



Online Ethics Center
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

Serving as Design Engineer and General Contractor (adapted from NSPE Case No. 98-1)

Year

1999

Description

An engineer is thinking about placing a bid on a contract for a job for which, in his job at another firm, he prepared the plans.

Body

Bernard is a principal in a consulting engineering firm. He is also a principal owner in a construction contracting firm. In his role as consultant, Bernard prepared plans for the design of a roof structure for a wastewater treatment facility. The municipality hired a separate firm to administer the bidding and construction using the plans prepared by Bernard. In his role as owner of the construction contracting firm, Bernard thinks that bidding on the construction is a great opportunity to arrange for new employment.

Should Bernard bid for the project assignment? Why or why not? Does Bernard have an unfair advantage over firms having designed the project on which he wants to bid?

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

Notes

See the original NSPE case at: [Serving As Design Engineer And General Contractor - Case No. 98-1](#).

Rights

Use of Materials on the OEC

Resource Type

Case Study / Scenario

Parent Collection

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

Topics

Bidding Process

Engineer/Client Relationships

Discipline(s)

Engineering

Authoring Institution

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