



APEGA RECOMMENDED ORDER TO THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF THE *ENGINEERING
AND GEOSCIENCE PROFESSIONS ACT*

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONDUCT OF



IC File: 24-33

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**In the Matter of the *Engineering and Geoscience
Professions Act***

and

In the Matter of the Conduct of
[REDACTED]

The Investigative Committee of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) has investigated the conduct of [REDACTED] P.Eng. (the registrant) with respect to a complaint initiated by [REDACTED] (the complainant).

A. Complaint

The complainant alleged that the registrant engaged in unprofessional conduct and / or unskilled practice as defined at section 44(1) of the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*, RSA 2000, c E-11 (EGP Act) with respect to his role as a structural engineering consultant in August / September 2024, relative to an addition being constructed at the complainant's home located in Rocky View County, Alberta.

The complainant had initially retained Bill Ma as the structural engineer. The complainant did not know that Bill Ma's engineering license had been suspended by APEGA's Investigative Committee in September 2023 or that Bill Ma had sub-contracted out his structural engineering duties to the registrant.

The Investigation Panel later expanded the scope of the investigation to assess all work completed by the registrant for Bill Ma.

The investigation focused on the following allegations:

1. Whether the registrant engaged in unskilled practice and / or unprofessional conduct relative to the initial project in question located in Rocky View County, Alberta.
2. Whether the registrant engaged in unskilled practice and / or unprofessional conduct relative to fifteen (15) additional residential and commercial project examples provided to the Investigation Panel for review.

B. Agreed Statement of Facts

(i) Background:

1. The registrant has been a member of APEGA since 2021.
2. The registrant resides in Québec and has been a member of the Order des Ingénieurs du Québec since 2010.
3. The registrant holds a bachelor's degree in structural engineering from Concordia University (2010).
4. In 2024, the registrant posted personal and career information on a social media website. After posting this information he was contacted by a staff member from AACG Ltd.
5. AACG Ltd. has been an APEGA permit holder since 2016. This company is owned and operated by Bill Ma, a suspended member of APEGA.
6. The registrant was asked by an AACG Ltd. staff member to assist in the role of a structural engineer for small-scale construction projects in the Calgary area.
7. The registrant worked on sixteen (16) projects for AACG Ltd. in 2024.
8. One of those projects resulted in a complaint made to APEGA.
9. The registrant has cooperated with the investigation.

(ii) Facts Relating to Allegation 1:

Whether the registrant engaged in unskilled practice and / or unprofessional conduct relative to the initial project in question located in Rocky View County, Alberta.

10. In August 2024 the registrant received an email from a staff member at AACG Ltd. requesting that he review and authenticate drawings prepared by the staff member. The drawings consisted of foundation, floor and roof designs pertaining to the complainant's addition project.
11. The registrant's scope of work for the project, as indicated on his invoice, was to "review and stamp plans."
12. The registrant conducted only a cursory review of the drawings and then applied his professional stamp and signature to the drawings using a "copy and paste" method.
13. The registrant sent the authenticated AACG Ltd. drawings back to Bill Ma who in turn issued them to the complainant.
14. Upon review of the drawings by the complainant and his general contractor, the complainant questioned not only the quality of the drawings, but also the competency and professionalism of the registrant, Bill Ma and AACG Ltd. As such, the complainant terminated his verbal contract with Bill Ma.

15. The drawings in question were subjected to a preliminary assessment by a member of APEGA's Investigation Committee, a structural engineer, who determined that they contained the following errors and deficiencies that were not identified or corrected by the registrant:
 - no clarity concerning whether the floor framing plan is a floor or a roof;
 - no connection details for a 7-ply LVL beam;
 - no connection details between a beam and a column;
 - incorrect concrete pile depth; and
 - no roof pitch indicated.
16. The registrant was not aware that Bill Ma was a suspended member of APEGA and was not aware that AACG Ltd. was an engineering company with a valid permit to practice. The registrant believed he was dealing with a Calgary-based construction company.
17. Due diligence is defined in APEGA's Professional Practice Standard, *Authenticating Professional Work Products*, January 2022, as: "The level of judgement, care, forethought, and determination a person reasonably uses to avoid harming oneself, other people, property, or the environment."
18. The registrant failed to exercise due diligence by not conducting a thorough review of the drawings prepared by Bill Ma; not knowing the rules in Alberta concerning the validation and authentication of professional work products; not determining that AACG Ltd. was an APEGA permit holder; and not determining that Bill Ma's engineering license had been suspended by APEGA.
19. The registrant also contravened APEGA's Professional Practice Standard, *Authenticating Professional Work Products*, January 2022, by using a "copy and paste" method for applying his professional stamp and signature to the drawings.
20. The registrant admits that the conduct described above constitutes unprofessional conduct.

