

2004 10 15

Department of Environment and Conservation
Environmental Assessment Division

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BULLETIN

Environment and Conservation Minister Tom Osborne has announced the following events relative to Part 10 Environmental Assessment of the Environmental Protection Act.

UNDERTAKINGS REGISTERED:

(1) 5 Wing Goose Bay Military Use of Air Defence Countermeasures Chaff (Reg. 1159)
Proponent: Department of National Defence

The proponent proposes to use chaff at 5 Wing Goose Bay for aircrew training in Air Defence Countermeasures. This represents an individual element within an overall training activity, which has already been approved under a previous Federal Environmental Panel Review process for the Department of National Defence in 1994. Radio frequency chaff consists of extremely small strands of an aluminium-coated crystalline silica core and is deployed from aircraft. Chaff is used to counter radar-controlled systems. These systems can be either air-based (opposing aircraft with missiles and guns) or ground based (surface-to-air missiles or anti-aircraft artillery). DND assumes that about half of the total sorties flown (or 2,500) would deploy radio frequency chaff. The use of chaff in air defence countermeasures is tentatively scheduled to begin once the Provincial environmental assessment is completed. The project was registered on October 8, 2004; public comments are due by November 19, 2004; and, the Minister's decision is due by November 22, 2004.

(2) 5 Wing Goose Bay Military Use of Air Defence Countermeasures Flares (Reg. 1160)
Proponent: Department of National Defence

The proponent proposes to use flares at 5 Wing Goose Bay for aircrew training in Air Defence Countermeasures. This represents an individual element within an overall training activity, which has already been approved under a previous Federal Environmental Panel Review process for the Department of National Defence in 1994. The main component of flares is magnesium pellets, and the only materials that should be deposited on the ground are the residual ash and incidental debris from flare canisters (typically a felt spacer and a plastic end cap). Flares are designed to be ejected from aircraft and to burn rapidly (3.5 to 5 seconds) well before reaching the ground. Flares are used to counter infrared systems. These systems can be either air-based (opposing aircraft with missiles and guns) or ground based (surface-to-air missiles or anti-aircraft artillery). DND assumes that about half of the total sorties flown (or 2,500) would deploy self protection flares. The use of flares in air defence countermeasures is tentatively scheduled to begin once the Provincial environmental assessment is completed. The project was registered on October 8, 2004; public comments are due by November 19, 2004; and, the Minister's decision is due by November 22, 2004.

(3) Torbay Water Supply North Pond/South Pond Connection
Proponent: Town of Torbay

(Reg. 1161)

The proponent proposes to construct a two metre high earth fill dam with a concrete spillway at the outlet of South Pond along with an open channel connection with control structure between South Pond and North Pond, in the Town of Torbay. The water level of South Pond would be raised by one meter while the channel connection, controlled by a manual sluice gate, would span 300 meters between the two ponds and have a maximum depth of five meters. The purpose of the undertaking is to supplement the existing municipal water supply located at North Pond by expanding its watershed to include South Pond. Construction is proposed to commence in the spring of 2005. The undertaking was registered on October 14, 2004; public comments are due by November 19, 2004; and the Minister's decision is due by November 28, 2004

The Minister encourages all interested parties to become involved and to make comments known. Comments on submitted documents are invited from the public, addressed in writing to the Minister, and are welcome prior to the deadline date shown.

ENVIRONMENTAL PREVIEW REPORT REQUIRED :

Pasadena Multi-Seasonal Recreation Facility
Proponent: Western Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club

(Reg. 1145)

The Minister has required the proponent to submit an Environmental Preview Report (EPR) for the above undertaking. The EPR will provide additional information on, but not be limited to, details regarding the marina construction, in terms of effects on fish and fish habitat and noise levels that will result from the proposed activity, and a public consultation program. The proponent is advised to consult with the Town of Pasadena prior to commencing the EPR to address the site zoning. Then the Minister will appoint an environmental assessment committee to develop EPR guidelines to be issued to the proponent and provide advice to the Minister during the course of this assessment. The guidelines will set out in more detail the information that the proponent will have to address in the EPR. Upon submission of the EPR, the Minister will seek public comment on the document prior to making any decision on the undertaking.

UNDERTAKING RELEASED:

Rencontre East Transmission Line (Interconnection)
Proponent: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro

(Reg. 1149)

The above project has been released from further environmental assessment subject to the preparation of an Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) prior to construction.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Director of Environmental Assessment at (709) 729-4211 or toll-free: 1-800-563-6181 or by mail to:

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

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