



**Alberta
Land
Surveyors'
Association**

*A member
of the
Canadian
Council of Land
Surveyors*

Full Monumentation: Weight Given to Spikes and Bars

Report Prepared by the Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee

August 29, 2006

The Issue:

The Director of Surveys indicated that it was his perception that iron spikes and bars for dispositions are being ignored by Alberta Land Surveyors.

Government of Alberta's regional staff has trouble finding the spikes and bars.

In response, the Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association directed the Association's Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee to investigate and make recommendations. The Ad Hoc Committee met on February 21, 2006.

What is meant by "full monumentation?"

Full monumentation does not mean having to intersect every surveyed boundary as that is not a requirement now. Alberta Land Surveyors would be required to intersect only surveyed section boundaries.

"Permanent" or "adequate" monumentation is perhaps a more appropriate description of what was intended.

Committee Reaction:

The Committee concluded that Alberta Land Surveyors generally do look for spikes and bars. There are situations, however, when Alberta Land Surveyors will not look for spikes or bars or give them less weight when evaluating the evidence.

Alberta Land Surveyors might not look for spikes or bars if:

- there is no indication what type of monumentation was ever planted
- an Alberta Land Surveyor did not prepare the original disposition plan or sketch

Alberta Land Surveyors put in posts and spikes using the same methodology with the same degree of accuracy that they use for Land Titles surveys.

When evaluating evidence for disposition surveys, Alberta Land Surveyors will take into account the age of the plan and purpose of the disposition – when standards were much different. They will also take into account whether the monumentation was intended to mark the boundary or the centre line of the disposition.

Conclusion(s):

Alberta Land Surveyors should, and do, give weight to spikes and bars. The Director of Surveys provided examples on April 25, 2006 where that is not the case. The four examples provided do indeed ignore existing disposition monuments and the Committee would find them lacking and contrary to what the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association would consider good practice.

The perception that Alberta Land Surveyors ignore spikes and bars should not be a reason for moving to different monumentation requirements.