

Subject: Re: Open Letter - WA Ecology Interpretation - Limiting Professional Engineering License Scope

From: "Tim Reiersen" <tim@water-consultant.com>

Date: 8/14/2026, 5:44 PM

To: "Tor Anderzen, P.E., F.ASCE" <tjanderz@mtu.edu>, "Tat San" <tatiana.skadorwa@gmail.com>, "Ken Fuller, PE" <Ken.Fuller@brpels.wa.gov>, "Noah Dudley, L.E.G., Chair" <DOLBoards@dol.wa.gov>, "Noah Dudley, L.E.G." <NOAH.DUDLEY@DNR.WA.GOV>

CC: "Owen Rowe" <Owen.Rowe@GOV.wa.gov>, "Darryll Olsen" <DOlsenEcon@aol.com>, "Carol Cowling (carol.cowling@gmail.com)" <carol.cowling@gmail.com>, "Kara Kaelber" <kara-kaelber@franklincd.org>, "KENNETH ENNS" <keenns@msn.com>, "Sue VanLeuven" <alisa.grumbles@klickitatcounty.org>, "Lisa de Vera" <ldevera@nwi.net>, "Brown David" <dbrownh2owater@gmail.com>, "Dave Christensen (ECY)" <davc461@ECY.WA.GOV>, "Tom Tebb, L.Hg., L.E.G." <tom.tebb@gmail.com>, "Tom McDonald" <tmcdonald@cascadialaw.com>

To All:

I have received no indication that this issue is being addressed. Please see attached .eml file (string of emails) where the Grant County Water Conservancy Board recently asking some clarifying questions, and Dave Christensen with Ecology provided answers. I have just responded (also in the email string) with a request to the board not to follow Ecology's suggestion and novel interpretation of law, which purports to limit the scope of the Washington State professional engineering license to exclude the discipline of hydrogeology.

This has implications far beyond me personally and my career's work as a consultant on water rights. This will severely limit the work of licensed professional engineers in Washington state; specifically: within the branches of transportation, hazardous and toxic substances (Hanford site, for example), flood control, ocean structures, ports and harbors, structures, public health (water supply and wastewater treatment), geotechnical, among other areas of practice. As professional engineers, we must consider hydrogeology in every situation, if not only to exclude its importance to a particular project.

I'm not sure that the impact is understood--of what Ecology is saying in these emails. I'm also feeling unsettled, that an error of interpretation that is so plainly obvious to me, doesn't seem to be visible to others; e.g. RCW 18.220.190(6)(a) specifically exempts professional engineers from the requirement to obtain a geologist's license. To be blunt: what are we doing here?

I have an ethical obligation under the licensing statute and my membership within a professional society, the American Society of Civil Engineers, to serve the interests of my clients, and to work the projects I have contracted. I intend to meet those obligations as best I can. I will continue working within the scope of my license, and I will continue to draw from the discipline of hydrogeology as my work routinely requires.

Sincerely,

Tim Reiersen, PE, CWRE, M.ASCE

Streamline Water Consulting LLC

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*I do not use "AI", genAI or large language models in my work.
For ethical, environmental and humanitarian reasons.*

On 7/17/2026 6:16 PM, Tim Reiersen wrote:

To All:

Please see attached letter, with two attachments in separate files, and share with the engineering, scientific, and public policy communities affected by the Washington State Department of Ecology's new interpretation of law. The new interpretation appears to limit the scope of practice, within the professional engineering licensed areas of practice, to exclude hydrogeology.

Thank you,
Tim

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— Attachments: —

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