

APEGGA, Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, Water and Hydraulic Fracturing in Alberta: The Facts

Some recent online discussions and blogs regarding The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta — and specifically Alberta's Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists — are poorly researched and contain errors. APEGGA has an obligation to make sure that Members and the public have access to the facts upon which to comment and to discuss the roles of self-regulated Professionals in Engineering and Geoscience and their Association.

APEGGA is a Legislated Regulator

- APEGGA is a regulator of the practice of engineering and geoscience in Alberta
- APEGGA has a statutory obligation to licence, investigate and discipline Members and ensure compliance of non-members who might be holding themselves out to be Professional Engineers, Geologists of Geophysicists in Alberta
- APEGGA deals with matters of Professional Engineers' or Geoscientists' unskilled practice or unprofessional conduct in the performance of their duties
- The Association, with its Members, establishes practice standards and guidelines concerning the practice of engineering and geoscience
- APEGGA's regulatory authority is granted by the Province of Alberta under *The Engineering, Geology and Geoscience Professions Act*
- This makes APEGGA accountable to the people of Alberta through the Government of Alberta
- APEGGA reports to the Legislature through the Alberta Human Services department
- The Association has NO regulatory authority over industry nor does it establish industry standards of practice
- APEGGA has NO role as a middleman for any organization

Role of a Professional in Engineering and Geoscience

- An APEGGA Member's ultimate responsibility is to public safety and well-being not to the Association that licenses them nor to the organizations that hire them
- *The Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Act* dictates that engineering and geoscience work in Alberta is only done by a licensed professional or is done under the supervision of a licensed professional
- Self-regulated Professionals in Engineering and Geoscience are not representatives or middle-men and -women of the Association or the Government of Alberta
- APEGGA Professional Members are independent self-regulated professionals. Many do not work for industry or government and provide consulting services to the public

- APEGGA Members are expected to conduct themselves with integrity, honesty, fairness and objectivity and to hold paramount the health, safety and welfare of the public

Water in Alberta

- The Province of Alberta legislates the role of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists with regard to water issues
- Water allocations are approved by the Provincial Government not APEGGA or its Professional Members
- APEGGA does not establish standards for the collection of water samples. This is not the Association's role
- APEGGA does not accredit water-testing services. This is not the Association's role
- There has never been a documented case of fracturing activities contaminating groundwater in Alberta
- The Energy Resources Conservation Board has regulations in place that are designed to protect groundwater

Hydraulic Fracturing in Alberta

- No charges have been alleged against any APEGGA Members or Permit-holding companies with regard to hydraulic fracturing
- Hydraulic fracturing has been a common practice in Alberta for almost 60 years
- Almost 167,000 wells have been fractured in Alberta
- The Energy Resources Conservation Board has detailed requirements for drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations

Climate Change in Alberta

- APEGGA has not denied climate change
- As a service to its Members the Association provided an open forum for discussion and debate on the issue of climate change in the pages of the Member publication PEG (previously The PEGG), recognizing that APEGGA Members have divergent views on the causes of climate change
- Regarding climate change adaptation, APEGGA's goal is to raise awareness of factors that Professional Engineers and Geoscientists should consider when designing or upgrading projects to accommodate impacts of climate change
- As an Association, APEGGA represents the views and perspectives of all of its approximately 62,000 Members

For additional information or to comment, please contact:

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