Ravi’s Desk: Replacing a Re-establishment Coordinate with a Physical Monument

Now that we have surpassed three years using the Hybrid Cadastral (HC) system, having over 1600 hybrid plans intertwined within the conventional legal survey fabric, it can be concluded that the Hybrid Cadastre is here to stay. Thanks to the Community of Practice for presenting great questions that resulted into developing FAQs in consultation with the ALSA.

One of the outstanding features of HC is the ability to switch the governing status from Establishment Coordinates (ECs) to physical monuments. Nevertheless, this mechanism is unavailable for the other coordinates that are not physically represented such as Re-establishment Coordinates (RCs).

The Director of Surveys Office has encountered a situation involving Re-establishment Coordinates (RC) needing to be replaced with physical monuments. The current Hybrid Cadastre Standards do not address this issue; thereby, a business decision was made facilitating the replacement along with placing a note on the original HC survey plan that created the RCs. However, this process is recognized as not being particularly expedient to address situations where there is the need to physically monument RCs.

In the case of Establishment Coordinates (EC), all who have read the Hybrid Cadastre Standards are well aware of the Appendix B – Statutory Declaration for Monumenting Hybrid Cadastre Establishment Coordinate Positions. This statutory declaration provides surveyors the ability to replace an EC with a physical monument on the ground, and in the process, transfer the status of the EC to the placed monument.

Issues may arise when an RC is required to be replaced with a physical monument. For instance: What happens if you come across an RC that you will need to replace with a physical monument? If you replace it with a physical monument, did the status of the RC transfer to the newly placed physical monument or does the RC still exist? If the RC still exists, this would be considered a double monumentation. Other than a note on a plan, there is no official declaration that the RC has been replaced physically. However, in the case of an EC being replaced physically, Appendix B is a statutory declaration stating that the EC no longer exists and that the monument takes the EC’s place.

The Director of Surveys Office has been contemplating this issue and has come up with a potential solution. The solution would involve the filing of a statutory declaration somewhat similar to the current Appendix B. It will require that RCs are monitored in a database to determine whether or not they have been physically replaced with a monument. This proposed statutory declaration will include the following requirements:

- the location has been thoroughly searched for traces of the original monument;
- the monument that will replace the RC is within tolerance of the coordinates derived for the RC; and
- there are no other RCs intending to represent the location (on different plans) that is being posted.
When this statutory declaration is filed, similar to Appendix B, the status of the RC will transfer to the monument replacing the RC and the database will be updated to reflect this change in monumentation. Simply speaking, as in the case of ECs, the existing HC survey plan will continue to show the RC as is, but the database will reflect it as being replaced with a statutory iron post.

The Director of Surveys is requesting feedback (comments and/or changes to the recommended solution) from the Land Surveying community in general as well as the Hybrid Cadastre Community of Practice members regarding this issue.

Please contact the Director of Surveys to discuss these points and any other issues with respect to the Hybrid Cadastre at Hybrid.Cadastre@gov.ab.ca.

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