

March 29, 2018

Mr. Dave Clarke, RPF  
Executive Director  
Forest Practices Board  
PO Box 9905 Stn Prov. Gov't  
Victoria, BC  
V8X 9R1

Dear Mr. Clarke,

We are writing in response to a request made by the Forest Practices Board (FPB) in its Special Investigation of *Resource Road Construction in Steep Terrain SIR 47, Sept 2017*. In that report, the Board made the following recommendation to address a key finding related to forest professionals:

*“The Board requests that the Joint Practices Board of the Association of BC Forest Professionals and the Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia advise it of the steps, planned or taken, to address the professional practice issues identified in this report.”*

The report identified six issues related to the involvement of professionals when investigating “Are professional practice standards being met?”<sup>1</sup>

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) and Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (EGBC) operate a Joint Practice Board (JPB) to address areas of overlap in professional practice. The councils, or their CEO's, direct the activities of the JPB. A primary product of the JPB is professional guidance that advises and directs the practice of members of ABCFP and EGBC.

ABCFP and EGBC appreciate the FPB investigations and reporting on resource road construction in steep terrain. As requested in the report, the associations would like to update the Board on the steps planned and taken, to address the FPB recommendation in SIR 47.

- The **Guidelines for Professional Service in the Forest Sector – Forest Roads** currently contain content dealing with steep roads in complex or potentially unstable terrain.

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<sup>1</sup> *Resource Road Construction in Steep Terrain. FPB/SIR/47. Forest Practices Board. September 2017. P.9*

The JPB will carry out a review to determine if an update to these guidelines is required, and/or, if another form of communication is necessary, in light of the FPB Report.

- The JPB has met and discussed the FPB report and asked the Directors of Professional Practice to gather background information that might be available on the problem. The professions will be providing a response to each of the professional issues identified by the Board in SIR 47.

In addition to the recommendation to the ABCFP and EGBC, the FPB provided a recommendation to government.

*“The Board requests that, in view of the potential consequences and risks, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development review current legislation and regulations, and consider including additional legal requirements related to road construction if roads are located on terrain that is unstable or potentially unstable; on terrain with slopes greater than 60 percent; or on terrain where there are indicators of slope instability.”*

The professions have discussed the FPB report with the government (Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development) and have agreed to assist the appropriate FLNRORD staff with the recommendations from the Board.

The professions will update the FPB as to the progress of the recommendations.

If the Board has any questions regarding this response or future progress, please contact the respective Directors of Professional Practice, Mike Larock RPF [mlarock@abcfp.ca](mailto:mlarock@abcfp.ca) , and /or Peter Mitchell PEng [pmitchell@apeg.bc.ca](mailto:pmitchell@apeg.bc.ca) .

Sincerely,



Mike Larock, RPF,  
Director of Professional Practice and Forest Stewardship  
Association of BC Forest Professionals

On behalf of the Joint Practice Board of ABCFP/EGBC,

cc. Peter Mitchell, P.Eng.  
Director, Professional Practice, Standards and Development  
Engineers and Geoscientists BC



File: 97150-20/2015-12

May 24, 2018

Mike Larock, RPF  
Association of BC Forest Professionals  
602 – 1281 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, BC V6E 3J7

Dear Mike Larock:

**Re: Special Investigation of Road Constriction in Steep Terrain**

Thank you for your reply to our recommendation on behalf of the Joint Practices Board of the Association of BC Forest Professionals and the Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (JPB). We understand from the reply that the JPB is researching how best to address the recommendation. Two issues identified in our report were, roads being constructed without the use of appropriate professionals and some professionals not undertaking all the requirements of their role.

We consider your reply an interim measure to our recommendation, “...advise it [the Board] of the steps, planned or taken, to address the professional practice issues identified in this report”. We look forward to a more fulsome reply by October 31, 2018.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Bruce Larson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bruce Larson  
Vice-Chair

CC: Peter Mitchell, P.Eng. – Engineers and Geoscientists BC