

National Professional Practice Examination Advisory Committee (NPPEAC)

Professional Practice and Ethics Exam subjected to Validation Survey

During the first half of 2005, the National Professional Practice Examination Advisory Committee (NPPEAC) undertook a validation survey to assess the suitability of the syllabus of the National Professional Practice Examination, as it relates to the day-to-day professional practice of individual engineering and geoscience practitioners.

The survey consisted of 37 questions, based on the current NPPE syllabus topics. Respondents were asked to consider the relevance of each topic in relation to the practice of their profession and the ethical issues and challenges that they may encounter, and to rate each topic on a 4-point scale, ranging from "useless - should be deleted from the syllabus" to "essential - must know". In addition, respondents were invited to write in unstructured responses to each of the questions.

A total of 1,557 professional members, from the 10 associations from across Canada which use the national exam responded to the survey, – 1225 professional engineers (78.9%) and 299 professional geoscientists (19.2%). An initial review of the responses indicated that most respondents considered the topics in the current syllabus to be either "essential - must know" or "generally important and useful for members to know".

A comprehensive analysis of the survey responses will be undertaken this summer and a full report complete with recommendations will be completed in the fall. In the meantime, the National Professional Practice Examination Advisory Committee wishes to extend its sincere thanks to all of the professional members who participated in the survey.

Independent validation of this exam is an important element in the ongoing effort to improve and refine the quality of the testing method for this important element of professional licensure of both professions across Canada.

The NPPEAC is a national committee made up of the 10 professional associations - engineering only, combined engineering and geoscience, and geoscience only - which use the National Professional Practice and Ethics Exam as their method to verify practitioners entering the practice of professional engineering or professional geoscience have an appropriate knowledge and understanding of both their professional and ethical obligations.

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