



**ENGINEERS &
GEOSCIENTISTS**
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**IN THE MATTER OF THE *PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE ACT*,
S.B.C. 2018, CHAPTER 47**

and

IN THE MATTER OF DEEPAK VERMA

Engineers and Geoscientists BC File No. T21-039

CONSENT ORDER

Background

1. On July 2, 2020, Deepak Verma (“Mr. Verma”) began the application process to obtain registration as a Professional Engineer with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia, doing business as Engineers and Geoscientists BC.
2. On July 7, 2020, as part of the application process, Mr. Verma provided Engineers and Geoscientists BC with information related to his educational history and work experience to explain how he met several competencies (the “Competency Assessment”), and he nominated four individuals to validate the Competency Assessment.
3. On July 8, 2020, Engineers and Geoscientists BC informed Mr. Verma that two professional engineers must validate the Competency Assessment.
4. On July 8 & 9, 2020, Mr. Verma falsely represented himself as two separate Professional Engineers (the “P.Eng. Validators”) to validate the Competency Assessment by:
 - a. creating two fictitious email addresses (the “Email Addresses”);

- b. informing Engineers and Geoscientists BC that the Email Addresses belonged to the P.Eng. Validators; and
 - c. using the Email Addresses to access the Competency Assessment to verify and submit information in support of Mr. Verma's application for registration as a professional engineer (the "False Representations").
5. The False Representations that Mr. Verma provided were material to the decision by Engineers and Geoscientists BC to grant Mr. Verma registration with Engineers and Geoscientists BC.
 6. Engineers and Geoscientists BC was not aware of the False Representations when Engineers and Geoscientists BC granted registration to Mr. Verma as a Professional Engineer on February 23, 2021.
 7. In February and March 2021, Engineers and Geoscientists BC conducted an audit into validator activity, which identified the concern that Mr. Verma may have fraudulently represented himself as the P.Eng. Validators to validate the Competency Assessment (the "Concern").
 8. On May 11, 2021, Engineers and Geoscientists BC informed Mr. Verma that the Investigation Committee authorized an investigation into the Concern based on evidence that corroborated the Concern. In response, Mr. Verma admitted to Engineers and Geoscientists BC, for the first time, that he fraudulently represented himself as the P.Eng. Validators.
 9. On May 14, 2021, Mr. Verma resigned his registration as a Professional Engineer with Engineers and Geoscientists BC.
 10. On July 29, 2021, the Investigation Committee considered this matter and appointed a Resolution Subcommittee of the Investigation Committee to attempt to resolve this matter by means of a Consent Order.
 11. Engineers and Geoscientists BC and Mr. Verma wish to resolve the matter by consent pursuant to section 73(2) of the *Professional Governance Act*, S.B.C. 2018, c. 47 (the "PGA") in order to avoid the need for a disciplinary hearing.

Legislation

12. On February 5, 2021, the PGA came into force and the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, R.S.B.C 1996, c. 116 (the "EGA") was repealed.
13. Mr. Verma's false representations occurred when the EGA was in force and continued under the PGA as Mr. Verma maintained his registration as a professional engineer which was obtained by fraud.

Admissions

14. Mr. Verma admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1-9 and 13 of this Consent Order are true.
15. Mr. Verma admits that the conduct described in paragraph 4 of this Consent Order:
- a. constitutes a breach of section 26 of the EGA in force at the time, which states that a person must not obtain or attempt to obtain registration under the EGA for himself or herself or for another person by intentionally making or causing to be made any false representation, either verbally or in writing;
 - b. constitutes unprofessional conduct under the EGA; and
 - c. is contrary to the Engineers and Geoscientists BC *Code of Ethics* in force at the time which required all registrants to:
 - i. uphold the values of truth, honesty and trustworthiness (Introductory Statement); and
 - ii. conduct themselves with fairness, courtesy, and good faith towards clients, colleagues and others, give credit where it is due and accept, as well as give, honest and fair professional comment (Principle 7).
16. Mr. Verma admits that he continued to engage in fraudulent conduct after he obtained registration as a Professional Engineer with Engineers and Geoscientists BC as Mr. Verma maintained his registration as a professional engineer which was obtained by fraud. Mr. Verma admits this behaviour:
- a. constitutes professional misconduct under the PGA, and
 - b. is contrary to the Engineers and Geoscientists BC *Code of Ethics*, as it stands now, which requires all registrants to:
 - i. uphold the values of truth, honesty, and trustworthiness (Introductory Statement);
 - ii. provide accurate information in respect of qualifications and experience (Principle 6);
and
 - iii. conduct themselves with fairness, courtesy and good faith towards clients, colleagues, and others, give credit where it is due and accept, as well as give, honest and fair professional comment (Principle 13).

Disposition

17. By consent, this Consent Order is made pursuant to section 73(2) of the PGA, and the following conditions are imposed on Mr. Verma's registration:

- a. Mr. Verma's registration in Engineers and Geoscientists BC is cancelled effective the date of this Consent Order (the "Cancellation Date") and Mr. Verma agrees not to re-apply for registration for a period of 18 months from May 14, 2021, the date Mr. Verma resigned his registration;
- b. If Mr. Verma wishes to re-apply for registration, he must first provide written notice to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has, at his own expense:
 - i. completed and passed the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Professional Practice Examination; and
 - ii. completed the Professional Engineering and Geoscience Practice in BC Online Seminar;
- c. For Mr. Verma to be reinstated, Mr. Verma must proceed through the complete registration process as though he was never registered with Engineers and Geoscientists BC and meet the requirements of the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Credentials Committee including submitting new validators for the purpose of verifying information that he provides in support of his application; and
- d. Mr. Verma will pay Engineers and Geoscientists BC \$1,500 towards Engineers and Geoscientists BC's investigative costs.

Consequences of the Consent Order

18. The full text or a summary of this Consent Order will be published by Engineers and Geoscientists BC in print and electronic publications including on the Engineers and Geoscientists BC website.
19. This Consent Order has the same force and effect as an Order made under section 75(6) of the PGA.
20. Mr. Verma agrees that Engineers and Geoscientists BC has advised him that he should receive independent legal advice regarding this Consent Order and that Engineers and Geoscientists BC has provided him with the opportunity to obtain independent legal advice regarding this Consent Order.

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21. Engineers and Geoscientists BC and Mr. Verma agree that this Consent Order may be executed in counterparts and delivered as an electronic document.

This Consent Order is approved and accepted by Mr. Verma and the Investigation Committee this 31 day of May 2022.

Nitin Sharma
Witness Name

<original signed by>
Deepak Verma

<original signed by>
Witness Signature

The Investigation Committee of the Association
of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists
of the Province of British Columbia

<original signed by>
Per: Peter Helland, P.Eng.
Chair, Investigation Committee