a period of three months commencing on December 1, 2025 (the "Suspension Period").
- 14. On or before the end of the Suspension Period, Mr. Lilles must provide written notice to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has at his own expense, successfully completed the following:
 - a. Professional Engineering and Geoscience Practice in BC Online Seminar;
 - b. Documented Field Reviews During Implementation and Construction, EGBC webinar;
 - c. Engineers and Geoscientists BC Professional Practice Guidelines: Onsite Sewerage Systems;
 - d. EQUIP OS110: BC Regulatory Framework for Onsite Sewerage;
 - e. EQUIP OS120: Sewerage Specification and Installation Standards;
 - f. EQUIP OS235: Onsite Sewerage Systems: Advanced Soils-Based Design.
- 15. Twelve months after the conclusion of the Suspension Period, Mr. Lilles agrees to undergo a practice review conducted by Engineers and Geoscientists BC (the "Practice Review"), at his own expense. The scope of the practice review will focus on sewerage-related engineering services provided by Mr. Lilles. The precise timing and process of the Practice Review will otherwise be determined by the Audit and Practice Review Committee.
- 16. Mr. Lilles will pay \$18,500 to Engineers and Geoscientists BC towards the legal and investigative costs of Engineers and Geoscientists BC contemporaneous with the execution of this Consent Order.

17. In the event that Mr. Lilles fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, his registration with Engineers and Geoscientists BC will be suspended until every default has been remedied in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order.

Consequences of the Consent Order

18. 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.

19. This Consent Order has the same force and effect as an Order made under section 75 of the *PGA*.

20. Mr. Lilles agrees that Engineers and Geoscientists BC has recommended that he receive independent legal advice regarding this Consent Order and that Engineers and Geoscientists BC has given him the opportunity to obtain independent legal advice.

21. Mr. Lilles 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. Lilles and the Discipline Resolution Panel this 20 day of November, 2025.

<original signed by>

Eerik Matthew Lilles, P.Eng.

<original signed by>

Name of Witness

<original signed by>

John Haythorne, P.Eng., FEC, FGC
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel

<original signed by>

Signature of Witness

<original signed by>

Collin Vaness, P.Eng., PE, CEM, LEED, BD&C
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel

<original signed by>

Reshmeena Lalani, CPA, CA
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel