

March 21, 2005

To: Forest Licensees

In the fall of 2004, the ministry communicated its intention, effective April 1st, 2005, to move to the exclusive use of electronic data transfer for cutting permits applications and amendments, road permit applications and amendments, and "as built" roads and silviculture reports. The ministry conducted a readiness assessment and has come to the following conclusions:

- The ministry computer systems are in place and operational. Electronic data is being accepted on a daily basis from a number of clients.
- There are ministry data issues that will cause some amendment submissions to be rejected. Work to correct this issue will be completed by April 1.
- Additional documentation and help packages are required for our clients.
- Some districts are still refining their business process and need additional time to prepare themselves to accept and process electronic submissions in order to better assist our clients in the transition.
- Some smaller licensees are still looking for additional guidance and assistance in testing their submission process.



For these reasons, we have decided to postpone the effective date from April 1 to June 1, 2005.

The ministry will be holding internal regional workshops to ensure that there is consistency in the procedure and process for electronic submissions.

Districts will also be establishing joint Electronic Submission Framework (ESF) working groups with industry to ensure that all parties are aware of the procedures and that they have contact information to assist with any issues arising from the transition.

These two initiatives will take place in the period leading up to the end of May.

Licensees with a small number of applications may find it more cost effective to use a service provider to prepare and submit electronic applications on their behalf. To assist in this, the ministry has compiled a list of service providers with proven capability. This list is available at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/esd/serviceproviders.htm> .

Forest Licensees


In the meantime, the system is in place and operational for those licensees that are currently submitting electronically.

I am recommending that you begin to move towards electronic submissions well before the June 1st deadline so that you can become familiar with the software packages and procedures required for an error-free submission. This will minimize the risk of delays in processing your submissions after June 1, 2005.

Finally, ESF projects have been extended as an eligible activity under the Forest Investment Account (FIA) Land-Base Investment and Small Tenures Programs until June 1, 2005. For “as built” roads, the completion deadline of December 31, 2005 remains unchanged.

If you need more information about the ESF initiative, please visit the ministry’s website: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/esf>. In the near future, district contacts will be posted on this website so that you may call for further information.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Konkin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Konkin
Deputy Minister

Pc: Council of Forest Industries
Coast Forest Products Association
Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association
Federation of BC Woodlot Association
BC Community Forest Association