

OCT 08 2021

COR/2021/03176

Reg. # 2145

Kimberly Childs  
Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited  
P.O. Box 2001  
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J4  
Email: [kim.childs@kruger.com](mailto:kim.childs@kruger.com)

Dear Kimberly Childs:

**Re: CBPP Zone 7 (Districts 9 and 16) Five-Year Operating Plan (2022-2026)**

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental environmental assessment screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by Part X of the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Protection Act, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Please be advised that this undertaking is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- You are required to uphold all commitments made in your environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the project on the environment.
- The Climate Change Branch of my Department requires that a Greenhouse Gas Management Plan must be prepared and submitted for my approval by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. A draft of the plan must be submitted within one year of the date of this letter with an update on the progress of the plan to be submitted in six months.

The Plan is expected to include:

- Any carbon modeling that has been or will be used to inform forest management planning;
- Projections on the level of greenhouse gas emissions that are anticipated to be captured and/or released over the five year period; and,
- A description of how forest management will be informed by carbon modelling with regard to climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.

For more information, please contact the Climate Change Branch at (709) 729- 1485.

- The Water Resources Management Division of my Department requires that a 30-metre buffer must be maintained around the hydrometric stations at;
  - Southwest Brook near Baie Verte (02YM003);
  - Outlet of the Steady (NLENHM0002);
  - Indian Brook Diversion above Birchy Lake (02YM004);
  - Sheffield Brook near TCH (02YK005);
  - Boot Brook at TCH (02YK008);
  - Upper Humber River near Reidville (02YL001);
  - Cat Arm Reservoir near spillway (02YF002);
  - Main River at Paradise Pool (02YG001);
  - Upper Humber River above Black Brook (02YL008); and
  - Upper Humber above Black Brook weather station (NLENCL0007).

For more information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-1646.

- The Wildlife Division of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture requires the following:
  - You must work with the Wildlife Division for final sign off on the blocks listed below. Annual operating plans shall be submitted for final approval by the Wildlife Division before any project activities take place. Planning of forestry activities shall consider the following:
    - K-09-16, K-09-17 and K-09-38 overlap with caribou core calving areas for the Adies Lake herd and the Hampden Downs herd. Both herds are classified as Restoration herds. No harvesting or new road development is to occur within overlapping primary core calving areas (66 spring kernels) within its Tier 1 and Tier 2 ranges and seasonal constraints are to be implemented for any overlapping secondary core calving areas (80 spring kernels) no harvesting activities shall occur from April 15 to July 15.
    - K-16-38, K-16-44 and K-16-47 overlap with caribou core calving areas for the Adies Lake herd. This herd is classified as Restoration herd. No harvesting or new road development shall occur within overlapping primary core calving areas (66 spring kernels) within its Tier 1 and Tier 2 ranges and seasonal constraints are to be implemented for any overlapping secondary core calving areas (80 spring kernels) no harvesting activities are to occur from April 15 to July 15.
    - K-16-47 overlaps with Marten Critical habitat. Newfoundland Marten are listed as threatened under the *Newfoundland and Labrador Endangered Species Act*

(NLESA). Section 16 (1) of NLESA states, “A person shall not disturb, harass, injure, or kill an individual of a species designated as threatened, endangered, or extirpated”. Denning of female marten and young occurs from early April to the end of June and dens must be protected from damage and disturbance during this time period as dens are protected under the provincial NLESA and the Federal *Species at Risk Act*. To help reduce any negative impacts on marten, the Wildlife Division requires that necessary vegetation clearing or excessive noise be undertaken outside of the denning, breeding and brood rearing period, which runs from early-April to end of June. Disturbance could result in negative impacts on survival or condition of young or denning females (Marten Recovery Plan 2010).

