BC FOSSIL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

STAGE I Application

PROPONENT or their representative agent

Lead Paleontologist identifies paleontological resource potential at the project location.

Prepares and submits either a Fossil Impact Assessment (FIA) or a chance-find protocol, which accompanies the Land Disposition Application.

LEAD PALEONTOLOGIST* Engaged by the Proponent

Proponent prepares and submits a Land Disposition Application which specifies the project location and impact to paleontological resources.

BC Ministry of Forests Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD)

The reviewing regulatory authority

In some situations authority is delegated to the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC)

STAGE II Review

Application Review by FLNRORD

Reviews (and revises if needed) the assessment of paleontological resource potential.

Notifies the Proponent of the outcome of the review.

REVIEW OUTCOME

High Risk Medium Risk Low Risk Very Low Risk

STAGE III Mitigation Planning

Proponent must undertake a Fossil Impact Assessment to determine how to reduce the impacts for fossils.

Lead Paleontologist conducts the Fossil Impact Assessment (FIA) and produces recommendations to reduce risk.

Lead Paleontologist prepares a chance find protocol including an agreement with a qualified fossil repository.

STAGE IV Mitigation

Lead Paleontologist develops a mitigation plan which can include:
- Avoidance of significant sites
- Compensation-in-kind
- Recording of sites prior to destruction
- Systematic excavation of impacted sites
- Salvage of impacted fossils
- Agreements with the appropriate fossil repository
- Monitoring of work on the site
- Post-disturbance assessment of the site
- Other recommendations made by the Senior Paleontologist

FLNRORD reviews report and mitigation plan

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL

STAGE V Reporting

In the event of chance finds: Proponent follows chance find protocol and seeks advice from the Lead Paleontologist and FLNRORD

FLNRORD reviews final reports including:
- Mitigation activities
- Significant chance finds

*Qualifications for Lead Paleontologists include a graduate degree in paleontology and 24 weeks of fieldwork and supervisory experience. For more details see the Fossil Impact Assessment (FIA) Guidelines.