

TECHNOLOGIST AND TECHNICIAN CASE SUMMARIES 2014

CASE #13-15

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent had claimed to be a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) yet did not have the required certification or memberships as specified in the BC Ministry of Environment, Water Regulations and the Riparian Act. Additionally, it was alleged that the Respondent had made false or inaccurate statements regarding submission of an Environmental Notification and the scope of works being undertaken at a project site.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegations, if found to be true, would be contrary to the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

When the complaint was received, the Respondent had applied to ASTTBC for certification as an Environmental Technologist. ASTTBC mandate extends to members only; however, since the Respondent was an applicant, and the allegations pertained to good character and reputation, a decision was made to have the PRB review the matter. A case file was opened and an investigation was conducted.

BC Environment and Riparian Area Regulations describe a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) as: "A Qualified Environmental Professional is an applied scientist or technologist, acting alone or together with another qualified environmental professional. He or she must be registered and in good standing in British Columbia with an appropriate professional organization constituted under an Act, acting under that association's code of ethics and subject to disciplinary action by that association. The applicable professional may be a professional Biologist, Agrologist, Forester, Geoscientist, Engineer, or Technologist. In addition, the BC Ministry of Environment strongly recommends a three-day training course designed for individuals who are QEPs or who work with QEPs conducting Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) assessments in compliance with the provincial Water Act, and fish habitat protection regulations under the federal Fisheries Act.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The results of the PRB investigation substantiated the allegations and were of sufficient concern to warrant prompt action. The PRB recommended that the Respondent refrain from providing services as a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) until the Respondent was able to demonstrate to the PRB successful completion of the recommended three-day Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) course provided by Vancouver Island University. The Respondent was also required to submit a written statement agreeing to refrain from providing services as a QEP. In addition, the Respondent was required to outline the actions taken to obtain adequate knowledge and understanding of the BC regulations, standards and practices required to be a fully Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP).

OUTCOME:

The Respondent complied with the PRB recommendations, completed them successfully and submitted the required information to the Registrar. Since all recommendations were successfully completed, no further action was necessary and the file was closed.