

# RECOMMENDED ORDER to the DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

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

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONDUCT OF Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. (#289433)

Investigation Case: #22-06

#### 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 Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng.

The Investigative Committee of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta ("APEGA") has conducted an investigation into the conduct of Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. (the "Registrant") with respect to a complaint initiated by Michael Colgan, P.Eng. (the "Complainant") dated March 23, 2022 (the "Complaint").

#### A. The Complaint

The Complainant lodged a complaint alleging the Registrant engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in section 44(1) of the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*, RSA 2000, c E-11 ("EGP Act") with respect to fraudulently creating an APEGA stamp and using it to authenticate Professional Work Products (PWPs).

The Investigative Committee conducted focused on the following allegations outlined in the Complaint:

#### Allegation #1

Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. is alleged to have demonstrated unprofessional conduct and/or unskilled practice of the profession in that the "seal" used on professional work products supplied as part of the complaint process was not a stamp issued by APEGA but appears to be intended to imitate an APEGA stamp.

#### Allegation #3

Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. is alleged to have demonstrated unprofessional conduct and/or unskilled practice of the profession in that the attempted authentication is not in line with the Authenticating Professional Work Products practice standard.

#### Allegation #4

Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. is alleged to have demonstrated unprofessional conduct and/or unskilled practice of the profession in that the dates on the seals seen on several pages of the supplied professional work product predate the document revision dates, implying that the RUI may not have seen the final version of the documents that were produced.

#### B. Agreed Statement of Facts (i) Background:

- 1. At all relevant times the Registrant was an APEGA Professional Member and was thus bound by the Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act and the APEGA Code of Ethics.
- 2. The Complainant was employed as a Continuing Professional Development Practice Advisor in APEGA's Professional Practice area.
- 3. The Registrant holds a bachelor's degree in Heating, Gas Supply, Ventilation and Air-conditioning engineering from Tongji University in China (2000).
- 4. The Registrant has been a member of Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) since February 15, 2018, and is eligible to practice engineering in ON.
- 5. The Registrant was a member of Engineers & Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC) from March 2, 2022, to March 28, 2022, at which time the registration was cancelled.
- 6. The Registrant became an active member of APEGA on February 1, 2022, and subsequently resigned his membership on January 25, 2024 (remains cancelled).
- 7. The Registrant cooperated with the investigation.

As a result of the investigation, it is agreed by and between the Investigative Committee and the Registrant that:

# (ii) Facts Relating to Allegations #1 and #3:

Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. is alleged to have demonstrated unprofessional conduct and/or unskilled practice of the profession in that the "seal" used on professional work products supplied as part of the complaint process was not a stamp issued by APEGA but appears to be intended to imitate an APEGA stamp.

Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. is alleged to have demonstrated unprofessional conduct and/or unskilled practice of the profession in that the attempted authentication is not in line with the Authenticating Professional Work Products practice standard.

- 8. The Registrant admitted to creating a forged APEGA stamp and applying the forged stamp to authenticate PWPs.
- 9. The form of the stamp does not match any current or historical stamps issued by APEGA, as per the January 2022 edition of the Practice Standard for

Authenticating Professional Work Products.

- 10. The form of the stamp created by the Registrant bears greater physical resemblance to those issued by Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) than it does to those issued by APEGA.
- 11. The Registrant registered with APEGA on February 1, 2022.
- 12. The Registrant authenticated PWPs by applying the forged APEGA stamp to PWPs relating to electrical and mechanical interior alterations for a commercial project in Calgary, AB. on February 23, 2022, and February 25, 2022.
- 13. The Registrant was officially notified of this complaint on March 25, 2022.
- 14. The Registrant ordered an authorized stamp from APEGA on March 25, 2022.
- 15. The Registrant freely admits that as a new registrant with APEGA, he had a duty to review the APEGA Practice Standard for Authenticating Professional Work Products and order an authorized APEGA stamp for authenticating PWP's with respect to Alberta based projects.
- 16. The Registrant acknowledges that the conduct described above constitutes a violation of the January 2022 edition of the APEGA Practice Standard for Authenticating Professional Work Products.
- 17. The Registrant further acknowledges that the conduct described above constitutes unprofessional conduct.

