



DIVISION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

Joint Division of APEGBC and IStructE

Representing Professional Structural Engineers of British Columbia



2004/2005 ANNUAL REPORT – Thor A. Tandy P. Eng.

The past year for DSE has been exceptionally busy and in some instances exceedingly productive. No one issue has been paramount, yet all have been important.

Creation of New Structural Engineers Group: Discussions with VSEG, and SECBC, over the last year have resulted in the proposed formation of a new group SEABC (Structural Engineering Association of BC). The existing three groups (DSE, VSEG, SECBC) will, in the interim, maintain their uniqueness while at the same time contribute to the viability of a single organization. Joint planning committee meetings have been under way this year, and the new organization is scheduled to be in existence by January 1, 2006. The key issue is to continue to fulfill the mandates of all three originating organizations (DSE, SECBC, VSEGS). In the meantime, nominations for new executive boards will put on hold until the new organization is up and running.

Seismic Issues of Part 9: An initiative to have lateral issues (especially seismic) in Part 9 of the new NBCC was withdrawn due to concerns that the submission was not complete. An attempt to have the items included in the upcoming BCBC also failed. It has remained an important issue with all structural engineers, and DSE has decided that it is important enough to develop a Part 9 guideline for practicing engineers. This will be developed more in the coming months, and the DSE hopes to have a viable guideline in place in the near future. Several jurisdictions are already referencing the “Engineering Guide for Wood Frame Construction” as an interim step to addressing the issue. These guidelines are not mandatory under the code, however, the DSE hopes to encourage engineers to seriously address the issues in their practices.

Guidelines for Structural Engineering Services: Due to wording issues and perceived incompatibilities with the Bylaws, this document is still under review. The time taken to respond to, and adjust, the inconsistencies, shows how difficult it is to develop any document that tries to be an interpretation and a “how-to” guide. In the last year, due to the growing importance of green issues, sustainability clauses have been included. As well, there have been reviews of concerns by specialty engineers with regard to the intent of, and the scope of responsibility in, letters of assurance. Bulletin K was issued dealing with the development of “Schedule S”, a supplementary letter of assurance to be submitted by the specialty engineer to the EOR.

Structural Checking Guidelines: Similar obstacles as in the Guidelines for Structural Engineering Services have hampered the completion of reviews of this document. The biggest issues are clarification of “concept review” and “scope of checking”. It has difficult to develop wording that is compatible with the intent of the Bylaws. With both guidelines, it has been important to remember that they are not mandatory. It has been difficult to arrive at wording that shows guidance on how to comply with the Bylaws, without simply restating mandates.

Seismic Upgrades to Schools: This is surely one of the most important issues to be considered. In response to a letter received from a concerned citizen about the canceling of the seismic upgrade to schools program, DSE actively took part in the lobby to encourage the Province to consider the reinstatement of that program. This has been achieved. A guide to the assessment of existing buildings has been devised, and the first round of assessment of schools has been completed.

UBC Scholarship: This scholarship comprises the award of two \$1000 scholarships to two undergraduate students demonstrating a serious interest in structural engineering. With the passing of one of our board members, Jim Warne P.Eng this last year, it was decided that it would be fitting to attach his name to the scholarship. It is now to be known as the “Jim Warne Scholarship Fund”.

IStructE/DSE Joint Division: The DSE is currently a joint division of APEGBC and IStructE. An agreement has been reached between APEGBC and IStructE, which sets out terms for the formation of a Division of Structural Engineers, jointly operated by APEGBC and IStructE. The agreement underpins the Memorandum of Understanding between IStructE and APEGBC for the use of the IStructE Chartered Membership (Part 3) Examination by APEGBC for qualifying candidates as Structural Engineers of Record. The agreement will favour the development of closer ties with IStructE. The agreement was formally signed on August 19th, the day following the attendance of the President of IStructE at a joint dinner of DSE and IStructE.

NWCSEA (Northwest Council of Structural Engineering Associations) & **WCSEA** (Western Council of Structural Engineering Associations). DSE joined both associations in 1996. The focus of DSE participation has been to learn how member services are delivered, and to share professional development resources. A key objective has been the development of the structural qualification process, and where feasible, parallel BC's process with those in the adjacent States. By harmonizing requirements, the DSE intends to extend the boundaries of regional mobility for qualified structural engineers. Progress was made when APEGBC accepted the Washington SEIII exam as an additional qualifying route for “Struct Eng” candidates. A milestone in the relationships was achieved when the AGM's for the NWCSEA and WCSEA were held at the APEGBC Annual Convention in Whistler, 2004. The WCSEA is looking to return to BC for its Council meeting in 2010.

Newsletter and Website: The newsletter continues to be produced with a slightly revised format. The website is also now well established. Members are encouraged to use both for sources of information, comment and participation in our Division.

Miscellaneous: While the above items are probably the major events for DSE in the last year, various other issues were also addressed.

General: The Chair extends thanks to all those Board Members whose time and effort contributed so much to the achievements of the past year. With all the DSE involvements, both globally and locally, I look forward to an even more productive and effective future.

Interim Division Executive 2005/2006

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