

How to Avoid Litigation on Engineering Projects: The Guideline on Conduct of Engineering Reviews

The risk of litigation on all our projects, and the reality of litigation for too many of these projects, is having a pervasive and extremely negative effect on the Public Interest, on our Clients, on the Engineering Profession, and on the practicing professionals in our Province. In Manitoba we have in place a unique tool which was developed over seven years, involving dozens of stakeholders. The Chair of the APEGM Task Force that developed this tool will take us through the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of using the Guideline to avoid litigation and resolve disputes before they get to the costly legal stage.

Speaker: Roy McPhail, P.Eng.

As President of Almitra Consulting Inc. since 1993, President of McPhail Integrated Solutions Inc. since spring 2013, and Chair of the Task Force that developed the Guideline on Conduct of Engineering Reviews, Mr. McPhail comes to the issue of construction litigation with the passion that arises from living through and witnessing the erosion of the systems we have put in place to serve the Public through the practice of engineering.

Almitra has been providing Senior Level Consulting, Forensics, Design, and Design-Build services to a wide range of clients from the Rockies to the Rideau for twenty years. Many of the almost 300 clients are large industrial, institutional, agricultural, environmental or commercial developers.

McPhail Integrated Solutions has added Mentorship, Training and Public Speaking to the portfolio of offerings. It recently contracted with Manitoba Start to deliver weekly workshops and other services to empower immigrant engineers to reach as close as possible to their full potential in contributing to Manitoba's economy. It is also facilitating a Level 2 course for construction supervisors through the Manitoba Construction Sector Council, and is available to be the Reviewer envisaged by the Guideline referenced above.

Mr. McPhail's background also includes ten years as Chair of the Manitoba Mining Board, where he presided over a number of regulatory hearings and wrote the subsequent decisions. He participated on the sub-committee of the Building Standards Board that reviewed the Manitoba Energy Code, and currently sits on the Boards of St. Paul's College, St. Joseph's Residence, Safety Services Manitoba, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Winnipeg Cemetery Board. He is a judge for the Building Owners and Managers Association annual competition and a proud grandparent, parent, husband and ballroom dancer.