



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee Releases Revised Peer Review Document

ALEXANDRIA, Va., April 15, 2011—The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) today released a newly revised version of its E-581, Agreement Between Owner, Design Engineer, and Peer Reviewers for Peer Review of Design. This document is used to conduct an independent “peer review” of an engineer’s design work. The 2011 document has been revised to reflect current business and professional practices, but remains consistent with the original EJCDC version, created in the 1990s to support Peer Review standards and guidelines developed by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

Peer review is a separate, important step in the design process for selected engineering projects. Peer review provides an evaluation of design concepts and development relative to critical performance objectives. Peer review adds a measure of increased confidence to assure the quality of the design. EJCDC E-581 creates a framework of agreement among the Owner, Designer, and reviewer on the scope of the review.

This EJCDC document facilitates the use of independent and external peer reviews for many projects, and particularly those:

- Where performance is critical to the public health, safety, welfare, and the protection of the environment;
- Where reliability of performance under emergency conditions is critical;
- Using innovative materials, techniques, or design methods;
- Lacking redundancy in the design; or
- That have unique construction sequencing or a short/overlapping design-construction schedule.

Peer reviews can be initiated by the owner/client, the design organization, or regulatory agencies. Reviews address a defined scope as set forth by the initiating party. Peer

reviews are performed at key points during the design process by independent and external teams not associated with the original design team.

EJCDC documents are specifically written for infrastructure and engineered facilities projects in the United States. The documents can readily be customized to suit each project's unique goals and regulatory requirements.

Since 1975, EJCDC has developed and updated fair and objective standard documents that represent the latest and best thinking in contractual relations between all parties involved in engineering design and construction projects.

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) is a joint venture of four major organizations of professional engineers and contractors. Each of EJCDC's sponsoring organizations—NSPE, ASCE, ACEC, and AGC—offer EJCDC documents on their online stores at a discount to organization-members. EJCDC documents may also be purchased at www.ejcdc.org.

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