REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON A CODE OF ETHICS FOR ENGINEERS

The Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, appointed to consider a Code of Ethics for Engineers, recommends, after deliberate consideration, that each participating Institute or Society adopt the short simple Code of Ethics which follows:

A CODE OF ETHICS FOR ENGINEERS

Engineering work has become an increasingly important factor in the progress of civilization and in the welfare of the community. The Engineering Profession is held responsible for the planning, construction and operation of such work and is entitled to the position and authority which will enable it to discharge this responsibility and to render effective service to humanity.

That the dignity of their chosen profession may be maintained, it is the duty of all Engineers to conduct themselves according to the principles of the following Code of Ethics:

1. The Engineer will carry on his professional work in a spirit of fairness to employees and contractors, fidelity to clients and employers, loyalty to his country and devotion to high ideals of courtesy and personal honor.

2. He will refrain from associating himself with or allowing the use of his name by an enterprise of questionable character.

3. He will advertise only in a dignified manner, being careful to avoid misleading statements.

4. He will regard as confidential any information obtained by him as to the business affairs and technical methods or processes of a client or employer.

5. He will inform a client or employer of any business connections, interests or affiliations which might influence his judgment or impair the disinterested quality of his services.

6. He will refrain from using any improper or questionable methods of soliciting professional work and will decline to pay or to accept commissions for securing such work.

7. He will accept compensation, financial or otherwise, for a particular service from one source only, except with the full knowledge and consent of all interested parties.

8. He will not use unfair means to win professional advancement or to injure the chances of another engineer to secure and hold employment.

9. He will cooperate in upbuilding the Engineering Profession by exchanging general information and experience with his fellow engineers and students of engineering and also by contributing to the work of engineering societies, schools of applied science and the technical press.

10. He will interest himself in the public welfare in behalf of which he will be ready to apply his special knowledge, skill and training for the use and benefit of mankind.

These ten general clauses can, in the opinion of the Committee, be interpreted to cover all cases of questionable conduct that may arise in the engineering profession. It will be necessary during the first few years following their adoption, to have many specific interpretations rendered on certain clauses where professional practice is not wholly standardized. The Committee recognized this need and gave much consideration to methods to meet this situation and to permit the adjustment of engineering thought to single viewpoints as developed in the administration of the code. The standing committees on professional conduct in each organization and the Joint Committee of all organizations will serve to make workable rules of these clauses.

In order that this code should not prove a dead letter on each society’s records, the Joint Committee made the further recommendations in its report to care for the administration of the common code of ethics as follows:

The Committee further recommends that the following method of interpreting and administering the Code be adopted by each participating Institute or Society after any necessary provisions have been made in the Constitution and By-laws of the organization.