



## UK MRA Task Force Meeting July 25, 2024 | 2:00 p.m.

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Meeting ID: 295 385 820 109

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**In person:**

BRPELS Office  
605 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, STE 201  
Olympia, WA, 98501

**Attendance:** Marjorie Lund, PE, SE, Chair  
Aaron Blaisdell, PLS  
Ken Fuller, PE, Director  
Kristina Horton, PLS, Deputy Director  
Mackenzie Wherrett, Executive Assistant  
Elizabeth Lagerberg, Advising AAG  
Greg Schieferstein, Communication Manager  
Shanan Gillespie, Regulatory Program Manager  
Bryce Dickison, Administrative Assistant

Meeting called to order at 2:01

### Discussion topics

- Legal impacts to Professional Engineer licensure in Washington (*Elizabeth*)

Ms. Lagerberg reviewed the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) and is confident there's no necessity to change RCW 18.43 to accommodate for the MRA, if the board chooses. Education, experience, and examination requirements described within the MRA are rigorous. Ms. Lagerberg stated there is no statutory language that would prohibit the board from signing the MRA.

Ms. Lagerberg added there is termination language in the MRA that says the board may choose to withdraw after 6 months of signing.

- Documentation the MRA will not apply to Structural Engineer licensure in Washington and any other additional requirements – discussion

If the board chooses to sign, the task force wants documentation that the board has signed and accepts the MRA. Structural Engineer (SE) applicants from the UK would be required to follow the board's current SE application process.

A board policy will need to be written addressing how UK applications are processed in Washington State. The policy should explain that SE licensure is not an option with this pathway.

- Report on Western States current positions and processes for review of MRA (*Aaron and Ken*)

Mr. Fuller reported that the Oregon board is not ready to sign, and that California has already agreed with exception of SE licensure. Mr. Blaisdell stated the Alaska board will be present at the signing and will consider each UK application on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Qureshi will present the US/UK MRA at the Western Zone meeting during the NCEES Annual Meeting in

August.

Mr. Blaisdell believes the MRA will assist our board in forging clearer pathways to licensure and help to reduce barriers.

- Discuss considerations for other comity applicants such as Canada

If the board chooses to sign the MRA it should consider reviewing agreements with other countries. The task force discussed the possibility of NCEES expanding the agreement to include other countries within the international engineer registry.

Ms. Lund to review the International Engineer Alliance (IEA) requirements.

- Discuss the potential for an additional exam and/or law review change

Ask Exam Qualifications Committee (EQC) to look into potential changes to the law review exam and application forms while they review decoupling.

The task force discussed developing an attestation for applicants to confirm if they've read and understand the Washington State and local codes and regulations.

The structural committee will discuss concerns about seismic design.

#### **Action Items**

- Elizabeth to summarize her analysis and present at the board meeting in august
- If the board chooses to sign the MRA, Ms. Lund will begin review of the IEA requirements.
- Board staff to develop a policy
- Mr. Blaisdell and Mr. Fuller coordinate and collaborate with the other Western States regarding the MRA
- Ms. Lund to ask Exam Qualifications Committee (EQC) to look into potential changes to the law review exam and application forms while they review decoupling.
- Ms. Lund to develop an attestation regarding local codes and regulations

#### **Recommendations to the board:**

- Recommend that the board attend and participate in signing the MRA as an NCEES member board and agree to develop a policy explaining the procedure.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.