Background
In November 2005, the Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA) Board of Directors initiated the implementation of a multi-year strategy to attempt to match CEA’s average engineer salaries with APEGA’s “All Industries” salaries. At that time, CEA salaries would have to increase approximately 9% per year to match “All Industries” salaries by 2009. We recognized that our benchmark will be a moving target and that this analysis should be revisited each year.

The initiative has been reviewed in the fall of each year since 2005, resulting in new salary and rate targets being set. The 2017 CEA Rate / Salary Guide Task Group chaired by Grant Hallam included Matt Brassard, Paul Breeze, Howard Trofanenko and Darryl Doucet. The task group conducted this year’s review and analysis and the recommendations are set in this document. The yeoman efforts of creating tables and managing the data by Paul Breeze is acknowledged.

In the table below we have provided a summary of actual engineers’ and technologists’ salaries in 2016 and recommended 2017 salaries.

These are all base salaries, and do not include bonuses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>CEA</th>
<th>APEGA 2016</th>
<th>CEA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recommended 2017 Salary Targets</td>
<td>All Industries</td>
<td>Consulting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>$55,900</td>
<td>$51,918</td>
<td>$47,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>$74,000</td>
<td>$72,208</td>
<td>$68,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2</td>
<td>$86,000</td>
<td>$84,272</td>
<td>$78,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3</td>
<td>$104,000</td>
<td>$103,910</td>
<td>$96,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4</td>
<td>$127,200</td>
<td>$127,223</td>
<td>$118,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E5</td>
<td>$152,000</td>
<td>$156,070</td>
<td>$141,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E6</td>
<td>$186,600</td>
<td>$188,677</td>
<td>$168,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F+</td>
<td>$229,500</td>
<td>$237,300</td>
<td>$216,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>$54,300</td>
<td>$50,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2</td>
<td>$62,600</td>
<td>$59,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3</td>
<td>$70,500</td>
<td>$67,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T4</td>
<td>$86,300</td>
<td>$81,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T5</td>
<td>$101,400</td>
<td>$99,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T6</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>$108,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T7</td>
<td>$137,000</td>
<td>$136,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The survey results for our benchmark, APEGA All Industries category, decreased by 2.06% between 2015 and 2016. Our member firms salaries, measured in the WCBC (Western Compensation and Benefits Consultants) survey, decreased by 0.49% overall, resulting in a small closing of the gap between our actual and benchmark salaries. With a recommended average 1.27% increase for this year, we are showing some encouraging gains towards the All Industries goal. Because actual salaries in the lowest three classifications (A-, A and B) of the APEGA All Industries category dropped in 2016, our 2016 recommendations in these categories are now slightly above the actual APEGA All Industries category. We have therefore held our recommendations from 2016 with no increase recommended for 2017 in these classifications. We have not recommended a reduction in our 2016 recommended rates, as we believe that it is crucial to our industry to continue to attract young talent, and the drop in actual salaries makes the consulting industry more attractive than in past years. We also took care to recommend rate increases for those engineering classifications that were in danger of slipping.

The Task Group continues to encourage our member firms to increase salaries sufficiently to attract and retain talented personnel.

The Task Group wishes to remind our member firms that our benchmark is only the average for all industries employing engineers in Alberta. Our goal should continue to be to meet and exceed this benchmark if we are going to remain an attractive industry for engineers and technologists.

**CLASSIFICATION GUIDE**

This Guide describes several classifications of responsibility, experience and training. With some interpolation, engineering and technical positions within most consulting firms can be categorized to align with these classifications. These classifications support the positions contained in APEGA’s published Salary Survey—“Value of Professional Services Guideline.”

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**A- Engineering Student**
University co-op or summer student.

**A Member-in-Training**
University graduate from an accredited engineering program.

**B Assistant Project Engineer**
E.G.G. assignments of limited scope and complexity. Work supervised in detail. May give guidance to members-in-training, technicians, technologists, contractor employees, etc.

**C Project Engineer**
Independently puts out responsible and varied E.G.G. assignments. Work not generally supervised in detail. May give guidance to 1 or 2 other E.G.G.’s but supervision of other E.G.G.’s is not usually a continuing responsibility.

**D Supervisory Engineer**
First level of direct and sustained supervision over E.G.G.’s.

**Specialist Engineer**
First level of full specialization in complex engineering applications (research, design, product application, sales, etc).

**E Management Engineer**
Has authority over supervisory E.G.G.’s or a large group containing both professionals and non-professionals.

**Advanced Specialist Engineer**
In addition to specialization, generally exercise authority over a group of highly qualified professionals engaged in complex engineering applications.

**F Senior Management Engineer**
Has authority over several related professional groups in different fields, each under a management E.G.G.

**Senior Specialist Engineer**
Recognized authority in a field of major importance and generally exercises authority over a group of highly qualified professionals engaged in complex engineering applications.

**TECHNICAL SERVICES**

**T1 Technician**
Under close supervision, carries out straightforward duties such as preparing uncompleted or repetitive drawing, maintaining drawing files and assisting with field survey. Little independent judgment required. Acts according to standardized procedures. No previous experience required.

**T2 Technician/Technologist**
Under close supervision supports engineering personnel in field, design and/or ACAD drafting. Performs clearly defined, straightforward tasks. Acts according to standardized procedures. Carries out straightforward computational work using standard accept formulate and manuals.

**T3 Technician/Technologist**
Under direct supervision supports engineering personnel in field, design, drawing production and/or construction specifications and quality control. Performs variety of defined assignments with some independent judgment required. May provide technical advice to less experienced technicians/technologist in same area of specialty.

**T4 Technician/Technologist**
Under minimal supervision carries out design tasks and/or complex ACAD assignments and/or performs field quality control functions. Analyzes, provides recommendations and makes decisions with regard to technical problems encountered. May provide technical advice or supervise the daily activity of all lower level technical staff with regard to processes and procedures. Verifies accuracy and adequacy of their work.

**T5 Technician/Technologist**
Supervises directly or indirectly the work of junior technical personnel in area of specialization. Has authority to determine the quality, quantity and man-hour requirements. Reviews and verifies accuracy of work carried out by others.

**T6 Technician/Technologist**
Independently manages design functions on projects. Supervises the activities of other staff in execution of projects. Assists in recruitment and management of personnel as required. May assume role of Project Manager on projects. Registered Professional Technologists (R.P.T.) may take technical responsibility for projects within the limits of the approved scope of practice. Assists with marketing and client services on a regular basis.

**T7 Technician/Technologist**
Independently represents the company with clients on an ongoing basis. Manages and supervises staff on a continual basis. Manages major projects. Responsible for identifying and pursuing market opportunities in area of specialization. Registered Professional Technologists (R.P.T.) may take technical responsibility for projects within the limits of the approved scope of practice. Responsible for assisting in recruitment, career reviews and salary reviews for staff under their direction supervision. Typical role is that of Group Manager or Discipline Lead.

* E.G.G. = Engineers, Geologists, Geophysicists

**Updated December 2016**