- K-16-44 and K-16-47 overlap with the Birchy Basin Upper Humber Management Unit and also received special recognition as a significant wetlands complex. As per the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy, a minimum 75-metre undisturbed buffer is required along the wetland complex. You are to consult with the Wildlife Division on the boundaries of the Management Unit, the wetland complex and the proposed forest harvest areas and their potential overlap. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at (709) 637-2052.
- The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology requires that your annual silviculture plans submitted to the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture for approval must also be forwarded to the Mines Branch for review to check for overlaps with areas covered by quarry permits (or leases), anticipated areas of quarry expansion, and areas of recognized aggregate resource potential. For more information, please contact the Mines Branch at (709) 729-5748.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation requires the following:
  - You are to coordinate forest management efforts with outfitters during big game season from September 15 - December 31 and during spring bear harvest which occurs from May 1 - July 15.
  - You are required to submit a Tourism Stakeholder Consultation Plan (Consultation Plan) that will report on consultations with tourism stakeholders. The Consultation Plan is to identify the potential impacts of forestry operations on each tourism stakeholder and describe how harvesting, road construction and silviculture activities will be modified to minimize impacts to tourism stakeholder values, which include but are not limited to, wildlife populations and hunting success rates, pristine and remote wilderness settings, and increased access by local residents.

- The Consultation Plan must be reviewed and approved by Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation prior to conducting forestry operations.
- You shall implement measures that preserve the visitor experience and viewsapes along the TCH. Cut blocks along the TCH should be developed using landscape design techniques that mitigate visibility to the motoring public. You are advised to continue to consult directly with the Manager of Tourism Product Development regarding efforts to minimize the visibility of clear cuts from the TCH. For more information, please contact the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation at (709) 729- 4518.
  - You are to uphold the commitments made in your annual operating plans and the environmental assessment registration document with respect to reforestation. For more information, please contact the Environmental Assessment Division of my Department at (709) 729-0673.
  - You are to submit a viewscape management plan for harvesting activities on the Baie Verte Peninsula to the Environmental Assessment Division for my approval prior to the commencement of project activities. The viewscape management plan shall use landscape design techniques to mitigate the visibility of cut blocks. For more information, please contact the Environmental Assessment Division of my Department at (709) 729-0673.
  - You are to submit a domestic harvesting plan for the Baie Verte Peninsula for my approval and the approval of the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture prior to the commencement of project activities. It is recommended that you submit this plan prior to November 15, 2021. For more information, please contact the Environmental Assessment Division of my Department at (709) 729-0673.
  - You are required to advise the Environmental Assessment Division when the conditions of release have been met, by emailing a written description, documents, and images (where applicable) to demonstrate that the conditions have been fulfilled to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).
  - You are required to update the Environmental Assessment Division on the status of your project, including a copy of all permits, licences, certificates, approvals and other authorizations required for your project, one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if required. Please email your project updates to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca) .



**Federal and provincial government departments and agencies that reviewed your project during the environmental assessment provide the following advice:**

The Pollution Prevention Division of my Department advises that if pesticides use is required, all pesticide purchases, storage, and use are to comply with the Pesticide Control Regulations. For more information, please contact the Pesticide Control Section at (709) 729-6054.

The Water Resources Management Division advises that you are to avoid any work or activities within 100 metres of drilled drinking water wells. A list of coordinates for private/drilled wells within the project area is included in the attached document entitled "Comments for the proponent." The Water Resources Management Division of my Department requires you to obtain permits for any work within any body of water (including wetlands), non-domestic water use for any purpose, infilling within 15 metres of bodies of water, development adjacent to or within a protected public water supply area, and development in shore water zones. You are advised to comply with my Department's policies on Infilling Bodies of Water, and on Land and Water Related Developments in Protected Water Supply Areas. These policies are found on the Department's web page at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/regulations/policies/>. The Water Resources Management Division provided a table identifying the protected water supply areas within the project area, in the attached "Comments for the proponent" document. For more information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-1646.

The Government Service Centre of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises that a development permit may be required for any construction within 400 metres of the centre line of the Trans Canada Highway or other protected road. For more information, please contact the Government Service Centre at (709) 637-2204.

The Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises you to ensure that the activities associated with the development are conducted in compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations. This includes the responsibility for ensuring that contractors hired to perform work also comply with this legislation. The Occupational Health and Safety Division reminds you to consider procedures associated with the protection of workers related to COVID-19. Procedures must follow the requirements set forth by the Chief Medical Officer of Newfoundland and Labrador (e.g. physical distancing, handwashing).



Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture advises you to be aware that portions of the District 9 proposed timber harvest areas fall within cottage planning areas and cottage development areas. Maps are provided in the attached "Comments for the proponent" document to identify these areas, which may have Crown title issued or may be the subject of a future planned cottage development. They also advise that Agriculture Development Areas, Areas of Interest (AOI) boundaries and Crown titles can be found using the Land Use Atlas or by contacting the Land Management Division. The Land Use Atlas can be found online at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/>. For more information, please contact Crown Lands at 1-833-891-3249.

The Department of Industry, Energy, and Technology reminds that any agreements reached regarding overlaps of your timber rights, harvest areas, and silviculture areas with mineral exploration activities, mining, and quarries/aggregate resources and to be upheld. Industry, Energy and Technology advises that Sandy Lake lies within the perimeter of an onshore petroleum permit, and there are historical and current exploration wells in the vicinity. The area is to remain available to petroleum exploration and access to this area must not be impeded. Industry, Energy, and Technology recommends that you contact Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro regarding transmission assets, and Newfoundland Power regarding distribution assets in the project area. For more information, please contact the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology at (709) 729-5748.

The Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs advises that, where harvesting areas overlap a municipal planning area, harvesters are to apply with the municipality for a development permit. For more information, please contact the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs at (709) 729-3090.

The Parks Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation recommends a 100-metre no cut buffer between commercial harvesting and park boundaries and no new road or trail construction within 500 metres of park boundaries. The Parks Division requests to be referred on any project activities within 1 kilometre of park property and within 50 metres around the NL T'Railway Provincial Park (T'Railway). The Parks Division advises that the operation of a motor vehicle or a four-wheel drive vehicle is not permitted along the T'Railway. A permit for temporary vehicular use can be obtained through the Park's Division. For more information, please contact the Parks Division at (709) 637-8077.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) recommends that in order to avoid nest destruction and to accommodate the breeding season of migratory songbirds and waterfowl, operations should consider nesting locations between April 15 and August 15 in this region.



ECCC provides advice on dealing with revegetation and invasive species, limiting noise, and on the protection of Bank Swallows and for effective wildlife response plans. They have also recommended that you should complete an analysis of project impacts on mature and interior forest habitat for migratory birds on a local scale. For further information, please contact Environment and Climate Change Canada at (709) 772-2126.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada advises that the modernized *Fisheries Act* includes fish and fish habitat protection provisions which came into effect on August 28, 2019. If you are conducting work in or near water you should refer to the Projects Near Water website to get information about how to comply with the Fisheries Act and as well as information on the project review process. The "Projects Near Water" website is located at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>. For further information, please contact the Fisheries Protection Program at (709) 772-4140.

Health Canada advises that if there is the potential for impacts to human receptors from changes to air quality, noise, drinking or recreational water quality, and country foods caused by forestry management activities (including the use of heavy equipment, prescribed burning, and spraying of pesticides), you should consider establishing mitigation measures and a process to ensure complaints are collected and addressed. If complaints are received, you should consider additional mitigation measures.

Although the undertaking as proposed is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. A summary of the comments received from government agencies during the review is attached to provide an indication of likely applicable permits, approvals and legislative requirements. You must comply with all relevant legislation and obtain all necessary permits and approvals. You are required to inform this Department of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

Please note that in accordance with Section 17 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, the Minister's decision is valid for a period of three years from the date of this letter. If you have not commenced your project within this three year period, you may apply to extend the three-year period for a maximum of three one-year periods, if needed. Failure to apply for an extension will result in the expiry of the Minister's decision, and your project will have to be registered again for environmental assessment, should you wish to proceed. For further information, please email [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).



If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Sweeney, Director, Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or [joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "BD", enclosed in a blue oval with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**HON. BERNARD DAVIS, MHA**  
District of Virginia Waters – Pleasantville  
Minister

Cc: Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier  
Brian Warr, MHA, District of Bair Verte – Green Bay

Enclosures