

September 9, 1982

MEMO TO FILE:

SUBJECT: September 8 Site Visit to Birchlands or Washout Creek
to Inspect Flood Damage

Those Present: Merril Sproule, Regional Director, Highways
Jack Kelsall, Regional Maintenance Manager, Highways
Dennis Oliver, District Foreman, Highways
Dwain Boyer, Water Management Branch

(Ian Gower of Provincial Emergency Program, also met
with us at the site.)

Damage and Cause of Damage

Heavy rains on the night of September 3 caused already saturated snow in the steep valleys of the upper headwaters of the creek to slide. (Locals reported seeing chunks of ice crossing the highway.) The snow, ice and water moved rapidly downstream collecting rocks and debris. A 50 foot span bridge on an upper level secondary road was destroyed. (The twisted steel stringers were found a couple of days later.) When the debris slide reached the fan it broke through the existing channel bank and spread over the fan covering fields and the parts of the main highway with rock and debris. Russell Schultz's house was inundated. Presently, the stream is in a new channel.

We agreed at the site that Highways should authorize the commencement of work to clear the original channel and put the stream in its old channel. The material would be pushed up to form a dyke on the side of the channel. Ministry of Highways to pay for restoration work. (Earlier consultation with fisheries people indicated that the fisheries value of the stream was minimal.)

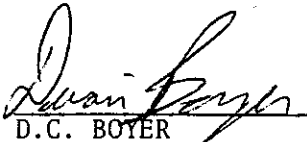
Water Licences

At the point where the creek emerged from the canyon onto the fan, the former creek channel curved to the right. This was the point

where the debris slide broke from the channel. It was also the point where a ditch was used to divert water from the creek for 3 licence holders.

<u>Licence Number</u>	<u>File Number</u>	<u>Water</u>
F.W.L. 4193	027724	Domestic & 17.5
F.W.L. 6260	053872	Domestic & 16.5
F.W.L. 8611	053703	Domestic & 16.5

Ministry of Highways is paying for the replacing of the stream back in its original channel and do not necessarily want to reconstruct a confluence for the water supply ditch as it weakens the channel bank at the critical location.


D.C. BOYER

DCB:bd