

The Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers
SPEE Denver Chapter announces its December Luncheon Meeting.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Dr. John D. Wright
Chief Engineer of Wright Consulting Company



Will lead scenario discussion on: Ethics Topics

**This presentation is intended to meet the requirements of various state licensing boards
(as well as the SPEE annual renewal requirement) for one hour of ethics study.**

Speaker Bio.: John D. Wright (PhD., P.E.) is Chief Engineer of Wright Consulting Company in Golden, Colorado. He has more than 45 years of domestic and international oil and gas experience in reservoir engineering and property evaluation and has been an expert witness in more than 50 oil and gas industry cases.

Dr. Wright has been a consultant for 40 years as principal in three petroleum engineering consulting firms and taught Petroleum Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines for eight years. He recently authored a book titled Oil and Gas Property Evaluation and has taught numerous short courses domestically and internationally. Dr. Wright is active in a number of professional societies and is a registered professional engineer. He has been extremely active in SPEE, including co-chairing the Recommended Evaluation Practices committee, acting as the technical chair of three Software Symposia, serving on the Board of Directors, serving on the Denver officer rotation, and is currently on the Monograph 5 – Type Well Profile committee. He has twice received the Society's Distinguished Service Award and became the SPEE's 21st honorary life member in 2018.

A Discussion on Ethics Topics

Denver Chapter of SPEE

December 5, 2023

Led by John D. Wright

With contributions from several others

Questions

- SPEE Member?
- Registered Professional Engineer?
 - More than 1 state?
- Ever use ChatGPT?
 - What is ChatGPT?

Ethics v. Morals (from ChatGPT)

- Morals:
 - Personal beliefs about right and wrong
 - Subjective and vary between individuals
 - Influenced by cultural, religious, or personal values
 - Internal guide for individual behavior
 - Often learned from family, society, or religious teachings
- Ethics:
 - System of principles governing the conduct of a group or profession
 - More objective and defined by a group, organization, or profession
 - Rules or standards that define acceptable behavior in a specific context
 - Guides behavior on a collective level
 - Can be associated with specific professions or groups

Ethics v. Morals, cont. (ChatGPT)

 User

Could ethics be described as the practical application of morals?

 ChatGPT

Yes, the relationship between ethics and morals can be described as follows:

Morals:

Morals refer to an individual's personal beliefs about what is right or wrong. These beliefs are often influenced by cultural, religious, or personal values and serve as an internal guide for individual behavior.

Ethics:

Ethics, on the other hand, can be seen as the practical application of morals, but on a broader and often more formalized scale. Ethics involves the systematic study of principles and rules that govern the conduct of a group, organization, or profession. It provides a framework for determining what is morally acceptable behavior in specific contexts and guides individuals within that group or profession.

Resources

www.SPEE.org

>Resources

>Ethics Resources

<https://spee.org/ethics-resources/>

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ETHICS RESOURCES

Code of Ethics & Principles of Acceptable Engineering Practice

SPEE strongly endorses professional & ethical conduct of all of its members. Its By-Laws contain references to the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology Code of Ethics of Engineers as well as to SPEE's Principle of Acceptable Engineering Practice.

- Code of Ethics of Engineers
- Principles of Acceptable Engineering Practice

Ethics Documents

SPEE Committee on Ethics has created a document entitled "Discussion and Guidance on Ethics" – updated in 2018.

The first duty of any ethical professional engineer is to place safety, health and welfare of the public above all else. Evaluation engineers, in addition to estimating reserves and recovery rates, must also be cognizant of current economic conditions and product prices as well as understanding the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission if they provide services for public companies. This paper discusses the Principles of Acceptable Evaluation Engineering Practice.

- SPEE's Discussion and Guidelines on Ethics

Ethics Training

As a service to its membership, the SPEE has developed a one-hour ethics training presentation based on the work of the SPEE Committee on Ethics. This presentation, along with the accompanying notes and presentation script, can be made available free of charge by contacting SPEE. These training materials can be used to present to a group or at a chapter meeting, etc....

Things you may not know you agreed to (SPEE Bylaws)

- SPEE is a “self-governing” organization
- ARTICLE VI. ETHICS
 - SECTION 1.
 - ...Appendices A and B ...
 - ... Honesty, integrity, loyalty, fairness, impartiality, candor, fidelity to trust, and inviolability of confidence are incumbent upon every Member, ...
 - SECTION 2. A Member who, after due investigation, is found guilty of violating any of the standards prescribed in Section 1 of this article shall be expelled from the Society in accordance with the procedure provided by the By-Laws.

SPEE Bylaws

- SPEE has a GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE to examine Charges of misconduct that are referred to it.
 - David Gold is the current chair.
- There is a procedure to bring Charges of misconduct to the attention of the Society and for the Society to hold a hearing with oral or written statements and witnesses with right of cross examination.
- <https://spee.org/membership/important-documents/>

 SPEE By-Laws

 Grievance Procedure

Process for Charges of Misconduct (Simplified!)

- Charges of misconduct submitted in writing to the President of the Society by a Member in good standing, with a full statement of the evidence on which the Charges are based.
 - Complete documentation and evidence including sworn statements or affidavits
- Executive Committee Reviews and forwards to Grievance Committee if complaint has merit.
- Grievance Committee investigates and prepares formal written Charges if complaint has merit.
- Arbitration hearing set and Arbitrator hired. Accused Member sent notice and Charges 60+ days before hearing.
 - SPEE is the Claimant, and the accused Member is the Respondent
 - Accused Member may appear and/or be represented by counsel
 - Each side may submit oral or written statements and may present witnesses.
 - Each party has the right to oral cross-examination.
 - The Arbitrator will have the right of questioning and cross-examination.
 - The Arbitrator shall rule to either sustain or dismiss the Charges.
- SPEE pays
 - Arbitrator and Costs (2 days; not to exceed 1 week)
 - Reasonable costs for both Parties including travel, lodging, and legal counsel.
 - NO professional time for witnesses.
- If Charges are sustained, the Member's membership in SPEE will be immediately revoked.

Case Studies (Hypothetical Situations)

- 1 – SPEE Member
- 2 – ChatGPT generated case
- 3 – Projecting MFHWs
- 4 – Consulting Firm