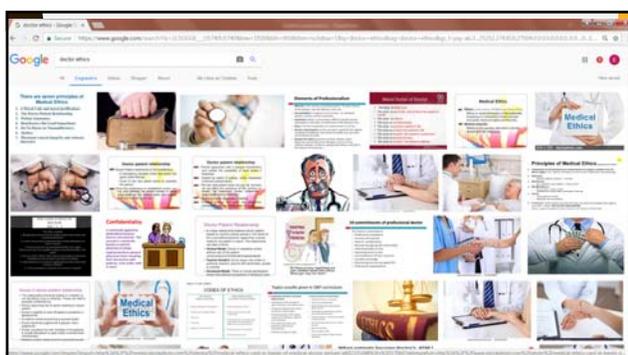




I. INTRODUCTION

Professions with Codes of Ethics

- People tend to think of professions that can immediately and directly affect people.
 - Laypeople know about the hippocratic oath, HIPAA, etc., for doctors, and that there is a Bar Association for lawyers.
 - Punishments for doctors and lawyers are often in the media - medical malpractice cases, suspension from the practice of law, etc.
 - Stereotype is some professions are ethical; others are unethical.
- Very rare to hear about unethical engineers, but this does not mean engineers can be complacent about their ethical responsibilities!



II. LAW V. ETHICS

- Ethics are why and how a person ought to act and are similar to morals. "Golden Rule." Ethics and morals what we strive to be.
- Laws are a system that enforces sets of rules and guidelines to govern social behavior. Often includes ethical behavior, but not always. Laws are often the ethical minimums.



II. LAW V. ETHICS

- Although some ethical responsibilities are not codified in law – and thus can't lead to criminal or administrative discipline – a violation of an ethical responsibility can still open a person (including an engineer) up to civil suit.

$$\text{Negligence} = \text{Duty (RPE)} + \text{Breach of Duty} + \text{Causation} + \text{Damages}$$

- Violation of an ethical code that is not also a legal violation can also:
 - Negatively affect you professionally (loss of job, poor references, etc.).
 - Negatively affect you personally (guilt, loss of confidence, etc.).
 - Negatively affect the profession as a whole.





II. LAW V. ETHICS – EXAMPLE

Citigroup Center: No criminal actions were brought. Still raised a lot of ethical questions (pro and con).

- Analysis of wind loads. Check all calculations and not rely just on building codes; these set minimum requirements and not the state of the art.
- PE did not follow the codes of conduct for chartered institution → PE did not consider public safety first.
- The public statements issued by PE and Citigroup set out to mislead the public deliberately.
- Withholding information denied the public the right to ensure their own safety and to make their own critical decisions.
- Concealing this problem for almost 20 years prevented ethical and engineering learning that could have taken place.

III. THE LAW - STATE STATUTE DEFINITION

"Practice of professional engineering includes any professional service requiring the application of engineering principles and data, in which the public welfare or the safeguarding of life, health or property is concerned and involved, such as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, design, or responsible supervision of construction, alteration, or operation, in connection with any public or private utilities, structures, projects, bridges, plants and buildings, machines, equipment, processes and works. A person offers to practice professional engineering if the person ... represents himself or herself to be a professional engineer; or who through the use of some other title implies that he or she is a professional engineer; or who holds himself or herself out as able to practice professional engineering." §443.01(6), Wis. Stat. (emphasis added).

III. THE LAW – STATE STATUTE DEFINITION

"Professional engineer means a person who by reason of his or her knowledge of mathematics, the physical sciences and the principles of engineering, acquired by professional education and practical experience, is qualified to engage in engineering practice as defined in sub. (6)." §443.01(7), Wis. Stat.

III. THE LAW – STATE STATUTE VIOLATION

- Per Statute, a violation of any of the Administrative Codes of Conduct for an engineer may result in disciplinary action up to and including:
 - Reprimand (by Examining Board) – the individual and/or the firm.
 - Limit, suspend or revoke certificate of registration (by Examining Board) – the individual and/or the firm.
- Violation of the Statute under Ch. 443 (e.g., unauthorized practice of engineering) may result in prosecution and a sentence of a fine of up to \$500 and/or three months imprisonment.

