



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of Environment and Labour

GUIDELINES

FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE

ENVIRONMENTAL PREVIEW REPORT

for the proposed

Amendment to Five Year Forest Operating Plan (1997 - 2001)

**Forest Management District 16
(Main River, Sheffield Lake)**

Proponent: Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd.

2000 02 10

Issued by: Honourable Oliver Langdon, Minister

Preface

These Guidelines are intended to assist the proponent, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited, in the preparation of an environmental preview report (EPR) for the proposed amendment to the current Five Year Operating Plan (1997 -2001) for the Main River and Sheffield Lake areas (the Undertaking) located within Forest Management District 16.

The purpose of the EPR is to identify and address key environmental issues associated with the harvesting of timber, particularly in the Main River region, and to address deficiencies in the registration document. The report is expected to contain a review of all readily available pertinent information. It is recognized that the report may be deficient in information resulting from data gaps in current databases. However, data gaps should be identified in the EPR. The EPR will be reviewed by the Minister to determine conformance with the guidelines and acceptability.

These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with the provincial environmental assessment legislation. The proponent should be aware that the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act may also apply.

1.0 Proponent Information

The EPR should contain:

- S the name of the corporate body and the mailing address.
- S the name of the chief executive officer, official title, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.
- S the name the principal contact person for purposes of environmental assessment, official title, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

2.0 Project Description

The proponent must include a written description of the geographical setting/location of the proposed undertaking. The undertaking area must be delineated on maps of a scale which will allow reviewers, including the general public, to accurately determine the location of the project and associated features.

The description should include but not be limited to the following:

- S an estimate of the capital costs of the project.
- S an outline of the specific areas designated for harvest on maps including the age class structures and volumes of the proposed harvest areas.
- S the residual areas to remain unharvested in areas previously approved.
- S the proposed method of harvesting.
- S proposed silviculture or reforestation plans.
- S the location of existing and proposed resource road corridors including the rationale for the proposed access roads outside the boundaries of the amendment as depicted in the registration document.
- S an estimate of the annual allowable cut (AAC) for the current 5 year forest operating plan and a statement of how this amendment affects the AAC.
- S the relationship of the proposed amendment to the anticipated next 5 year forest operating plan for District 16 (2002 - 2006) including a statement of whether the

future operating plans will propose forest harvesting activities in the Main River watershed or region.

S a discussion of federal, provincial and municipal government legislation and policies which apply to the project. The EPR should provide a list of regulatory approvals which are required for the undertaking.

S The proponent should be aware that there was insufficient information provided on watercourse crossings which may require approval under the Navigable Water Protection Act (NWPA). Therefore, the EPR should provide information on the location of each proposed watercourse crossing and the associated infrastructure (e.g., bridge or culvert). The same information should be provided regarding the existing bridge across Main River for approvals pursuant to NWPA and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

3.0 Rationale/Need and Alternatives

The proponent must provide a statement of the need for the proposed amendment. In particular, the proponent should address the apparent immediate need to address the potential wood supply deficit anticipated during spring season of 2000. Justification for proposing an extra year (2002) in this amendment outside the approved 5 year plan (1997 - 2001) must be addressed.

An analysis of alternatives within the undertaking (methods of carrying out the same action) and alternatives to the undertaking must be presented. The proponent must present an analysis of alternatives to meet the need for the project including justification for the preferred alternative. This should include a discussion of possible alternatives that could address the potential wood supply deficit for the spring season of 2000.

4.0 Existing Environment

The proponent is not required to collect baseline information through field studies. However, readily available information should be used to describe the biophysical and socioeconomic environment and the resources that will or may be affected directly or indirectly by the undertaking. The description should include, but may not be limited to, the following:

S Newfoundland marten with a description of the current study on the effects of forest harvesting on the Newfoundland marten.

S The current status of the nomination of the Main River to the Canadian Heritage River System.

S Historical and current utilization of proposed watercourse crossings for navigational purposes (e.g., recreational, commercial, subsistence, etc.)

S Fish, fish habitat and fisheries (e.g., recreational, commercial, subsistence) associated with the proposed stream crossings.

S Tourism activities and recreational activities present in the area including the outfitter at Leslie Lake.

S The forest structure of the area within the undertaking with special emphasis on the undisturbed, old growth forest of the Main River region. The description should include:

S the area of contiguous undisturbed, old growth forest remaining in District 16.

- S an estimate of the proportion of the remaining undisturbed, old growth forest that this represents for the island of Newfoundland.
- S The migratory bird species which occur within the area of the undertaking.
- S Other wildlife, such as owls, caribou, and forest birds.

A qualitative and quantitative description of the present and known future resource use(s) and identification of known data gaps is essential.

5.0 Environmental Effects, Protection and Residual Effects

The EPR should provide an analysis of the potential biophysical and socioeconomic effects. Potential effects (positive and negative, short and long term, direct and indirect) must be defined qualitatively and quantitatively. Effects predictions must be explicitly stated and the theory or rationale upon which they are based must be presented. For example, environmental effects should be defined and discussed in the following context: significance, nature and magnitude, spatial extent, frequency, probability, duration and level of knowledge.

Environmental effects should focus on but not be limited to addressing the environmental components listed in the Section 4.0. In particular, the proponent should describe the potential effects of the undertaking as related to:

- the Main River portion of the Newfoundland marten.
- status of the Main River to the Canadian Heritage River System which was based primarily on natural and recreational values. The proponent should be aware that government approved a protected area corridor for the Main River and required that operating plans submitted for forest harvesting in the Upper Humber/Main River area give due consideration to the unique wilderness qualities of the entire area.
- the forest structure of the area within the undertaking with special emphasis on the undisturbed, old growth forest of the Main River region.
- the construction of resource roads which may result in increased access and effects (e.g., poaching, etc.) on remaining resources including those items listed in section 4.0.
- the cumulative effects that may or have resulted from all forest harvesting operations in District 16, including previous amendments to the current 5 year operating plan.
- watercourse navigation as required pursuant to the NWPA.

Mitigative measures and their effectiveness proposed to minimize or eliminate negative effects or enhance positive effects must be described and discussed. The discussion should include, but not be limited to, the establishment of undisturbed buffer zones which will be maintained around all waterbodies including Big Brook. In addition to those components outlined in Section 4.0, proposed mitigative measures for the protection fish and fish habitat should be addressed.

A description of rehabilitation plans intended for the undertaking which are being considered must be described. The proponent should identify the need for monitoring programs and commit to any ongoing monitoring programs. As a minimum, the proponent should address the current pine marten study in terms of its participation and support in the study and provide details on how the current or any future activities being considered will affect the study.

Residual effects or those which remain after mitigative measures have been implemented must be defined in terms of significance, nature, magnitude, spatial extent, probability, duration and frequency. Irreversible impacts must be clearly identified.

The proponent should demonstrate how an overall forest mosaic that provides adequate habitat diversity will be maintained.

6.0 Public Participation

A public information session shall be held in Corner Brook and advertised in the local media to present the undertaking and record public concerns. The protocol (attached) for this meeting shall comply with Section 11 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations. A summary of the information obtained from this meeting must be presented in the EPR.

7.0 References and Reports

- S Provide a bibliography of all sources of information used in the preparation of the EPR.
- S Copies of available or current reports used in the preparation of the EPR must be made available upon request to the Minister of Environment and Labour.