

January 4, 2017

2007 CNRL Horizon Tank Collapse

Discipline Decision Highlights

- CNRL freely and voluntarily admitted to unprofessional conduct in the engagement and supervision of project contractors performing engineering work.
- Specifically, CNRL engaged in unprofessional conduct by failing to ensure that:
 - contractor drawings and procedures were certified by a Professional Engineer as defined by the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*
 - contractors were competent to perform engineering work
- CNRL has been fined \$10,000, the maximum allowed under current legislation.
- CNRL agreed to sanctions that will enhance public safety across the engineering profession.
- The sanctions for CNRL include:
 - work with APEGA to develop a new practice standard on outsourcing engineering and geoscience work
 - participating in a province-wide consultation with APEGA Members to clarify outsourcing issues
 - paying the costs of the consultation to a maximum of \$150,000

Investigation Highlights

- The contractors CNRL used to construct the tanks were not APEGA Permit Holders.
- The individual who developed the erection procedure for the tank's roof-support structure was not a Professional Engineer in Alberta.
- The roof-support structure did not have the appropriate restraints (guy wires) to withstand the 33–45 km/h winds that day. The Alberta Building Code at that time required that guy wires withstand a minimum of 83 km/h winds.

Incident Summary

- Seven workers were harmed: two received fatal injuries, two received serious injuries, and three received minor injuries.
- The tank was to be 56.5 metres in diameter and 19.8 metres high. When the tank roof-support structure collapsed, it was 5.6 metres high.

Key Dates

April 24, 2007	CNRL tank roof-support structure collapsed
May 17, 2007	APEGA issued news release that it found no current evidence that CNRL engaged in unskilled practice or unprofessional conduct but would monitor on-going investigations by the province
February 15, 2016	Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) report released
February 17, 2016	APEGA issued news release that it is restarting its review of the tank incident based on the OH&S report
November 28, 2016	APEGA Recommended Discipline Order approved by APEGA Discipline Committee

For more information, please contact:

Gisela Hippolt-Squair
Deputy Director of Communications
Tel: (780) 493-0813 or toll free 1-800-661-7020
Cell: (780) 982-1574
gisela.hippoltsquair@apega.ca
www.apega.ca