III. THE LAW – STATE STATUTE ALLEGATIONS

Who can make allegations of a violation of the Administrative Code or Chapter 443 of the State Statute? Per the Statute:

- "Any person may make charges that any [PE], holder of a certificate of record as engineer-in-training or corporate holder of a certificate of authorization has committed an act for which a reprimand or limitation, suspension, or revocation of registration is authorized."
- "The appropriate section of the examining board may, on its own motion, make such charges."

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PURPOSE

- The Wisconsin Administrative Code for Engineering Conduct mirrors professional engineering societies' Codes of Ethics.
- The Administrative Code is much shorter and goes into much less detail than the NSPE Code of Ethics.
- Purpose is to codify basic standards of conduct.

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

A-E 8.04 Offers to perform services shall be truthful. When offering to perform professional services, a ... professional engineer ...

- 1) Shall accurately and truthfully represent to a prospective client or employer the capabilities and qualifications which the [PE] has to perform the services to be rendered.
- 2) Shall represent the costs and completion times of a proposed project to a client or prospective client as accurately and truthfully as is reasonably possible.
- 3) May not offer to perform, nor perform, services which the [PE] is not qualified to perform by education or experience without retaining the services of another who is qualified. *Four more...*

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

- 4) May not use advertising or publicity which is fraudulent or deceptive.
- 5) May not represent that he or she is engaged in a partnership or association with another unless there exists in fact a partnership or association.
- 6) May not collect a fee for recommending the services of another unless written notice is first given to all parties concerned.
- 7) May not practice under a firm name that misrepresents the identity of those practicing in the firm or misrepresents the type of services which the individuals, firm or partnership is authorized and qualified to perform.

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

A-E 8.05 Conflicts of interest.

(1) [A] ... professional engineer:

- 1) Shall avoid conflicts of interest. If an unavoidable conflict of interest arises, the [PE] shall immediately inform the client or employer of all the circumstances which may interfere with or impair the [PE's] obligation to provide professional services. Under these circumstances a [PE] may not proceed to provide professional services without the full approval and consent of the client or employer.

Six more...

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

- 2) Shall notify the employer or client and withdraw from employment at any time if it becomes apparent that it is not possible to faithfully discharge the responsibilities and duties owed to the client or employer.
- 3) May not agree to perform professional services for a client or employer if the [PE] has a significant financial or other interest which would impair or interfere with the [PE's] responsibility to faithfully discharge professional services on behalf of the client or employer.
- 4) May not accept payment from any party other than a client or employer for a particular project or may not have any direct or indirect financial interest in a service or phase of a service to be provided as part of a project unless the employer or client approves.

Three more...

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

- 5) May not solicit or accept anything of value from material or equipment suppliers in return for specifying or endorsing a product.
- 6) May not violate the confidences of a client or employer, except as otherwise required by rules in this chapter.
- 7) May not perform services for a client or employer while a full-time employee of another employer without notifying all parties concerned.

(2) Nothing in these rules limits a [PE's] professional responsibility to an owner of a project when the [PE] is employed by a person or firm under contract to construct and furnish design services for that project

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

A-E 8.06 **Professional obligations.** [A] ... professional engineer ... :

- 1) Shall use reasonable care and competence in providing professional services.
- 2) May not evade the professional or contractual responsibility which the [PE] has to a client or employer.
- 3) May not enter into an agreement which provides that a person not legally and actually qualified to perform professional services has control over the [PE's] judgment as related to public health, safety or welfare.

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

A-E 8.07 **Unauthorized practice.** [A] ... professional engineer ...:

- 1) Shall assist in enforcing laws which prohibit the unlicensed practice of ... professional engineering ... by reporting violations to the board.
- 2) May not delegate professional responsibility to unlicensed persons and may not otherwise aid or abet the unlicensed practice of ... professional engineering.

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

A-E 8.08 **Maintenance of professional standards.** [A] professional engineer ...:

- 1) Shall furnish the board with information indicating that any person or firm has violated provisions in ch. 443, Stats., rules in this chapter or other legal standards applicable to the profession.
- 2) May not discuss with any individual board member any disciplinary matter under investigation or in hearing.

III. THE LAW – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

A-E 8.09 Adherence to statutes and rules. [A] ... professional engineer ... :

- 1) Shall comply with the requirements in ch. 443, Stats., rules in this chapter and all other federal, state and local codes which relate to the practice of ... professional engineering
- 2) May not engage in conduct that may adversely affect his or her fitness to practice ... professional engineering

III. THE LAW – LAWS FOR ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

- In addition to the codification of ethical laws specific to engineers, there are laws that apply to all municipal employees (e.g., public bidding laws).
- Municipalities often have also their own ordinances and policies regulating ethics of their employees. It is very important that you familiarize yourself with your local ordinances and any internal policies.

