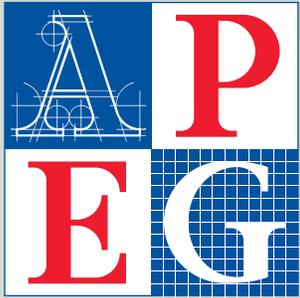


Guide to Geo-Hazard

Assurance Statement for Development Approvals



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC





Re-engineering the process

What Process?

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists (APEGBC) have partnered to create an improved geo-hazard assessment review and assurance process. We have streamlined the reporting process and reduced five forms into one. While the Assurance Statement is comprehensive, it is intended to supplement, not replace, a geo-hazard report.



Why?

We want to help you prepare a thorough and efficient hazard assessment for your client. The old process was time consuming for you and us. It didn't result in standardized information, resulting in a lot of back and forth on both sides seeking clarification. All of which bogged the process down.

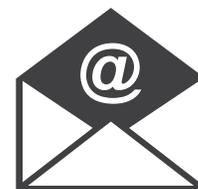
How can we help?

We encourage you to contact us early on in the process to gather important background information. We can provide:

- access to a geo-hazard report library
- site specific details for your application
- a timeline for your review and approval process
- advice regarding your proposal and any challenges it may face



1-800-528-0061



planning@fvrd.ca



Re-engineering the process

Other common factors to take into consideration when preparing your report include:

Determining which report

The type of proposed development affects the scope of the hazard assessment. For example, determining a safe building site for a new home requires a site specific report. Determining if a property is suitable for a new use and rezoning application could require a feasibility level report. Regardless of the type of report submitted, the Geo- Hazard Assurance Statement for Development Approvals form must also be submitted. QPs should contact the FVRD for guidance on report scope.

Working other technical professionals

We strongly encourage you to contact us to determine if an opinion from another technical professional is required. This will also ensure technical recommendations do not cause conflict. An example being where mitigative works are proposed within the RAR Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA), but are not addressed by the RAR Qualified Environmental Professional.

Considering upslope crown land activities

The mountain areas in the FVRD are working forests that over time experience resource extraction and forest harvesting activities. Many FVRD Electoral Area homes and subdivisions are located downslope of crown forest, and these lands can expect future activity. Accordingly, geo-hazard assessment report recommendations should expect crown lands to be working lands which do not provide mitigative buffers between developments and harvesting or extraction activities.

Deciding which seal to use – P.Eng. or P.Geo?

The APEGBC guidelines provide definitions for Professional Engineer and Professional Geoscientist in accordance with the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*. In general, if the report is:

- a) limited to hazard assessment without structural mitigation measures, either a P.Eng. or P.Geo. seal may be appropriate
- b) includes recommendations for mitigation measures (dyke, debris basin, bank protection works, other structural mitigation works, building elevation, building floodproofing), design of such works will require a P.Eng. seal. The design can supplement a report sealed by a P.Geo.

In certain cases, it may be appropriate for work to be performed by an APEGBC limited licensee (Eng.L. or Geo.L). Individual Qualified Professionals should contact APEGBC if there is uncertainty.



Re-engineering the process

Signing off on properties with multiple hazards

In the Fraser Valley Regional District, many properties are located in areas of multiple hazards, such as snow avalanche, flooding, landslide, and more. In multiple hazard scenarios, what QP sign off is required? The answer depends on if the hazards are inter-related, or if they stand alone.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Inter-related Hazards | Hazards that are connected or influence each other in their occurrence and/or mitigation | The lead QP is responsible for identifying an appropriate range of hazards to be assessed. The lead QP may rely on supporting reports (independently reviewed, signed and sealed) that are appended to the primary report to provide a comprehensive hazard assessment. Only the lead QP is required to submit an Assurance Statement QP's preparing supporting reports are not required to submit a separate Assurance Statement. |
| Unrelated Hazards | Hazards which are distinct and do not influence each other due to physical separation/distance, their nature or by other means | It is expected tha separate Assurance Statements will be provided, each addressing one or more hazards as appropriate, and each appending a separate report. |

Individual QPs should contact the FVRD if there is uncertainty.

Feedback

Our goal is to:

- streamline paperwork
- create a standard framework with efficient and clear expectations
- reduce requests for additional information or clarification

Dawn Smith
 Planner II
 Fraser Valley Regional District
 dsmith@fvrd.ca or 604-702-5074

Peter R. Mitchell, P.Eng.
 APEGBC Director, Professional Practice,
 Standards and Development
 mitchell@apegbc.bc.ca or 604-430-8035

Thank you!