

Professional Reliance Task Force (PRTF) Update

December 2005

Background – What is the PRTF?

A task force was struck earlier this year consisting of the four resource professional regulatory bodies: Association of BC Forest Professionals, Association of Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, BC Institute of Agrologists, College of Applied Biologists of BC, and four provincial ministries: Forests and Range, Agriculture and Lands, Environment, and Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources. Forest and Range industry representatives will be encouraged to contribute to the work as it proceeds. The purpose of the task force is: “to develop and communicate an agreed-upon description and model for application of the professional reliance principle to forest, range and environmental management in British Columbia”.

The Task Force expects to complete its work by March 31, 2006.

What has the PRTF been up to since the last update?

Since becoming reactivated in July 2005 the Task force has met by teleconference or in person monthly and communicated by e-mail between meetings. An internal discussion paper has been used to help develop a clearer description of the term “professional reliance” and define some of the commonly used language related to the principle.

The PRTF met on November 15, 2005 to discuss how the professional reliance concept fits with the non-statutory aspects of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. A project that is being undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Forests and Range, and expected to be complete this winter will help inform the work of the PRTF.

The next steps for the PRTF will involve redrafting the internal discussion paper to make it suitable for broader review and input, as well as preparing a summary of the “gaps” that need to be addressed in order for the public, employers and professionals to derive the greatest benefit from application of professional reliance.

How can I contribute?

By early January 2006 the PRTF expects to have a paper suitable for distribution to member organizations and other stakeholders for input. The paper will be in draft form, and will address parameters for defining and implementing professional reliance.