III. THE LAW – LAWS FOR ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Wis. Stat. §19.59 Codes of ethics for local government officials, employees and candidates.

- (1m) ... any county, city, village or town may enact an ordinance establishing a code of ethics for public officials and employees of the county or municipality and candidates for county or municipal elective offices.
- (2) An ordinance enacted under this section shall specify the positions to which it applies. The ordinance may apply to members of the immediate family of individuals who hold positions or who are candidates for positions to which the ordinance applies.

III. THE LAW – LAWS FOR ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

- (3) An ordinance enacted under this section may contain any of the following provisions:
 - (a) A requirement for local public officials, other employees of the county or municipality and candidates for local public office to identify any of the economic interests specified in s. 19.44.
 - (b) A provision directing the county or municipal clerk or board of election commissioners to omit the name of any candidate from an election ballot who fails to disclose his or her economic interests in accordance with the requirements of the ordinance.

Four more...

III. THE LAW – LAWS FOR ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

- (c) A provision directing the county or municipal treasurer to withhold the payment of salaries or expenses from any local public official or other employee of the county or municipality who fails to disclose his or her economic interests in accordance with the requirements of the ordinance.
- (d) A provision vesting administration and civil enforcement of the ordinance with an ethics board appointed in a manner specified in the ordinance. A board created under this paragraph may issue subpoenas, administer oaths and investigate any violation of the ordinance on its own motion or upon complaint by any person....

Two more...

III. THE LAW – LAWS FOR ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

- (e) Provisions prescribing ethical standards of conduct and prohibiting conflicts of interest on the part of local public officials and other employees of the county or municipality or on the part of former local public officials or former employees of the county or municipality.
- (f) A provision prescribing a forfeiture for violation of the ordinance in an amount not exceeding \$1,000 for each offense. A minimum forfeiture not exceeding \$100 for each offense may also be prescribed.

IV. THE ETHICS

- Different Engineering Society's have different Codes of Ethics. Goal is not to memorize all of the Codes, but to have a working understanding of the principals behind the Codes, which are all fundamentally the same.
- NSPE (parent to the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers) says: "The NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers is designed to provide positive stimulus for ethical conduct as well as helpful guidance and advice concerning the primary and basic obligations of engineers. The Code also establishes the ethical guideposts for the NSPE Board of Ethical Review in interpreting ethical dilemmas submitted by engineers, public officials, and members of the public."

IV. THE ETHICS – DEFINITIONS

Engineering Ethics is defined by NSPE as:

- 1) The study of moral issues and decisions confronting individuals and organizations involved in engineering, and
- 2) The study of related questions about moral conduct, character, ideals and relationships of peoples and organizations involved in technological development.

IV. THE ETHICS – DEFINITIONS

Wikipedia says:

"Engineering ethics is the field of applied ethics and system of moral principles that apply to the practice of engineering. The field examines and sets the obligations by engineers to society, to their clients, and to the profession."

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PREAMBLE**

Engineering is an important and learned profession. As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
FUNDAMENTAL CANONS**

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

- 1) Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
- 2) Perform services only in areas of their competence.
- 3) Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
- 4) Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
- 5) Avoid deceptive acts.
- 6) Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- 1) Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
 - a) If engineers' judgment is overruled under circumstances that endanger life or property, they shall notify their employer or client and such other authority as may be appropriate.
 - b) Engineers shall approve only those engineering documents that are in conformity with applicable standards.

Four more ...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- c) Engineers shall not reveal facts, data, or information without the prior consent of the client or employer except as authorized or required by law or this Code.
- d) Engineers shall not permit the use of their name or associate in business ventures with any person or firm that they believe is engaged in fraudulent or dishonest enterprise.
- e) Engineers shall not aid or abet the unlawful practice of engineering by a person or firm.

One more...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- f) Engineers having knowledge of any alleged violation of this Code shall report thereon to appropriate professional bodies and, when relevant, also to public authorities, and cooperate with the proper authorities in furnishing such information or assistance as may be required.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- 2) Engineers shall perform services only in the areas of their competence.
 - a) Engineers shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields involved.
 - b) Engineers shall not affix their signatures to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any plan or document not prepared under their direction and control.

