

ARRL Volunteer Consulting Engineer Program

The purpose of the ARRL Volunteer Consulting Engineer (VCE) is to make available to ARRL members a pool of qualified registered professional engineers who are Amateur Radio operators. VCE appointments *do not* require Division Director approval. As professionals, VCEs work to assist amateurs regionally with a variety of technical issues which can only be handled by a registered professional engineer. Most amateur needs involve antenna zoning restrictions and a possible need for expert technical testimony at zoning hearings. A list of VCEs nationally can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/locate-a-vce>.

Potential VCE candidates must complete a VCE application and forward it to ARRL HQ for processing. Applications are available from ARRL HQ. An on-line application is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/vce-application>.

Responsibilities:

The Division Director:

- Makes ARRL division-level policy with possible input from VCEs when necessary.

ARRL HQ:

- Evaluates initial regulatory inquiries from ARRL members and makes VCE referrals when technical advice or assistance is required from an engineer.
- Administers the VCE Program and maintains an internal VCE list on the ARRL database and a public referral list on the ARRL Web
- Refers amateurs to the on-line PRB-1 package at <http://www.arrl.org/prb-1> and refers amateurs to regional VCEs.
- Provides on-line PRB-1 information and other regulatory and technical material at no cost to VCEs as requested.
- Acts as a clearinghouse for regulatory and technical material
- Distributes material to VCEs as necessary.

The Volunteer Consulting Engineer:

- Must be an Amateur Radio operator.
- Must be a member of ARRL.
- Must provide an initial consultation to ARRL members at no cost.
- Must provide a profile for referral to ARRL members which will include, but is not limited to, the name, call sign, address, phone number, area of specialization and state(s) in which state registration has been obtained.
- Must be a registered professional engineer (structural, civil or mechanical) by the appropriate department of state government.
- Must notify the Regulatory Information Branch at ARRL HQ of contact information changes (many VCEs prefer that office contact information is given to amateurs seeking referrals while the *QST* mailing address remains at the home address)

- Should be able to provide expert testimony and information on issues such as, but not limited to, structure wind loading, guy anchor requirements for given soil conditions, antenna height effectiveness and data on antenna structure safety and consistency with local building codes.
- Should work as a team with section and division-level ARRL appointees.
- Should attend ARRL-sponsored regional technical and regulatory seminars when possible.
- Should work with regional Volunteer Counsel members concerning legal aspects of cases and with other ARRL Section-level volunteers as needed.
- May be called upon to speak at Amateur Radio gatherings on their area of expertise.

An Amateur Seeking Engineering Advice:

- Must be an ARRL member at the time assistance is sought.
- Must understand that a reasonable fee may be charged by the VCE for time spent after the initial consultation.
- Must understand that ARRL holds no liability for the actions of VCEs.
- Must understand that VCEs are not lawyers and can't provide legal advice.