



**Professional Engineers**  
Ontario

## Terms of Reference

### Guideline for Professional Engineers Providing Acoustical Engineering Services in Land-Use Planning

(July 22, 2020)

#### OBJECTIVES

The Guideline for Professional Engineers Providing Acoustical Engineering Services in Land-Use Planning Subcommittee is directed by the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) to review the existing *Guideline for Professional Engineers Providing Acoustical Engineering Services in Land-Use Planning* and, in consideration of changes to legislation and administration affecting the industry and professional engineering, revise that document to better reflect current best practices and requirements.

#### BACKGROUND

The current *Guideline for Professional Engineers Providing Acoustical Services in Land-Use Planning* was last revised in 1998 and has not been revised since then. In the intervening 22 years there have been several changes to legislation and the standards of practice of Acoustical Engineering Services in Land-Use Planning. In addition, several references in this guideline have been updated related to acoustics and should be updated and expanded. Examples to include, but are not limited by the following:

- *Noise Assessment Criteria in Land Use Planning LU-131*, and *Noise Assessment Criteria in Land Use Planning: Requirements, Procedures and Implementation* are now replaced by *Environmental Noise Guideline - Stationary and Transportation Sources - Approval and Planning NPC-300*;
- *Ontario Road Noise Analysis Method for Environment and Transportation, Technical Document (Ornament)* and *Sound from Trains Environmental Analysis Method (STEAM)* are now outlined in NPC-300;
- *The Provincial Policy Statement* has been updated, along with the Planning Act;
- Guidelines for Environmental Assessments and Class EA have been updated
- Legislation changes under the Environmental Assessment Act
- Legislation changes posted as part of the *Covid Economic Recovery Act*
- Several definitions are out of date, including the definitions of the Acoustical engineer and Certificate of Approval.

In addition, the authority for land use planning has been changed from the province to municipalities since this guideline was last published.

Furthermore, this guideline is referenced in the proposed practice guideline *Providing Engineering Services Under O. Reg. 1/17 and Part II.2 of the EPA*. Therefore, it was concluded that the guideline should be reviewed and revised as necessary to be consistent with other PEO guidelines.

#### **MANDATE (Specific Tasks)**

- The Acoustical Services in Land-Use Planning subcommittee is expected to update and expand on the existing information that will aid practitioners providing acoustical engineering services in land use planning perform their engineering role in accordance with best practices and other requirements.
- The subcommittee will review the current guideline and updates to legislation, bylaws and other regulatory guidance documents to update any regulatory and ethical requirements for engineers providing services in this area of practice;
- Draft documents will be circulated for comments to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA), Municipal Engineers Association, (MEA), Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO), Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), consulting engineers, municipalities and any relevant stakeholders;
- The existing practice guideline will be revised to reflect current best practices and requirements.

This subcommittee is expected to provide information that will aid in updating the existing practice guideline for professional engineers engaged to provide engineering services in Acoustical Engineering in Land-Use Planning. The guideline will provide information on the requirement for site visits, Acoustical Audits and Noise Impact Studies (NIS) and to ensure that these are performed in compliance with the applicable requirements.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The subcommittee shall consist of a member of PSC who will act as chair and a minimum of 4 engineers, at least one from a large multi-disciplinary firm, one from a mid-sized acoustical engineering specialty firm, and one from a sole practitioner, or a small firm (less than 10 employees), currently engaged in the practice of providing engineering services for Acoustical Engineering Services in Land-Use Planning.

#### **DELIVERABLES**

The Subcommittee will provide the Professional Standards Committee with a revised Table of Contents for the guideline no later than March 2021. The

Subcommittee will present the revised guideline to the Professional Standards Committee no later than December 31, 2021. The subcommittee will provide progress reports to PSC at each PSC meeting.

Meeting Schedule: At discretion of the Subcommittee members  
Completion Date (PSC approval): December 31, 2021