



October 31, 2020

Kevin Kriese  
Chair  
Forest Practices Board  
PO Box 9905 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9R1

Dear Mr. Kriese,

**Re: Forest Practices Board Follow-up Investigation of Bridge Planning, Design and Construction, April 2020**

We are writing in response to a request for a response made by the Forest Practices Board (the Board) in its *Follow-up Investigation of Bridge Planning, Design, and Construction* report released in April 2020. In that report the Board made the following recommendations:

1. The Joint Practices Board of ABCFP and Engineers and Geoscientists BC should review the professional practice guidelines for crossings with an eye towards improving clarity to help their members understand their responsibilities for bridge planning and design.
2. The ABCFP should subsequently review its guidance for forest professionals to ensure it is clear and consistent with professional practice guidelines for bridge planning and design.

As a positive sign, in comparison to the findings in the Special Investigation Bridge Planning, Design and Construction report, published in March 2014, the Board identified in the Follow-up Investigation report that: “The 2019 results show significant improvement in almost every area assessed. The compliance rates with environmental protection and safety requirements are all at the mid to high 90-percent level.” The ABCFP and Engineers and Geoscientists BC are encouraged by the significant improvement that has occurred as noted in the most recent report.

However, a matter of significant concern remains as in the follow-up report the Board identified 4 bridges that were unsafe and 9 other bridges that had significant safety concerns. The ABCFP and Engineers and Geoscientists BC take safety issues very seriously and believe that even one unsafe bridge is not acceptable so we will be continuing to work together to improve the practice of our registrants in this area.

**We provide the following responses to the Board’s recommendations:**

With support from staff from our respective professional practice departments, our organizations have relied primarily on the Joint Practices Board (JPB) to review the findings of the follow-up investigation and ensure that the recommendations are incorporated into guidance documents issued by us.

Starting in 2019, a task force of the JPB began developing an updated version (Version 3) of the *Guidelines for Professional Practice in the Forest Sector – Crossings* (the Crossings Guidelines) based on feedback from previous Board investigations and variety of practitioners in the industry. The development of the updated Crossings Guidelines continued through 2019 and into 2020, when a draft version was sent for consultation to ABCFP and Engineers and Geoscientists BC registrants on May 7, 2020. Comments on the draft guidelines were incorporated into the final draft with the assistance of the JPB. The guidelines were then approved by the councils of ABCFP and Engineers and Geoscientists BC on July 16, 2020 and September 11, 2020 respectively. The council approved versions will undergo editorial and legal review before being published, with an expected publication date prior to the end of December 2020.

***Recommendation 1:*** *The Joint Practices Board of ABCFP and EGBC should review the professional practice guidelines for crossings with an eye towards improving clarity to help their members understand their responsibilities for bridge planning and design.*

The primary changes in Version 3 of the guidelines in support of Recommendation 1 include:

- An expanded description of the responsibilities of the POR by project phase and a description of the process of transferring responsibility between PORs.
- Expanded discussion on channel stability and hydraulic impacts of crossing designs.
- A new section describing the requirements of site surveys.
- Clarifications to skill sets required for PORs.

***Recommendation 2:*** *The ABCFP should subsequently review its guidance for forest professionals to ensure it is clear and consistent with professional practice guidelines for bridge planning and design.*

The primary changes in Version 3 of the guidelines in support of Recommendation 2 include:

- An expanded description of the responsibilities of the CRP by project phase.
- Addition of a section on skill sets required for CRPs.
- Addition of a description of the process of transferring responsibility between CRPs.
- Development of a CRP Transfer of Responsibility Assurance Statement.

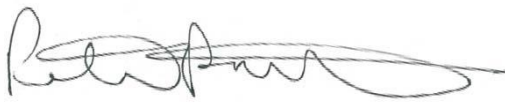
In addition, several other improvements have been made to the guidance, including:

- Updated and added definitions to improve clarity.
- A reworked quality management section consistent with other recent joint guidelines issued by ABCFP and Engineers and Geoscientists BC.


- Updates to Crossing and Construction Assurance Statements to reflect current best practices.

We believe that these updates will help improve clarity to ensure the concerns of the Board are addressed. We also believe that the subsequent communications and continuing education efforts around the release of the guidelines will enhance registrant understanding of their professional responsibilities.

Regards,



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



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



# Forest Practices Board

File: 97325-20/2019-17

December 14, 2020

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Mike Larock, RPF  
Director of Professional Practice  
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1281 W. Georgia Street  
Vancouver, BC V6E 3J7

Dear Peter Mitchell and Mike Larock:

**Re: Response to Board recommendations**

Thank you for your letter of October 31, 2020 regarding your organization's response to recommendations the Board made in its "Follow-up Investigation of Bridge Planning, Design and Construction" special investigation.

In April 2020, the Board requested the Joint Practices Board of both your organizations to review the professional practice guidelines for crossings with an eye towards improving clarity to help their members understand their responsibilities for bridge planning and design and that the ABCFP should subsequently review its guidance for forest professionals to ensure it is clear and consistent with professional practice guidelines for bridge planning and design.

The Joint Practices Board have taken several steps in improving clarity in the professional practice guidelines, through development of Version 3 of the professional practices guidelines. Once Version 3 of the guidelines are finalized, it appears the Joint Practices Board will have met recommendation 1.

The Board wishes to improve its reporting to the public on the implementation of its recommendations and will report whether recommendations are accepted, partially accepted, or not accepted. The Board will report that this recommendation was accepted.

In addition, ABCFP has completed a review of its guidance for forest professionals and has made several changes, such as an expanded description of the responsibilities of the CRP by project phase; addition of a section on skill sets required for CRPs; and Development of a CRP Transfer of Responsibility Assurance Statement. These changes appear to meet the intent of recommendation 2; the Board will report that this recommendation was accepted.

As the intent of both recommendations have been met, the Board will now close this file.

Peter Mitchell and Mike Larock

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Bridge safety has been, and continues to be a key component of forest management in British Columbia. While the Board is encouraged with the improvement noted in the follow-up investigation, we will continue to assess bridge planning, design and construction through our audits and complaint investigations across British Columbia.

Thank you for your cooperation throughout the special investigation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kriese', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Kriese  
Chair