(iii) Facts relating to Allegation 2:

Whether the registrant engaged in unskilled practice and / or unprofessional conduct relative to fifteen (15) additional residential and commercial project examples provided to the Investigation Panel for review.

21. The registrant provided the Investigation Panel with copies all professional work products he completed at the request of Bill Ma in 2024. This consisted of 15 construction residential and commercial projects in the Calgary region.

22. The registrant had a verbal contract with Bill Ma for all of the projects.
23. Many of the invoices sent to Bill Ma by the registrant described the registrant's scope of work as "review and stamp plans."
24. The registrant failed to exercise sufficient due diligence and failed to conduct a thorough review of the fifteen (15) project drawings in question. In most cases the registrant's review was cursory at best.
25. The registrant asserted his scope of work for the projects was limited to verbal and email instructions from Bill Ma. However, by authenticating the drawings without limitations, the registrant was unaware that he accepted full responsibility for the drawings, including some of which were architectural in nature.
26. The registrant admitted that his scope of work was not clear to the reader / reviewer of his drawings and his construction review letters.
27. The registrant's authenticated drawings and construction review letters relating to the fifteen (15) projects can be summarized as having the following errors and deficiencies:
 - lack of connection details for columns, headers, beams, trusses and anchors on the drawings;
 - imprecise agreed upon scope of work between the registrant and Bill Ma; and
 - lacking acknowledgement of safety codes officer requirements.
28. The registrant admitted that he did not review the notes on the drawings which had been prepared by Bill Ma and / or one of Bill Ma's staff members for technical information, nor did he detect numerous spelling mistakes in the notes.
29. All of the registrant's stamps and signatures were applied using a "copy and paste" method contrary to APEGA's Practice Standard, *Authenticating Professional Work Products*, January 2022.
30. The registrant displayed a fundamental lack of understanding concerning his role in Alberta as the structural engineer of record for the projects in question, concerning the role of safety codes officers, and concerning the use of *National Building Code-Alberta Edition*, Schedules.
31. The registrant was not familiar with the term "authority having jurisdiction."
32. The registrant admits that the conduct described above constitutes unprofessional conduct.

C. Conduct by the registrant

33. The registrant freely and voluntarily admits that at all relevant times the registrant was registered with APEGA and was thus bound by the EGP Act and the APEGA Code of Ethics.
34. The registrant acknowledges and admits that the conduct described in the allegation amounts to unprofessional conduct as defined in section 44(1) of the EGP Act

Section 44(1) Any conduct of a professional member, licensee, permit holder, certificate holder or member-in-training that in the opinion of the Discipline committee or the Appeal Board,

- a) is detrimental to the best interests of the public,*
- b) contravenes a code of ethics of the profession as established under the regulations,*
- c) harms or tends to harm the standing of the profession generally,*
- d) displays a lack of knowledge of or lack of skill or judgement in the practice of the profession, or*
- e) displays a lack of knowledge of or lack of skill or judgement in the carrying out of any duty or obligation undertaken in the practice of the profession*

whether or not that conduct is disgraceful or dishonorable, constitutes either unskilled practice of the profession or unprofessional conduct, whichever the Discipline Committee or the Appeal Board finds.

35. The registrant acknowledges that the conduct described above is conduct that is detrimental to the best interests of the public, contravenes a code of ethics of the profession, harms or tends to harm the standing of the profession generally, and displays a lack of knowledge and judgment in the carrying out of any duty or obligation undertaken in the practice of the profession.
36. The registrant admits that his conduct was also contrary to Rules of Conduct 1,3, 4 and 5 of the APEGA Code of Ethics, which state:
- 1. Professional engineers and geoscientists shall, in their areas of practice, hold paramount the health, safety and welfare of the public and have regard for the environment.*
 - 3. Professional engineers and geoscientists shall conduct themselves with integrity, honesty, fairness and objectivity in their professional activities.*
 - 4. Professional engineers and geoscientists shall comply with applicable statutes, regulations and bylaws in their professional practices.*

5. *Professional engineers and geoscientists shall uphold and enhance the honour, dignity and reputation of their professions and thus the ability of the professions to serve the public.*

37. The registrant admits that his conduct was also contrary to the following APEGA publications:
 - a. Professional Practice Standard, *Authenticating Professional Work Products*, January 2022; and
 - b. Professional Practice Standard, *Relying on the Work of Others and Outsourcing*, May 2021.

D. Recommended Orders

38. On the recommendation of the Investigative Committee, and by agreement of the registrant, and following a discussion and review with the Discipline Committee Case Manager, the Discipline Committee hereby orders that:
 - a. The registrant shall be reprimanded for his conduct and this Order shall serve as the reprimand.
 - b. The registrant shall pay a fine in the amount of \$5,000.00. The fine is a debt owing to APEGA and shall be paid within six (6) months of being notified that the Recommended Order has been approved by the Discipline Committee Case Manager.

