



Online Ethics Center
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

Comments by One Engineer Concerning Another (adapted from NSPE Case No. 96-10)

Year

1999

Description

An engineer is not happy with the recommendation she receives from the Secretary of the Professional Engineer's society of another state. Questions arise as to who, if anyone, should be told of her dissatisfaction.

Body

Engineer Alice practices in Ohio but requires the services of a structural engineer licensed in New York. Alice contacts the secretary of the New York Society of Professional Engineers to ask for a recommendation. The secretary looks at the list of member engineers and suggests Anna. Largely on the basis of this suggestion, Alice hires Anna.

Alice is not satisfied with Anna's services. Among other things, she believes Anna does not communicate well.

How should Alice handle the situation? Should Alice contact the secretary to inform him that he did not give a good recommendation? Should Alice contact the secretary without first saying something to Anna?

Suppose that Alice does contact the secretary without first saying something to Anna. What, if anything, should the secretary do?

[NSPE Code of Ethics](#) An earlier version may have been used in this case.

Notes

See the original NSPE case at: [Comments By One Engineer Concerning Another - Case No. 96-10](#).

Rights

Use of Materials on the OEC

Resource Type

Case Study / Scenario

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Professional Ethics in Engineering Practice: Discussion Cases Based on NSPE BER Cases

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Engineering

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