# (iv) Facts Relating to Allegation #4:

Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. is alleged to have demonstrated unprofessional conduct and/or unskilled practice of the profession in that the dates on the seals seen on several pages of the supplied professional work product predate the document revision dates, implying that the RUI may not have seen the final version of the documents that were produced.

- 18. Six electrical engineering PWPs produced by the Registrant display an authentication date of 2022.02.23 (February 23, 2022).
- 19. The same PWPs display final revision dates of 25FEB2022 (February 25, 2022)
- 20. The same PWPs s were sent by email to the client on February 24, 2022.
- 21. By virtue of the final revision dates (February 25, 2022) post-dating the authentication dates (February 23, 2022) the PWPs are rendered invalid. This leads those attempting to rely on the PWP's to believe the Registrant failed to authenticate the final version of the designs.

22. The Registrant acknowledges that the conduct described above constitutes unprofessional conduct.

# (v) Conduct

23. The Registrant freely and voluntarily admits that the conduct described above constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined in section 44(1) of the EGP Act:

Section 44(1) of the Act states:

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 a lack of skill or judgment in the practice of the profession or;

(e) displays a lack of knowledge or lack of skill or judgment 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.

24. The Registrant further acknowledges that the conduct described above breaches Rule(s) of Conduct #3, 4 and 5.

The Rules of Conduct of the APEGA Code of Ethics 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.
- 2. Professional engineers and geoscientists shall undertake only work that they are competent to perform by virtue of their training and experience.
- 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 interest.

# (vi) Recommended Orders

- 25. On the recommendation of the Investigative Committee, and by agreement of the Member with that recommendation, 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 their conduct and this order shall serve as the reprimand.
  - b. This matter and its outcome will be published by APEGA as deemed appropriate and such publication will name the Registrant.
  - c. The Registrant shall pay a fine in the amount of \$750. The fine is a debt owing to APEGA and shall be paid within six (6) months of the date this order is approved by the Discipline Committee Case Manager.
  - d. If there are extenuating circumstances, the Registrant may apply in writing to the Discipline Manager for an extension prior to the deadline for fine payment. 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.
  - e. Any application for reinstatement as professional member, licensee, permit holder or restricted practitioner with APEGA shall be contingent upon the following conditions:
    - i. The Registrant providing the Director, Professional Practice written confirmation/proof of successful completion (passing grade) of the National Professional Practice Exam (NPPE). The Registrant shall be responsible for all costs associated with the completing the NPPE.
    - ii. The Registrant providing the Director, Professional Practice written confirmation/proof that they have reviewed the following current APEGA publications and that the Registrant will comply with the requirements therein:
      - 1. Ethical Practice Guideline
      - 2. Authenticating Professional Work Products Standard
    - iii. The Registrant shall not be eligible for IPMA (Inter-Provincial Mobility), regardless of registration status in another jurisdiction.

 iv. The Registrant shall be bound by APEGA's reinstatement process under the current or future legislation: <u>https://www.apega.ca/members/changes/return-to-</u> <u>practice#reinstate</u>

I, Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. acknowledge that before signing this Recommended Discipline 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.

Further to the above, I acknowledge that a copy of this Order and my identity will be disseminated to all provincial and territorial engineering and geoscience regulators in Canada.

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

Further to the above, I acknowledge that I have reviewed APEGA's "Good Standing Policy." I understand that I will not be considered a member "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).

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

Signed by Sh	naowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng. (2024/11/22) notarius erifio.com or Adobe Reader.
Shaowen (Kent) Li, P.Eng.	
Signed with	Vokey, P.Eng. ConsignO Cloud (2024/11/23) verifio.com or Adobe Reader.
Don Vokey, P.Eng. (Panel Chair) APEGA Investigative Committee	
AFE	BA investigative Committee
APEGA Discipline Committee	
	Jeff Pieper Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2024/12/19) notarius
By:	Verify with verific.com or Adobe Reader.
	Case Manager

December 19, 2024