



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee Releases 2017 Edition of EJCDC® E-581, *Agreement Between Owner, Design Engineer, and Peer Reviewers for Peer Review of Design.***

ALEXANDRIA, Va., February 1, 2017—The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) today released the 2017 edition of *EJCDC® E-581, Agreement Between Owner, Design Engineer, and Peer Reviewers for Peer Review of Design.*

EJCDC® E-581 is used to conduct an independent “peer review” of an engineer’s design work. The 2017 edition has been revised to reflect current business and professional practices, but remains consistent with earlier EJCDC editions.

EJCDC® E-581 is intended to engage one or more peer reviewers to review and comment on the design engineer’s design while it is in progress. Such peer reviews are sometimes required by lenders, grant agencies, and project owners to assure the adequacy of the design. Peer reviews are useful to the Engineer in identifying design elements that need further analysis, revision, or improvement prior to finalization and construction.

The EJCDC peer review document EJCDC® E-581 may also be suitable, with some modifications, to engage an independent party to perform a value engineering review. In such case, the scope of services would be modified to describe value engineering services rather than a peer review.

Highlights of the 2017 edition of EJCDC® E-581 include:

- Expansion of the waiver of claims provisions. The document had previously acknowledged the need to restrict claims against the peer reviewers by the design engineer, or attempting to shift design responsibility to the peer reviewers. This was expanded to exclude claims by the peer reviewers against the design engineer, and claims by one peer reviewer against another. The peer reviewers and design engineer remain responsible to owner.
- Linkage to Design Agreement. The new edition specifies that disputes between owner and the design engineer are to resolved under the dispute resolution

provisions of their primary contract, the design agreement, rather than under the Peer Review agreement.

- Improved description of the process for peer reviewers providing commentary regarding the design, and design engineer making design changes in response; and the associated professional responsibility for the design.
- Various updates to wording and format used in other EJCDC documents.
- Addition of a new section, Guidelines for Use of EJCDC® E-581, which provides commentary regarding the purpose and intended use of the document, as well as concise instructions for editing the document for use in a specific peer review engagement.

Since 1975, EJCDC has developed and updated fair and objective standard documents that represent the latest and best thinking in contractual relations between all parties involved in engineering design and construction projects.

EJCDC® documents are specifically written for public and private infrastructure and engineered facilities projects in the United States. The documents can readily be customized to suit each project's unique goals and regulatory requirements.

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC®) is a joint venture of major organizations of professional engineers

:

- the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE);
- the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE); and
- the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

Buy EJCDC documents online at [www.ejcdc.org](http://www.ejcdc.org).

Contact:

Linda Yelton

EJCDC®

703.403.4812

[linda@ejcdc.org](mailto:linda@ejcdc.org)

###