



A member  
of the  
Canadian  
Council of Land  
Surveyors

# MANUAL OF STANDARD PRACTICE: PART D, SECTION 5

4-1999\*

## WELLSITE SURVEYS AND PUBLIC LAND DISPOSITIONS

### Reference Boundary 5.1

An Alberta Land Surveyor performing a survey for the location of well sites and related facilities in surveyed territory shall locate and confirm sufficient monuments within, on or defining the section in which the wellsite is located to allow the determination of the wellsite in relation to the section boundaries. Monuments in this section refer to those placed in accordance with Part 2 or Part 3 of the *Surveys Act*.

#### *Surveys Act 5.2.1*

Where the boundaries of a wellsite or a related facility purport to define a property boundary, the said boundary shall be defined in accordance with the *Surveys Act*.

#### *Surveys Act 5.2.2*

Notwithstanding Section 5.2.1, when a related linear facility (access road), crosses or terminates on a property boundary, the intersection may be calculated. The plan shall clearly indicate that the intersection is calculated.

The Practice Review Board interprets the above Sections and sub-Sections as follows within the context of the entire Section 5:

- locate and confirm – means do so on the ground and not through computation
- relation to the section boundary – indicates a tie to the surveyed boundary or a calculation through a previously registered plan of survey
- property boundary – includes rights granted such as by right-of-way, or easement document and not necessarily restricted to actual title boundaries
- calculated – is information derived by computation from sources, which may not have been measured in entirety by the Land Surveyor who displays such information.

It is the opinion of the Practice Review Board that with respect to the attached wellsite example diagram, Fig. 'A', with the exception of wellsites #4, #10 and #12, virtually any combination of monuments can be used to survey wellsites #1, #5, #7, #14 and #16 (as a minimum).

Having stated this we would like to point out that the practitioner should give due consideration to those monuments or combination of monuments which are the best evidence for the positioning of the wellsite in question, within the section. More often than not this is dictated by the logistics of the survey job.

With the possibility of irregularities in the section or the township fabric, or a target coordinate close to the target boundary, it would be considered standard practice for the practitioner to survey to additional evidence to resolve those discrepancies completely, that may arise under these circumstances.

The intersection of all access roads with the property boundaries, with the exception of wellsite #10, can be calculated according to Sec. 5.2.2. This must be clearly indicated on the plan.

#### Wellsite #4

- Requires [11] and [12] due to wellsite boundary abutting the pipeline right-of-way, (Sec 5.2.1).
- The intersection of the access road with the road allowance may be calculated (Sec. 5.2.2) and shall be clearly indicated on the plan.
- The Practice Review Board would encourage the practitioner to make a tie to monuments #4 or #7, to “prove out” the R/W plan, with respect to the position of the well within the quarter section.

#### Wellsite #10

- Requires running the north/south  $\frac{1}{4}$  line and the blind line to determine the midpoint [8], if it has not been established under Part 2 of the *Surveys Act*. The use of [R15] is incorrect without a “Fd. No Mk.” at [2], or using monuments [1] & [3] to re-establish [2].
- As the access road terminates on the road plan, the intersection can be calculated from various monument ties and shall be clearly indicated as such on the plan.

#### Wellsite #12

- Requires governing evidence at [1], [4], and [6], (Sec. 5.1 and 5.2.1). Failing that, the plan should show measurements and evidence that would facilitate re-establishment of [1], [4], and [6] in accordance with the *Surveys Act*.
- The Board has seen examples of “accepted fence corners” at [4] and [6], and finds this deficient without, at a minimum, appropriate confirming ties to governing evidence (both north and south).

GENERAL

The Practice Review Board interprets this section as requiring these surveys to be done in accordance with the *Surveys Act*, but with a reduction in accuracy (ref: Part C, Section 1.5 MSP).

\*This Interpretation replaces PRB Interpretation #3-1998 and is issued by the Practice Review Board to reflect amendments to Section 5 of the Manual of Standard Practice approved at the 1999 Annual General Meeting.

This interpretation was approved by the Practice Review Board of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association at its meeting on November 10, 1999. Feedback from the membership is invited, and should be addressed to the Chairman, Practice Review Board, at the ALSA, #1000, 10020 - 101A Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3G2 (Fax: 1-780-429-3374; E-Mail: [info@alsa.ab.ca](mailto:info@alsa.ab.ca)).

Figure A

