



YOUR FILE

OUR FILE

85-05-28

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL BRITISH COLUMBIA LAND SURVEYORS

The Surveys and Lands Branch, Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing, is progressing rapidly toward the conversion of its survey and land records systems from manually-maintained maps and records to computer-based systems. As these conversions have implications which will be of interest to most B. C. Land Surveyors, an update on progress is in order.

The Crown Land Registry Information System, as it is now defined, consists of six subsystems, each of which will interact with each other. These subsystems are as follows:

1. Crown Land Registry: An automated land record system containing status information on all Crown land parcels. At present, this system contains current status information. Certain historic and more detailed status items will be added during 1985 and 1986.
2. Tenure Administration System: An automated system which maintains tenure and billing records and which is to be integrated with the Crown Land Registry about July 1, 1985.
3. Survey Plan Index: An automated index of all survey plans and field notes which are on file at the Surveys and Lands Branch. These include plans and field notes of all primary parcels in British Columbia, plans of all rights-of-way over Crown land, plans of all petroleum and natural gas wellsites, Crown subdivisions and Indian Reserves. Search capabilities are by primary parcel definition, by natural topographic series and/or British Columbia geographic system map reference, by land title office plan number and by Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing file number and by plan and tube number.

4. Automated Reference Maps: A series of 1:20,000 scale digital reference maps, which will cover all active areas of the province and which will be kept updated and on line. At the present time, these maps must be related to the Crown Land Registry by manual reference to legal descriptions or plotted file numbers but a geographic cross-referencing system is in the process of development.
5. Digitized Official Plans: All Crown land survey plans to be filed and available in digital format. Target date for completion of this project is not yet established.
6. Production Control: An automated work in progress tracking system which will contain the current status of each job within the Surveys and Lands Branch.

Items 3, 4, 5 and 6 are of most interest to B. C. Land Surveyors.

Item 3, the Automated Index, is expected to improve the efficiency of the functioning of the Branch but will not, at least in the short run, change the means by which plans and field note copies are requested by Land Surveyors. On-line access to the automated index via terminals at regional offices will be available by September and consideration will be given to allowing access for searches by land surveyors at that time.

Item 4, the Automated Reference Maps, will ultimately make available to all users a new and superior system of reference maps, which will be kept up to date and on line. The extended potential uses of this map series are still being explored.

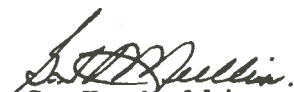
Item 5, Digitized Official Plans, is of most immediate interest to B. C. Land Surveyors. Pilot projects are currently underway to define the most efficient means of capturing all the information on a legal survey plan in digital format. The conclusion of these projects may lead to significant changes in current concepts of legal survey plans and to the eventual transmittal of plan information from the B. C. Land Surveyor to the Surveys and Lands Branch partly or wholly in digital format.

Item 6, the Production Control System, will allow immediate enquiry, by means of terminals at regional offices or in Victoria as to the current status of any job. This should simplify the task of responding to enquiries from clients as to progress on their application.

The Branch wishes to encourage input from private practice Land Surveyors on the major initiatives which are underway. There are many problems of standards and data translation between computer systems which will have to be solved as development proceeds. It is also recognized that not every member of the Corporation will have an interest in these problems and that the circulation of technical details to each member of multi-member surveying firms would lead to duplication and waste.

Accordingly, this letter is an invitation to all interested surveyors and survey firms who wish to be kept informed on the details of technical developments in this Branch, with a view to submitting comments and suggestions, to forward their names for inclusion in an appropriate mailing list. Further correspondence on this matter will be handled on a separate file and not by circular letter.

Yours sincerely,



G. T. Mullin,  
Surveyor General.

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