



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC
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October 30, 2014

Mr. Tim Ryan, RPF
Chair
Forest Practices Board
PO Box 9905 Stn Prov. Gov't
Victoria, BC V8X 9R1

Dear Mr. Ryan,

We are writing in response to a request made by the Forest Practices Board (FPB) in its Special Investigation of *Community Watersheds: From Objectives to Results on the Ground*, April 2014. In that report, the Board made the following recommendation:

Ensuring the content of professional assessments is meaningful. *The Association of BC Forest Professionals and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC should develop guidance for their members on the appropriate content of a watershed or hydrological assessment. This should include:*

- *the elements necessary to address government's objective for community watersheds,*
- *including where the surface water source has changed to a groundwater source;*
- *procedures for considering cumulative hydrological effects at the watershed scale;*
- *integration of the needs of licensed waterworks; and*
- *examples of recommendations providing clear direction for implementation.*

The two professions operate a Joint Practice Board (JPB) that is directed by the councils to address areas of overlap in professional practice as directed by the councils or their CEOs. As the FPB points out in the report, a primary product of the JPB is guidance in professional practice to the combined memberships of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) and Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC).

At this time we would like to update you on the progress made and timelines for addressing the FPB recommendation.

- the JPB has met and discussed the FPB report and asked the Directors of Professional Practice to provide the following:
 - a preliminary description of the jurisdictional overlap
 - an assessment of the standard of professional practice in light of the FPB recommendation
 - the necessary resources from the councils to support the project
- the Directors of Practice have been in communication with members interested in volunteering in this area
- once the financial resources are confirmed and direction from the councils received, the JPB will establish a Task Force of professionals, with expertise in this area of professional practice to work on the guidance described in the FPB report.
- the development work on the guidance will take approximately one year to complete.

In addition to the recommendation to the ABCFP and APEGBC, the FPB identified four other recommendations to government concerning Community Watersheds.

Specifically the professions have discussed the FPB report with the government (Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations) and have agreed to assist the appropriate FLNRO staff on their water quality policy analysis, bulletin development and any related communications or training. FLNRO has, in turn, committed to assist the associations in developing guidance on watershed assessments. Ongoing collaboration between FLNRO and the associations will be important to ensuring the recommendations of the report are completed and effectively communicated.

The professions will update the FPB as to the progress of the Task Force and guidance development.

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, and/or Peter Mitchell P.Eng. pmitchell@apeg.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



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