

Emerging Issues Committee

David Grant (Chair)
Amarjit Chadha
James Gunning
Robert Hamlin
Gary Ostry
Myron Paryniuk
Edward Speers
Douglas Strang

Each of the active members of this committee has a focus on one of more issues. We have been dealing with biosolids processing, genetic engineering, nanotechnologies, and technology to reduce greenhouse gases for some time. We liaise on a monthly basis with the Professional Development Committee, suggesting topics and speakers for PD luncheons.

New in 2008 was the topic of "Failure of the written Certification Process" This was explored, and a report made to the Council and Director.

The topic of Food Safety has evolved. It involves such things as trace contaminants at source, species fraud in fish and related products, and adulteration. While these are of great concern to Manitobans, the involvement of Manitoba engineers is limited. The opportunity still exists for enhancement of food safety by application of good professional engineering principals.

For a number of years, we have been suggesting structural collapse as a topic for PD education. For a selection of newsworthy events, it has been suggested that the final reports would be good sources of information.

Geotechnical stability is an area where engineers can help the community and save property owners a lot of vexation and money. Riverbank collapse is an example of what can happen without adequate professional engineering knowledge.

We have studied and reported on the ability of Manitoba to manage infrastructure. This involves good stewardship and such basics as having enough experienced staff to do the work. These concerns were reported to Council through the Director.

There were a number of other topics, involving ethical and moral issues. Some of these are serious concerns, but without an obvious solution.

If anyone has a new topic for us, or wants to bring their knowledge to this task, please let us know.