If there are extenuating circumstances, the registrant may apply in writing to the Discipline Manager for an extension prior to this six (6) month fine payment deadline. The approval for extending a deadline is at the discretion of the Discipline Manager. If such an application is made, the registrant shall provide the Discipline Manager the reason for the request, a proposal to vary the deadline, and any other documentation requested by the Discipline Manager.

Failure to pay the fine on or by the approved date may result in a referral of the matter to the Investigative Committee for preliminary investigation.

- c. The registrant's APEGA Registration shall be cancelled, and the cancellation shall be effective the date this Order is approved by the Discipline Committee Case Manager (the Cancellation Date). The registrant shall not apply for reinstatement of licensure as a professional member, licensee, permit holder or restricted practitioner for a period of two years after the Cancellation Date. If the registrant elects to apply for reinstatement of licensure with APEGA, the registrant shall be bound by APEGA's reinstatement process under the current or future legislation:

<https://www.apega.ca/members/changes/return-to-practice#reinstate>

The registrant shall not be eligible for Interprovincial Mobility, regardless of registration status in another jurisdiction.

Any application for reinstatement as a professional member, licensee, permit holder or restricted practitioner with APEGA shall be contingent upon the following conditions:

- An Alberta Safety Codes course that is satisfactory to the Discipline Manager, such as Course 100179, Introduction to the Safety Codes System in Alberta, offered through the Safety Codes Council; and
- The National Professional Practice Exam (NPPE); and
- Relying on the Work of Others and Outsourcing Self-Directed Learning Module in myAPEGA; and
- Ethics Self-Directed Learning Module in myAPEGA; and
- Authenticating Professional Work Products Self-Directed Learning Module in myAPEGA.

If the above noted Introduction to Safety Codes course is no longer available on approval of this Order, at the discretion of the Discipline Manager, another Alberta Safety Codes course may be authorized for substitution if it is deemed substantially equivalent.

The registrant shall be responsible for all costs associated with completing the noted courses and exams.

ii. Review of Publications:

And until the registrant provides the Discipline Manager with written confirmation that they have reviewed the following APEGA publications and that the registrant will comply with the requirements therein:

- Professional Practice Standard, *Authenticating Professional Work Products*, November 2024; and
- *National Building Code – Alberta Edition Schedules User Guide*, May 2024; and
- Professional Practice Standard, *Relying on the Work of Others and Outsourcing*, May 2021; and
- Practice Bulletin, *Authentication Requirements for As-Built, Record, and As-Acquired Drawings*, February 2023; and
- Practice Guideline, *Ethical Practice*, August 2022; and
- *National Building Code (Alberta Edition) Schedules User Guide*, May 2022.

The registrant shall provide the Discipline Manager, within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order is approved by the Discipline Committee Case Manager, written confirmation that their stamp has been surrendered to the Membership Administrator, APEGA Outreach & Product Services.

- e. This matter and its outcome will be published by APEGA as deemed appropriate and such publication will not name the registrant.

Although the Investigative Committee and the registrant understand and acknowledge that APEGA's usual policy is to publish Recommended Discipline Orders in a manner that identifies the registrant by name, the parties understand that the decision to publish with or without names is discretionary. The parties submit that publication without name is appropriate given the specific facts in this case:

- The admission by the registrant of unprofessional conduct; and
- The registrant's voluntary cancellation of his APEGA membership.

I, [REDACTED] acknowledge that before signing this Recommended Order, I consulted with legal counsel regarding my rights or that I am aware of my right to consult legal counsel and that I hereby expressly waive my right to do so. I confirm that I agree to the facts as set out above in this Recommended Order and the admissions set out in Sections B and C, and that I agree with the Orders in Section D that are jointly proposed.

Further to the above, I acknowledge that I have reviewed APEGA's Good Standing Policy. I understand that I will not be "in good standing" until I have fully complied with the Orders set out above and I understand that "good standing" status may affect my membership rights or benefits, including the ability to become a Responsible Member, or the ability to volunteer with APEGA in any capacity.

Further to the above, I acknowledge that a copy of this Order and my identity shall be provided to the APEGA Practice Review Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned agrees with the Agreed Statement of Facts and Acknowledgment of Unprofessional Conduct and the Orders jointly proposed.

[REDACTED]

Kevin Willis, P.Eng., P.E.
Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2025/08/07)
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.



Kevin Willis, P.Eng., P.E. (Panel Chair)
APEGA Investigative Committee

APEGA Discipline Committee

John McDonald
Signed by John McDonald (2025/10/17)
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.

By: _____



October 17 2025

Case Manager