

File: 11300-01

October 4, 2004

To: All Regional Executive Directors
All District Managers
All Timber Sales Managers

From: Ron Davis
Chief Engineer
Resource Tenures & Engineering Branch

Re: Forest Service Bridge Closures

There are recent examples of bridge closure methods that do not provide appropriate levels of user safety or of risk management for the ministry. Although this issue will be further addressed in the engineering standard operating procedures being updated later this year, the potential consequences of inadequate responses to known extreme bridge deterioration prompts this interim advice.

When the regional bridge engineer cannot apply any safe load limit to a dilapidated structure, take immediate action to close the bridge by either:

1. Removing the bridge superstructure and erecting a barrier to access to the bridge site, or
2. Erecting a barricade such that access is prohibited, together with a sign stating that the bridge is closed.

It is not sufficient to post the bridge for zero load, or similar. If there are unique situations where it is not possible in the short term to erect a barricade or remove the span, seek legal advice through this office to address mitigation. Note that normal signing would apply to situations where the load rating has been reduced to a level that anticipates continued vehicle use.



Ron Davis
Chief Engineer
Resource Tenures & Engineering Branch





File: 97150-20/2003-02

November 23, 2004

VIA FAX to (250) 956-5005

Chuck van Hemmem, District Manager
North Island-Central Coast Forest District
2217 Mine Road, Bag 7000
Port McNeil, BC V0N 2R0

Dear Chuck van Hemmem:

Re: Audit of Forest Planning and Practices, Richmond Plywood Corporation Limited, Forest Licence A19243

The Board concludes that the Ministry of Forests has fulfilled the requirements of the recommendation and the audit file is now closed.

The Board has reviewed your email and attached policy dated June 28, 2004, detailing the steps that the district, as well as the Coast Forest Region has taken to address the Board's recommendation in the February 2004 report, Audit of Forest Planning and Practices, Richmond Plywood Corporation Limited, Forest Licence A19243. Through this email and policy you have adequately notified the Board of the steps that have been taken to implement the Board's recommendation.

The Board is encouraged that the Ministry of Forests has taken the response from this recommendation a step forward and has issued a province wide memorandum with respect to Forest Service Bridge Closures – see attached memorandum.

The Board considers that you have met the recommendation in the report and the file is now closed although the Board may choose to revisit your responses in the course of a future compliance or enforcement audit.

Chuck van Hemmem
November 23, 2004
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I would like to thank you again for the co-operation shown by you and your staff during this audit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Fraser".

Bruce Fraser, PhD
Chair

cc: Cindy Stern, Regional Executive Director, Coast Forest Region fax: (250) 751-7196
Jack Dryburgh, District Manager, South Island Forest District fax: (250) 731-3079
Dan Robek, Regional Bridge Engineer, Coast Forest Region fax: (250) 751-7101
Ron Davis, Chief Engineer, Resource Tenures & Engineering Branch fax: (250) 387-6445