One more...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- c) Engineers may accept assignments and assume responsibility for coordination of an entire project and sign and seal the engineering documents for the entire project, provided that each technical segment is signed and sealed only by the qualified engineers who prepared the segment.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- 3) Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
 - a) Engineers shall be objective and truthful in professional reports, statements, or testimony. They shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or testimony, which should bear the date indicating when it was current.
 - b) Engineers may express publicly technical opinions that are founded upon knowledge of the facts and competence in the subject matter.
 - c) Engineers shall issue no statements, criticisms, or arguments on technical matters that are inspired or paid for by interested parties, unless they have prefaced their comments by explicitly identifying the interested parties on whose behalf they are speaking, and by revealing the existence of any interest the engineers may have in the matters.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- 4) Engineers shall act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
 - a) Engineers shall disclose all known or potential conflicts of interest that could influence or appear to influence their judgment or the quality of their services.
 - b) Engineers shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by all interested parties.

Three more...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- c) Engineers shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable consideration, directly or indirectly, from outside agents in connection with the work for which they are responsible.
- d) Engineers in public service as members, advisors, or employees of a governmental or quasi-governmental body or department shall not participate in decisions with respect to services solicited or provided by them or their organizations in private or public engineering practice.
- e) Engineers shall not solicit or accept a contract from a governmental body on which a principal or officer of their organization serves as a member.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- 5) Engineers shall avoid deceptive acts.
 - a) Engineers shall not falsify their qualifications or permit misrepresentation of their or their associates' qualifications. They shall not misrepresent or exaggerate their responsibility in or for the subject matter of prior assignments. Brochures or other presentations incident to the solicitation of employment shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint ventures, or past accomplishments.

One more...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
RULES OF PRACTICE**

- b. Engineers shall not offer, give, solicit, or receive, either directly or indirectly, any contribution to influence the award of a contract by public authority, or which may be reasonably construed by the public as having the effect or intent of influencing the awarding of a contract. They shall not offer any gift or other valuable consideration in order to secure work. They shall not pay a commission, percentage, or brokerage fee in order to secure work, except to a bona fide employee or bona fide established commercial or marketing agencies retained by them.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- I. Engineers shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
 - a) Engineers shall acknowledge their errors and shall not distort or alter the facts.
 - b) Engineers shall advise their clients or employers when they believe a project will not be successful.
 - c) Engineers shall not accept outside employment to the detriment of their regular work or interest. Before accepting any outside engineering employment, they will notify their employers.

Two more...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- d) Engineers shall not attempt to attract an engineer from another employer by false or misleading pretenses.
- e) Engineers shall not promote their own interest at the expense of the dignity and integrity of the profession.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- 2. Engineers shall at all times strive to serve the public interest.
 - a) Engineers are encouraged to participate in civic affairs; career guidance for youths; and work for the advancement of the safety, health, and well-being of their community.
 - b) Engineers shall not complete, sign, or seal plans and/or specifications that are not in conformity with applicable engineering standards. If the client or employer insists on such unprofessional conduct, they shall notify the proper authorities and withdraw from further service on the project.

Two More...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- c) Engineers are encouraged to extend public knowledge and appreciation of engineering and its achievements.
- d) Engineers are encouraged to adhere to the principles of sustainable development in order to protect the environment for future generations.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- 3. Engineers shall avoid all conduct or practice that deceives the public.
 - a) Engineers shall avoid the use of statements containing a material misrepresentation of fact or omitting a material fact.
 - b) Consistent with the foregoing, engineers may advertise for recruitment of personnel.
 - c) Consistent with the foregoing, engineers may prepare articles for the lay or technical press, but such articles shall not imply credit to the author for work performed by others.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- 4. Engineers shall not disclose, without consent, confidential information concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer or public body on which they serve.
 - a) Engineers shall not, without the consent of all interested parties, promote or arrange for new employment or practice in connection with a specific project for which the engineer has gained particular and specialized knowledge.

