



MEMORANDUM

August 25, 2014

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Chris Hanlon-Meyer, Forest practices Division Manager 

SUBJECT: Review of FPAs with Potential to Affect Unstable Slopes

During the September 2014 Forest Practices board meeting, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will present information regarding DNR's process to assess forest practices application activities that have the potential to affect unstable slopes while ensuring that DNR has adequate information to ensure appropriate Forest Practices Application (FPA) classification. I am attaching my June 13, 2014 unstable slopes memorandum to the Forest Practices Program. In this memo, I directed the requirement of a geotechnical report under specific circumstances in order to ensure a complete FPA, thereby allowing DNR to make an FPA classification decision.

The direction provided in the memo has provided for increased rigor in DNR's assurance that FPAs that have potential to deliver sediment or debris that threatens public safety are Class IV Special.

In order to provide you with a practical applied understanding of the approach that DNR Forest Practices Foresters and Licensed Engineering Geologists implement while reviewing FPAs to ensure appropriate classification, I have invited staff from DNR's Pacific Cascade and South Puget Sound Regions to give presentations on how they are implementing the direction in the memo. Jack Shambo, DNR Forest Practices District Manager will present a brief overview of the FPA office process and a more thorough summary of the Forest Practices foresters review process pursuant to the memo. Trevor Contreras, DNR Forest Practices Licensed Engineering Geologist will explain the geologist's review of FPAs to assess when additional information is needed to determine if there is a potential threat to public safety. His presentation will highlight how he uses available data and tools to supplement the information provided with the application to determine if additional information is needed to assure the proposed forest practices activities do not have the potential to deliver sediment or debris that threatens public safety.

Please feel free to contact me at (360) 902.1398 or chris.hanlon-meyer@dnr.wa.gov if you have further questions.

CHM/



June 13, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Program

FROM: Chris Hanlon-Meyer, Division Manager for Forest Practices *CHM*

SUBJECT: Review of FPAs with Potential to Affect Unstable Slopes

This memo replaces my May 9, 2014 memo notifying you of changes to the form and content of Forest Practices Applications related to unstable slopes, providing general direction to Forest Practices field staff and managers on when to ask for additional information, and providing specific direction regarding the circumstances in which applicants are required to provide additional geotechnical information prepared by a qualified expert. The principal changes to the May 9th memo are focused on further clarification of the public safety considerations and the removal of trails from that list.

The concept of including additional information regarding unstable slopes in the FPA was highlighted in recommendations from the TFW Policy Committee to the Forest Practices Board following the *Mass Wasting Effectiveness Monitoring Project*. The Board accepted these recommendations in February, 2014.

Effective on May 9, 2014, the amended application instructions include new questions for forest practices activities proposed on or adjacent to unstable landforms (enclosed). For all applications where potentially unstable slopes or landforms are within or around a forest practices activity area (new application questions 11 and 12), completing the Slope Stability Informational Form is a requirement of a complete FPA. This form provides additional information to help assess whether the FPA proposes activities that may involve potentially unstable slopes or landforms under WAC 222-16-050(1)(d). This form will also aid in determining the appropriate FPA classification.

The program and the Board are reviewing current scientific knowledge and the application review process around unstable slopes. Until that process is complete and any further actions are identified, I am directing certain circumstances in which we will require a geotechnical report to be supplied by the applicant in order to insure a complete application and provide information for a proper FPA classification decision.

Forest Practices Program

June 13, 2014

Page 2

Based on the information provided in the FPA, on the Slope Stability Informational Form, and our existing application screening tools, each application should receive a desk review to identify public safety considerations that are in general proximity to the application area. For this review, primary public safety considerations include developed areas (i.e. homes, businesses, barns, etc.), major public roads, and permanent recreational developments. Permanent recreational developments include but are not limited to: significant posted trail heads with parking lots, picnic areas, boat or hang gliding launch sites, day-use recreational sites, and campgrounds. These often include paved areas, restrooms, and interpretive information kiosks. Use data such as aerial photos, maps, and local knowledge; to the extent they are available. FPAs that are in general proximity to public safety concerns should be forwarded to the Forest Practices Science Team. If the Science Team Geologist determines that the unstable land form has the potential to deliver sediment or debris in such a way that it threatens public safety, they will notify the Forest Practices Forester. Finally, Forest Practices Foresters will require the applicant to supply a geotechnical report prepared by a qualified expert when landforms that may pose a potential threat to public safety are present.

Ultimately, accurate and complete forms help the DNR to properly classify FPAs. I realize that this may impact your ability to achieve your deliverable targets and I am committed to working with you to assess and propose adjustments to your targets.

Please feel free to contact me at (360) 902-1398 or chris.hanlon-meyer@dnr.wa.gov if you have further questions.

CHM/

Attachment