

2014
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
MILTON F. LUNCH ETHICS CONTEST
(Fact Situation)

FACTS

Engineer A works for the State X Department of Transportation and is the in-house project manager on a construction project being performed by Contractor Q for State X. Contractor Q submits a change order for Engineer A's approval on work already performed by Contractor Q. The normal practice is for a contractor to first seek review and approval of a change order by the project manager (in this case, Engineer A) before commencing the work. Engineer A believes, in his engineering judgment, the change order is actually the result of Contractor Q's faulty workmanship and not the result of any changes directed or required by State X. Following a lengthy conversation between the Engineer A and Contractor Q during which Engineer A informs Contractor Q that he will not sign off on the change order, Contractor Q contacts Supervisor B who supervises Engineer A. The next day, Supervisor B who is not a professional engineer, directs Engineer A to sign off on the change order.

QUESTION

Would it be ethical for Engineer A to sign off on the change order?

NSPE CODE REFERENCES

(To be submitted by the contestant(s). Use [NSPE Code of Ethics](#) references only.)

DISCUSSION

(To be submitted by the contestant(s). Use the BER format as used in the attached sample case.)

CONCLUSION

(To be submitted by the contestant(s).)

NOTE: *In order to maintain anonymity for purposes of judging, the actual body of the entry should not include any reference to the state society, chapter, member, student, university, or any other individual group(s) who submitted the entry. However, be sure to provide the name(s), address(es), email address(es), phone number(s), and NSPE member number(s) of (1) your NSPE chapter or state society, and (2) each of the individual(s) responsible for submitting the entry, on a separate cover sheet accompanying your entry. Submissions failing to include this information will be returned to submitter(s) and will not be eligible for the contest.*