

Information Bulletin Number 5 – December 7th, 2016

Winter Methods

Applications for permits to conduct archaeological impact assessments of oil and gas developments in northeastern British Columbia have included provisions for inspections to be conducted when the ground is snow-covered and/or frozen since 2003. Winter testing methods and results have been considered since Bulletin 5 was initially issued. As a result, winter methods are seen as an approved approach, regardless of sector, to subsurface testing in northeast BC, where lithic sites are the most prevalent site type. Such inspections are authorized as discussed below.

Furthermore, subsurface testing may be conducted in locations elsewhere in the province, provided the locations were previously visited under snow and frost-free conditions and evaluated to contain archaeological potential for subsurface archaeological resources.

Applications which provide for evaluative units and systematic data recovery under winter conditions must provide the proposed methods (including artificial heating to produce snow and frost-free conditions) for review and approval .

Applications for permits to conduct inspections under conditions of snow-covered and/or frozen ground which deviate from the current templates must outline methods that include:

1. Criteria for the identification of landforms to be tested
2. Specification of conditions, such as deep snow cover, that make identification of the relevant landforms unreliable, and winter inspections inappropriate
3. An effective method of removing adequate samples of frozen soil from subsurface tests
4. Appropriate test dimensions
5. Appropriate test intervals or frequencies
6. Methods for controlled excavation of optional evaluative units
7. Methods for maintaining provenience control
8. Provision for facilities for transporting and processing the collected samples
9. Methods for the analysis of cultural materials identified in collected samples