

PEO TO CREATE NEW PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR ESDM REPORTS

508TH MEETING, SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 2016

By Michael Mastromatteo

COUNCIL HAS APPROVED the creation of a new subcommittee to develop a practice guideline and performance standard in the area of emission summary and dispersion modelling (ESDM). The motion stems from a request from the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for PEO to develop best practices for engineers carrying out assessments of atmospheric contaminants from industrial facilities through preparation of ESDM reports, as required by O. Reg. 419/05 and the *Environmental Protection Act*. Currently, ESDM reports are reviewed by engineers at the environment ministry but there are concerns about the quality of the reports and the potential for no regulatory review process prior to operation.

The ministry is also looking to develop regulations that will require the preparation of ESDM reports be completed by professional engineers. Once it announces the changes to its regulation to mandate engineers as qualified persons to prepare ESDM reports, PEO will develop a performance standard to provide mandatory requirements for the work.

PEO's new subcommittee is expected to present a draft guideline and a policy statement for the proposed standard to the Professional Standards Committee by June 2017. The draft documents will be posted on PEO's website for public consultation with licence holders and stakeholders.

Council also approved plans to create a subcommittee to revise PEO's

Use of the Professional Engineer's Seal guideline, which was last updated in 2008.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

In a follow-up from deliberations of the June council retreat, council supported a strategic planning process to help the registrar prepare for a new strategic plan, required for the 2018-2020 period. The plan will be based largely on what was used to develop the current 2015-2017 Strategic Plan, involving consultation with council, committees, chapters, members, the government and other partners, and including a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the organization. Through this process, areas of divergence will hopefully be identified and addressed through the development of appropriate strategic initiatives.

From a governance perspective, a strategic plan enables council to set policies and goals to guide the organization, and provides a clear focus to the registrar and staff for program implementation and management. The initial draft of 2018-2020 Strategic Plan is expected to be considered by council at its September 2017 meeting.

At the council meeting, Registrar Gerard McDonald, P.Eng., presented the status of the current 2015-2017 Strategic Plan and pointed out that, as of September 2016, of the 116 strategies identified in the plan, 62 have been completed, and 54 are in progress.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

Another motion arising from the June council retreat involved development of a public information campaign promoting the value of professional engineering. Councillors were near unanimous in supporting a plan to develop the terms of reference and recruit members for a task force to examine such a campaign.

PEO's last involvement in an image marketing campaign was a joint venture with Engineers Canada and other constituent associations in 2001-2002 and 2008-2009. PEO also undertook an independent campaign in 1996-1998.

For this new campaign, it is expected that the 2017 draft budget will be adjusted by \$100,000 to engage an agency to assist with the plan's development, including messaging and determination of rollout costs for various delivery options. PEO's registrar will develop terms of reference and propose members for the new task force for consideration at council's February 2017 meeting. Σ