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Monroe Professional Engineers Society

A Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers

657 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14607

Dedicated to Professionalism in Engineering in the Interest of Public Safety and Welfare

2016-17 Officers: President **David Roberts, PE**, President-elect **Chris Kamar, PE**, Vice-President **Arthur Reardon, PE**, Secretary **Martin Gordon, PE**, Treasurer **Neal Illenberg, PE**, Membership Chair **Arthur Reardon, PE**

Practicing Engineering in Another Country

Recently, my company embarked on a project with the City of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada, and we discovered a need for two of our PE's to seek licensure in the Province of Ontario. This was an interesting experience that led me to consider how much more connected we are globally and how the engineering license can transcend the traditional boundaries that once seemed so fixed.

In researching the topic of practicing engineering internationally, I was surprised to learn that NCEES offers International Registration for Professional Engineers.¹ They make reference to both the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the International Engineering Alliance (IEA). The IEA website notes that there are "seven international agreements governing mutual recognition of engineering qualifications and professional competence." In general these agreements state that "a person recognized in one country as reaching the agreed international standard of competence should only be minimally assessed (primarily for local knowledge) prior to obtaining registration in another country that is party to the agreement."²

This reflects the typical situation we find even when obtaining licensure from state-to-state within the US. In my experience applying for licensure in Ontario, Canada, I found this be the general case as well. However, it is of interest that you cannot typically obtain full licensure (with regular renewal periods) in Ontario, but rather will only be granted a temporary license to work on a specific project. It was reported to me by fellow NSPE members that some NY State PE's had been granted full licensure, but this was not reflected in my research with the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO).

Another interesting fact is that in Ontario, licensure is governed by the Engineering Society itself (PEO), rather than direct control by a governmental institution. This would be analogous to the engineering license in NY State being controlled by NYSSPE, rather than the State Board of Education. However, there is a close relationship between the government and the PEO, since the PEO is governed by a council of 29, where 17 are elected by the engineering licensees and 12 are appointed by the provincial government.³

To obtain temporary licensure in the Province of Ontario, several steps need to occur. First, your company must apply for a Certificate of Authorization (C of A) to be able to perform engineering services in Ontario. Then each engineer who intends to practice must submit a request for temporary licensure. Each engineer applying for licensure must complete the application and provide full details on their background, transcripts, and current license information. You must also identify an Ontario-licensed engineer to act as a collaborator on your project to ensure compliance with Canadian and Ontario codes. The current cost of the C of A is about \$750 CDN and is renewable on an annual basis for about \$375 CDN. The temporary license is only valid for a specific duration and project, with a cost of approximately \$750 CDN per applicant.

As always, we encourage active membership in the Monroe Professional Engineers Society. We are constantly striving to improve your membership but we always need more help. If you are interested in becoming an active member or have any questions, please email me at dcrobertspe@gmail.com or contact MPES through our website at www.monroepes.org/contactus/.

David C. Roberts, P.E., President, MPES

¹ <http://ncees.org/records/international-registry/>

² <http://www.ieagrements.org/>

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_Engineers_Ontario