



Policy Statement 351 - Peer Review

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Approved by the Engineering Practice Policy Committee on March 25, 2010
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Policy

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) promotes and supports the use of independent and external peer reviews for projects:

- Where performance is critical to the public health, safety, welfare, and the protection of the environment;
- Where reliability of performance under emergency conditions is critical;
- Using innovative materials, techniques, or design methods;
- Lacking redundancy in the design; or
- That have unique construction sequencing or a short/overlapping design-construction schedule.

Peer reviews can be initiated by the owner/client, the design organization, or regulatory agencies. Reviews address a defined scope as set forth by the initiating party. Peer reviews should occur throughout the design process. Peer reviews are performed by independent and external teams not associated with the original design team.

Issue

Projects, as described above, are expected to meet extremely rigid standards of performance. Peer review is a separate, important step in the design process for selected projects to provide an evaluation of design concepts and management to meet performance objectives.

Rationale

Quality Assurance (QA) of engineering projects is an important matter that has received increasing attention. Among several aspects of QA, design practices represent one important cause. Peer review can add a measure of increased confidence to the design.

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First Approved in 1989