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Department of Environment
Environmental Assessment Division

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BULLETIN

Environment Minister Ralph Wiseman has announced the following events relative to the Environmental Assessment Act. Copies of documents may be obtained by contacting the Department of Environment at 729-2562 or by calling toll-free 1-800-563-6181. Comments on submitted documents are invited from the public, addressed in writing to the Minister, and are welcome prior to the deadline date shown.

UNDERTAKINGS REGISTERED:

- 1) Abitibi Consolidated District 13 Five Year Operating Plan (Buchans Region)
Proponent: Abitibi Consolidated

The proposed Five Year Plan covers the period from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2006. The proponent proposes to harvest 200,000 cubic metres of timber. This volume would be harvested using the traditional short wood harvesting systems and mechanical harvesters. It is proposed that 52 kilometres of forest access roads will be constructed to access any mature and overmature forest stands. Fifteen bridges/culverts are proposed. Seven hundred hectares of pre-commercial thinning is proposed, 200 hectares of site preparation and 200 hectares of planting. Proposed harvest areas include Buchan's Road, Costigan Lake, Paddile Pond and Princess Lake.

The undertaking was registered November 13, 2001, public comments are due December 18 and the Minister's decision is due December 28.

- 2) Abitibi Consolidated District 14 Five Year Operating Plan (Cold Brook/Silver Lake)
Proponent: Abitibi Consolidated

The proposed Five Year Plan covers the period from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2006. The proponent proposes to harvest 80,000 cubic metres of timber. This volume would be harvested using the traditional short wood harvesting systems and mechanical harvesters. It is proposed that 30 kilometres of forest access roads will be constructed to access any mature and overmature forest stands. Twenty-five bridges/culverts are proposed. Five hundred hectares of pre-commercial thinning is proposed. Proposed harvest areas include the Cold Brook Area (Pond Ridge, Dans Pond, Phillips Brook, Cold Brook, Robinsons Area, Boyd/Styles Area) and Silver Lake Area (Road Runner Area, Paul's Lake, Moustache Pond Area, Little Barachois Area).

The undertaking was registered November 13, 2001, public comments are due December 18 and the Minister's decision is due December 28.

- 3) Abitibi-Consolidated District 5 Five Year Operating Plan (Bonavista North)
Proponent: Abitibi-Consolidated

The proponent proposes forest activities in District 5 for the five year planning period 2002 to 2006, which includes harvesting, forest access road construction, silviculture and forest protection. District 5, known as Bonavista North Management District, encompasses the area bounded by Gander River on the west and Gander Lake, Gambo Pond and Terra Nova Lake on the south, and includes Fogo

Island. The scheduled harvest is located in the Indian Bay Pond Operating Area and consists of 92,000 cubic meters over the five year period. Proposed silviculture activities consist of site preparation and planting of 300 hectares, also in the Indian Bay Pond Operating Area. A total of approximately 25 kilometres of forest access road is proposed for construction.

The undertaking was registered on November 13, public comments are due on December 18, and the Minister's decision is due on December 28.

4) Abitibi-Consolidated District 6 Five Year Operating Plan (Glenwood Management District)
Proponent: Abitibi-Consolidated

The proponent proposes forest activities in District 6 for the five year planning period 2002 to 2006, which includes harvesting, forest access road construction, silviculture and forest protection. District 6, known as Glenwood Management District, encompasses the area bounded by Districts 5 and 8 on the north, by District 4 on the east, by District 7 on the south, and by Districts 11 and 12 on the west. The largest body of water in the district is Gander Lake and the two main river systems are the Northwest and Southwest Gander Rivers.

The scheduled harvest is located in two operating areas. The CBPP Exchange Operating Area (Little Gull River area at Third Berry Hill Pond) consists of 50,000 cubic meters over the five year period, and the South Gander Lake Operating Area consists of 28,000 cubic meters over the five year period. Proposed silviculture activities consist of site preparation and planting of 70 hectares in the Junction Pond Operating Area. A total of approximately 40 kilometres of forest access road is proposed for construction.

The undertaking was registered on November 13, public comments are due on December 18, and the minister's decision is due on December 28.

5) Abitibi-Consolidated District 9 Five-Year Operating Plan (Sheffield Lake)
Proponent: Abitibi-Consolidated

The proponent proposes to undertake forest management practices, such as road construction, harvesting, and silvicultural treatment, on ten operating areas in this District (four blocks north of Birchy Lake and six blocks northeast of Sheffield Lake and south of the Trans Canada Highway) between 2002 and 2006. By building 10.5 kilometres of road and using traditional short wood harvesting systems and mechanical harvesters, 25,000 cubic metres is intended to be taken from mature and overmature stands. Pre-commercial thinning is proposed for 3,000 hectares in 10-15 year old stands throughout the District. Activity within Protected Water Supply Areas is not proposed.

The project was registered on November 13, 2001, public comments are due December 18, and the Minister's decision is due December 28.

6) Abitibi-Consolidated District 16 Five-Year Operating Plan (Lower Great Northern Peninsula)
Proponent: Abitibi-Consolidated

The proponent proposes to conduct forest activities in District 16 for the five year period 2002 to 2006. This includes harvesting, access road construction, silviculture and forest protection. District 16 encompasses an area stretching from Jackson's Arm in the north to The Topsails in the south, east to West lake and west to Sandy Lake. A total of 80,000 cubic metres of wood is proposed for harvesting, 600 hectares is proposed for pre-commercial thinning and 700 hectares is proposed for limited diameter thinning. There is a total of approximately 20 kilometres of forest access road

construction proposed which includes roads in alternate areas. Ten bridges or culverts are proposed.

The undertaking was registered on November 13, 2001; public comments are due on December 18, and the Minister's decision is due on December 28.

UNDERTAKING WITHDRAWN:

Blueberry Farm (Botwood Area)
Proponent: Mr. Barry C. Martin

The proponent has withdrawn the undertaking from further environmental assessment.

The Minister encourages all interested parties to become involved and to make comments known. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Director of Environmental Assessment at (709) 729-2562 or toll-free: 1-800-563-6181 or by mail to:

Director, Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment
West Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NF, A1B 4J6

Environmental Assessment Information is on the Government Web Site at <http://www.gov.nf.ca/env>