

Demand for Professionals and the Need for APEGM to Respond

The Canadian economy is on fire, and this is good news for engineers and geoscientists. (Hopefully this may continue to be the case, despite recent economic events...) At this point in time, however, in many different sectors there is an undersupply of engineers and geoscientists and, as a result, the consulting industry, government and manufacturing can't hire fast enough.

So, how does this affect APEGM?

Although APEGM's primary and overriding mandate is the protection of the public, we cannot ignore the reality that the registration process needs to adapt to this shortage.

To respond to this situation, APEGM has, in the last few months, taken steps to reduce some of the 'latency' in the system. Certain rules and policies that made sense when we had 10 - 20 applicants per year no longer work in today's more fast-paced economy.

For this reason, APEGM has made significant steps to streamline the academic review process in particular.

Those who have been through the previous academic review process or have employed or worked with people going through the academic review process realize that it can be cumbersome and onerous. The new policy, passed by Council at their meeting on May 9, 2008, will still not be lightning fast as analyzing credentials from around the world will always take time, however, it promises to significantly reduce the wait time for those who are trying to get their credentials assessed from abroad.

Does this mean APEGM plans to compromise safety and protection of the public? Absolutely not. The fairly modest changes that have been made promise to bring us in line with the methodologies adopted many years ago by other provinces and which are considered acceptable under the mobility agreement. We have also instituted some changes to our procedures, which over the years appeared to have no other reason than the fact that "we've always done it this way".

Some examples of these changes:

Old Way	New Way	Reason for Change
ARC * applicants who completed all exam/course requirements as assigned by ARC are required to	ARC applicants who completed all exam/course requirements as assigned by ARC are NOT required	If one has completed all requirements as assigned, what more is required? A delay of

Old Way	New Way	Reason for Change
have their file reviewed by ARC prior to notification.	to have their file reviewed by ARC prior to notification.	two or more months while waiting for an ARC meeting is frustrating and pointless.
ARC applicants who wish to take courses in lieu of exams are required to ask permission of ARC – whether or not those courses are on the approved ARC list.	ARC applicants who wish to take courses in lieu of exams are NOT required to ask permission of ARC <u>if</u> those courses are on the approved ARC list.	If the course has been approved, requesting that the applicant wait for ADDITIONAL approval from ARC is inadvertently punitive because this can and does delay applicants from registering for courses on time!

*APEGM's Academic Review Committee (ARC) is responsible for analyzing the educational portfolios of those engineering applicants who have graduated from outside Canada as well as both domestic and internationally trained geoscience applicants.

APEGM hopes that these changes, such as those above, will go a long way to making things more streamlined for those going through the credential assessment.

In addition to these simple procedural changes, we have instituted a more prescriptive system of assessment which brings APEGM more in line with the procedures of the other 11 provinces and territories. Both geoscientists and engineers will benefit.

There are still a lot of implementation details that we are working out, but we are more than happy to go forward with what we hope will be a 'leaner' system that will be fairer for all new assessment applicants.

More details can be found at:

<http://www.apegm.mb.ca/register/noaccred/newarp.html>