One more...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- b) Engineers shall not, without the consent of all interested parties, participate in or represent an adversary interest in connection with a specific project or proceeding in which the engineer has gained particular specialized knowledge on behalf of a former client or employer.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- 5. Engineers shall not be influenced in their professional duties by conflicting interests.
 - a) Engineers shall not accept financial or other considerations, including free engineering designs, from material or equipment suppliers for specifying their product.
 - b) Engineers shall not accept commissions or allowances, directly or indirectly from contractors or other parties dealing with clients or employers of the engineer in connection with work for which the engineer is responsible.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- 6. Engineers shall not attempt to obtain employment or advancement or professional engagements by untruthfully criticizing other engineers, or by other improper or questionable methods.
 - a) Engineers shall not request, propose, or accept a commission on a contingent basis under circumstances in which their judgment may be compromised.

Two more...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- b) Engineers in salaried positions shall accept part-time engineering work only to the extent consistent with policies of the employer and in accordance with ethical considerations.
- c) Engineers shall not, without consent, use equipment, supplies, laboratory, or office facilities of an employer to carry on outside private practice.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

7. Engineers shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other engineers. Engineers who believe others are guilty of unethical or illegal practice shall present such information to the proper authority for action.
- a) Engineers in private practice shall not review the work of another engineer for the same client, except with the knowledge of such engineer, or unless the connection of such engineer with the work has been terminated.
 - b) Engineers in governmental, industrial, or educational employ are entitled to review and evaluate the work of other engineers when so required by their employment duties.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

8. Engineers shall accept personal responsibility for their professional activities, provided, however, that engineers may seek indemnification for services arising out of their practice for other than gross negligence, where the engineer's interests cannot otherwise be protected.
- a) Engineers shall conform with state registration laws in the practice of engineering.
 - b) Engineers shall not use association with a nonengineer, a corporation, or partnership as a "cloak" for unethical acts.

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

9. Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others.

- a) Engineers shall, whenever possible, name the person or persons who may be individually responsible for designs, inventions, writings, or other accomplishments.
- b) Engineers using designs supplied by a client recognize that the designs remain the property of the client and may not be duplicated by the engineer for others without express permission.

Three more...

**V. THE ETHICS - NSPE CODE OF ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

- c) Engineers, before undertaking work for others in connection with which the engineer may make improvements, plans, designs, inventions, or other records that may justify copyrights or patents, should enter into a positive agreement regarding ownership.
- d) Engineers' designs, data, records, and notes referring exclusively to an employer's work are the employer's property. The employer should indemnify the engineer for use of the information for any purpose other than the original purpose.
- e) Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers and should keep current in their specialty fields by engaging in professional practice, participating in continuing education courses, reading in the technical literature, and attending professional meetings and seminars.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- 1. Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, must carefully consider the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
- 2. Engineers may perform services outside of their areas of competence as long as they inform their employers or clients.
- 3. Engineers may issue subjective and partial statements if such statements are in writing and consistent with the best interests of their employers, clients, or the public.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- 4. Engineers shall act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
- 5. Engineers shall not be required to engage in truthful acts when required to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.
- 6. Engineers may not be required to follow the provisions of state or federal law when such actions could endanger or compromise their employer or their clients' interests.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- 7. If engineers' judgment is overruled under circumstances that endanger life or property, they shall notify their employers or clients and such other authority as may be appropriate.
- 8. Engineers shall not permit the use of their names or associates in business ventures with any person or firm that they believe is engaged in fraudulent or dishonest enterprise, unless such enterprise or activity is deemed consistent with applicable state or federal law.
- 9. Engineers having knowledge of any alleged violation of this NSPE Code of Ethics, following a period of 30 days during which the violation is not corrected, shall report thereon to appropriate professional bodies and, when relevant, also to public authorities, and cooperate with the proper authorities in furnishing such information or assistance as may be required.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- 10. Engineers shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by all interested parties.
- 11. Engineers who are employees of a governmental may participate in decisions with respect to services solicited or provided by them or their organizations in private or public engineering practice as long as such decisions do not involve technical engineering matters for which they do not possess professional competence.
- 12. Engineers shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields involved.

VI. CONCLUSION

Engineers must be mindful of their ethical responsibilities, not just their legal responsibilities.

Engineers working for a municipality must also be aware of any municipal policies or ordinances that may apply to them – purchasing policies, conflict of interest, outside employment, etc.

REFERENCES

- Wisconsin State Statute, Chapter 19
- Wisconsin State Statute, Chapter 443
- Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter A-E
- <https://www.asce.org/>
- <https://www.nspe.org/>
- <https://www.damninteresting.com/a-potentially-disastrous-design-error/>
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