

PEO to consult on proposal for new class of limited licence for C.E.T.s

MARCH 25, 2002 MEETING

by Sharon Van Ihinger

Council has received, and authorized distribution for comment, the *Report of the Technologist Licensure Task Group*. Among the stakeholders to which the report has been sent are the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, Consulting Engineers of Ontario, the attorney general's ministry, the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE) and the other provincial/territorial engineering licensing associations/order. The report is available under Publications on the PEO website at www.peo.on.ca. Comments to the task group are requested by June 10.

Including representation from the PEO/Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT) Joint Management Board (JMB), Council, PEO members and staff, the Technologist Licensure Task Group (TLTG) was formed two years ago to study the licensing by PEO of suitably qualified engineering technologists to practise professional engineering in Ontario. The PEO/OACETT JMB was formed in 1993 to strengthen the relationship between PEO and OACETT and to increase understanding of the role and recognition of the value of all members of the engineering team.

During its review, the TLTG examined several scenarios for licensing qualified technologists under either PEO or OACETT, as well as technologist licensure/certification provisions in place in the other provinces. The TLTG concluded: "Enabling technologists to take responsibility for a defined area of engineering practice through PEO's limited licence process is to the public's benefit and so should be encouraged by any means that does not lower standards of qualification

or practice." To encourage suitably qualified certified engineering technologists (C.E.T.s) to seek limited licensure, the report recommends that they be provided a special designation under the *Professional Engineers Act* (i.e. that they be eligible for a class of limited licence), with OACETT doing the initial screening of applicants for the designation.

The report's specific recommendations include that:

- ◆ PEO initiate the process required to accommodate the licensing of qualified certified engineering technologists as a special class within the limited licence provisions of the *Professional Engineers Act*;
- ◆ the OACETT C.E.T.s who meet the academic, experience and other requirements to be set by PEO, be granted the exclusive title of "licensed engineering technologist" (L.E.T.) by PEO;
- ◆ PEO strictly define and enforce a scope of professional engineering practice for each licensed engineering technologist, based on a thorough assessment by PEO of each applicant's qualifications;
- ◆ Section 46(2) of Reg. 941 be amended such that the experience requirement for a limited licence is 11 years, including postsecondary education, with at least six years of this experience being relevant experience in the application of engineering principles after graduation or award of the C.E.T. designation, at least four of which are under the direct supervision of a professional engineer, with references from three professional engineers, all satisfactory to PEO;
- ◆ all applicants for licensing as an L.E.T. apply to PEO through OACETT and be required to maintain their C.E.T. status in OACETT as a condition of retaining their L.E.T.;
- ◆ L.E.T.s be held to the same professional practice standards in their defined scope

of practice as licensed professional engineers, and be accountable to PEO; and

- ◆ L.E.T.s and other limited licensees be entitled to apply for a Certificate of Authorization to offer to the public or engage in the business of providing professional engineering services to the public, but only within their defined scope of professional engineering practice.

It is anticipated that the TLTG will report to Council in September on the feedback to the report and any amendments to the recommendations it considers warranted as a result. Several of the recommendations would require significant changes to the *Professional Engineers Act* and Regulation 941 for implementation.

Chapters, PEO and OSPE

Council got an advance look at the findings of a discussion paper developed by the START II Committee on ways to implement the recommendations of a *White Paper of the Chapter Structure and Revitalization Team* (START), which Council received in 2000. The white paper had proposed an enhanced chapter system that would enable improved service delivery to members and the public and increase volunteer participation from members.

To develop its framework for implementation, the START II Committee first developed policy statements on the role and objectives of chapters within PEO, which Council approved in February 2001. Using these policies, the committee then reviewed and made recommendations in seven areas: chapter budget process; staff support for chapter activities and chapter management; chapter (executive) communication with PEO Council and committees and with PEO departments; enhancing utilization of chapter volunteers at regulatory activities/committees/task forces and reward-

ing volunteers; enhancing program delivery at the chapter level; chapter relationship with the Regional Councillors Committee and Region Congresses; and chapter boundaries.

Presenting on behalf of the START II Committee, then Councillor Tony Cecutti, P.Eng., said Council would be asked to receive the START II Report at Council's April 20, 2002 meeting, for debate at Council's next subsequent meeting. He said the report would be reviewed by chapter leaders at a session on April 21. The START II report is available under Publications on PEO's website.

Admissions appeal process

Council approved a process to enable licence applicants to appeal determinations of the Academic Requirements and Experience Requirements committees (ARC and ERC). Under the process, developed by a small task group, applicants will be allowed to appeal by choosing one of two options—a paper review or a full hearing—by a tribunal, selected from members of the Registration Committee, whose decision would be final.

Council's approval in 1999 of recommendations of the Admissions, Complaints, Discipline and Enforcement Task Force provided for the introduction of appeals of ARC or ERC determinations, which under the *Professional Engineers Act* were final. Changes to the Act to enable appeal to the Registration Committee were approved by the legislature in June 2001, and will be proclaimed effective following cabinet approval of accompanying changes to Regulation 941, which are expected shortly.

International mobility

Despite having received the *Report of the International Mobility Task Force* at its November 2001 meeting, Council declined to debate and vote on the report's recommendations as scheduled, after hearing a presentation from the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE) that made the point that the decisions PEO makes on the recommendations could have implications for PEO's counterparts across Canada. Instead, it directed that the report be dis-

tributed to interested parties for review and that the task force identify "clear areas of consensus and any fundamental areas of disagreement and underlying drivers and implications." The task force was directed to report back to Council in September 2002.

"The purpose of our task force was to study international mobility issues as they might impact PEO and provide guiding principles which PEO could use in discussions with CCPE," said Norbert Becker, PhD, P.Eng., co-chair of the task force. Key to its recommendations was consideration of whether PEO should enter into any international agreements that would diminish its ability to fulfill its regulatory functions or put it into conflict with any provisions of the *Professional Engineers Act*.

The *Report of the International Mobility Task Force* is available under Publications on PEO's website.

Registrar's report

◆ *Privacy Act*: Registrar Roger Barker reported that he and other senior staff had attended two meetings regarding the government's draft privacy legislation. He said there are concerns among several regulatory bodies, including PEO, with respect to the proposed leg-

islation's impact on their complaints and discipline procedures, among other broader concerns. In light of this, PEO and the other organizations will be combining forces and responding both jointly and individually to the government's request for input on the draft (see "PEO seeks exemption from privacy bill", p. 11).

◆ *Initial Assessment Program*: Barker reported that CCPE had met with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to discuss CCPE assessing potential immigrants' educational qualifications as required by the new immigration legislation (see "A step forward?" *Engineering Dimensions*, November/December 2001, p. 32 and "CCPE drops assessment program," Mar./Apr. 2002, p. 10), and has requested PEO support of the initiative. The CCPE approach to CIC stresses the benefits of CCPE assessing engineering education for immigration purposes rather than a third-party credentialing agency or a body in the prospective immigrant's country of origin. Regardless of the outcome of CCPE's discussions with the federal government, PEO will continue to allow prospective immigrants to apply for licensing before immigrating to Canada, and to continue the process once they arrive. (see "CCPE lobbies to continue assessment program", p. 15) ◆

