ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS AND MAPPING THE REPLY TO THIS LETTER SHOULD BE MARKED FOR THE ATTENTION OF:



Circular Letter No. 257

DIRECTOR AND SURVEYOR-GENERAL X
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION
LEGAL SURVEYS DIVISION
MAP PRODUCTION DIVISION

SURVEYS AND MAPPING BRANCH DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, FORESTS, AND WATER RESOURCES VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

March 5, 1975.

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL B.C. LAND SURVEYORS, REGISTRARS, AND SURVEY STAFF IN LAND REGISTRY OFFICES.

Dear Sir:

Re: Adoption of U.T.M. Rectangular Coordinates.

The adoption of the Universal Transverse Mercator projection and rectangular coordinates to replace the system based upon the Polyconic projection will, sooner or later, have its impact upon all B. C. Land surveyors. This letter is therefore addressed to all surveyors and whether or not you currently conduct surveys in Integrated Survey Areas you are urged to take note of its content.

For Integrated Survey Area No. 8, District of Mckenzie, a new Certificate dated 3 March 1975 has been issued with U.T.M. coordinates and U.T.M. grid bearings and distances in metres between intervisible control monuments. The first page of the Certificate is enclosed as a sample. It will be noted that the mean scale and sea level factors and a combined factor for the area are listed. In addition to the sea level (S.L.) U.T.M. coordinates which are the official coordinates, a secondary set of ground level (G.L.) coordinates, from which the scale factor has been eliminated, are also listed. These ground level coordinates should never be used to refer to a point or control monument in any document and are issued purely for the convenience of land surveyors and Land Registry Office staff in dealing with cadastral surveys.

Until such time as metric conversion is complete and distances are shown on survey plans in metric units there will be the inconvenience of conducting surveys in feet but using control in metric units. Possibly the simplest solution is to divide the G.L. coordinates by the factor 0.3048 to convert them to feet, subtract some arbitrary large constant and then work entirely in feet at ground level.

When U.T.M. replace Polyconic coordinates in any area there will also be a change of up to about two degrees in the grid bearings unless, as in the case of Mckenzie, the central meridians of the Polyconic and

U.T.M. zones happen to coincide in which case bearings on the two systems will (happily) be virtually identical. The bearings of common lines on plans of surveys conducted in Integrated Survey Areas before and after the change to U.T.M. coordinates may therefore be different, but in any one Integrated Survey Area the swing should be constant for all practical purposes.

The new Certificate for Integrated Survey Area No. 8, District of Mckenzie has been deposited in the Land Registry Office at Prince George and at the District Office in McKenzie where it is open for inspection and the obtaining of copies of pages as required in accordance with the procedures of the office concerned.

Your attention is further directed to the current General Instructions for Cadastral Surveys in Integrated Survey Areas - B.C. Reg. 576/74.

Yours truly,

A. H. Ralfs,

Surveyor-General and Director, Surveys and Mapping Branch.

Enclosure.

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