

REGISTRATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NAME OF UNDERTAKING:

Fur Farm Diversification
Mink Expansion

PROPONENT:

Riverside Fur Farm Inc.
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Newfoundland A0B 2Y0

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THE UNDERTAKING:

NATURE OF THE UNDERTAKING:

Riverside Fur Farm is an established farm and has been farming for the past 25 years. We currently have a farm consisting of 100 female silver fox and 60 female sheep (ewes). In the past we have also raised beef cattle. We propose to diversify into mink.

PURPOSE:

By adding mink to our operation we feel we can better manage the ups and downs of the fur industry. Fashion trends can fluctuate between long and short fur and by adding mink we will be producing both.

DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Riverside Fur Farm is located on the South side of Angel's Cove, Placentia Bay, which is on Route 100. The farm consists of approximately 100 acres of hay and pasture land.

PHYSICAL FEATURES:

The physical requirements for the mink farm to be added to the site include

1 storage shed 60' X 30'

3 mink sheds (1- 250' X 40' 2 - 200' X 40')

These sheds will be capable of housing 800 female mink and their kits.

Approximately 2 acres of land from existing farm site will be used to accomplish this.

ROAD:

Access to the site from Route 100 can be gained by using the existing farm access road.

MINK SHED

The proposed mink sheds will be 1 shed at 250' X 40' and 2 at 200' X 40'. Each shed will hold 6 rows of cages. The sheds will be constructed using wood frame with galvanized aluminum sheeting for roofing as well as fiberglass skylights. Plastic fabrene material will be used on the exterior sides to allow natural light penetration.

An automatic watering system will be installed enabling the mink to have a continuous supply of water. An artesian well will be used to provide the necessary water.

STORAGE SHED

1 - 2,000 sq ft storage shed will be constructed on site to provide space for equipment and materials.

PERIMETER FENCING

The main farm site (2 acres) will be enclosed with 1 in X 2 in wire which will be approximately 4 – 5 feet high and extended 6 – 8 in. below the ground surface to prevent pests from entering the farm site and prevent mink from escaping.

CONSTRUCTION:

The project construction is proposed to occur in late fall before winter sets in. (2005)

The plan is to construct one breeder shed and a storage shed. This will take 2 to 3 months.

May 2006 to September 2006 construct 1 mink shed including cages and nest boxes.

Obtain water supply (artesian well). Install watering system.

May 2007 to September 2007 construct 1 mink shed including cages and nest boxes.

Erect perimeter fence.

During the construction phase there will be no potential for any pollutants. As only hand tools, drills, saws, etc. and necessary light machinery ie back hoe, etc. will be used to construct sheds with regular building materials ie lumber, etc. and little wastage.

OPERATION:

The proposed undertaking will involve the farming of 800 female mink.

- The breeding season for mink starts in early March

- Whelping begins approximately April 20th. The females have an average of 4 – 5 kits in a litter.

- Weaning - Separating the young from the mothers so they can feed on their own begins at 6 to 8 weeks. This will begin late June or early July.
- The kits are vaccinated at 10 to 12 weeks of age.
- The main focus from August to pelting time is growth and furring
- Pelting starts in late November and early December. Before pelting grading is done to select additional or replacement breeding stock.

The proposed project will take 3 years to establish, at which time we will have 800 female mink, producing approximately 4,000 kits.

Riverside Fur Farm will also farm silver fox and sheep, which are presently on the farm. We have a feed kitchen on the farm and have been producing our own feed for many years using local foodstuffs (fish offal and spent hens).

POLLUTANTS:

There are no water bodies on the farm site and the nearest brook is approximately one kilometer away. Our nearest neighbor is a fox farmer who is approximately 1 kilometer away. The only vegetation on the proposed site is grass we use as hay or pasture. The remainder of the farm consists of approximately 98 acres of hay and pasture land. This is the area where we plan to spread the manure.

WASTE COLLECTION:

With all animals held in cages the manure and urine collects directly under the cages in the sheds. In a vast majority of cases the mink return to the same spot to deposit their waste on an ongoing basis. In addition, straw and/or wood shavings are used in the nest boxes and the manure/urine becomes mixed with the straw/shavings that fall through the cage, producing a more manageable waste product. For hygiene purposes and to reduce odor, waste will be collected from the sheds on a regular basis, consisting of every two weeks in the summer and less often during the cooler periods.

Waste will be collected manually and spread directly onto the fields with a manure spreader.

LAND APPLICATION:

A total of 150 female mink (plus kits and males) per acre is the recommended maximum from the “Environmental Farm Practice Guidelines for Livestock Producers in Newfoundland and Labrador” for manure spreading. As such, for an 800 female farm the recommended minimum acreage for manure spreading would be 5.3 acres. Riverside Fur Farm has a land base of approximately 100 acres providing more than sufficient space for manure spreading.

OCCUPATIONS:

The proposed project will require 5 employees during construction and operation. During construction employees required are 1 supervisor/carpenter and 2 laborers. The day-to-day operation will require 1 – 2 laborers, depending on the season.

Project-Related Documents:

N/A

APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:

Permit needed - electrical (obtained by contractor)

SCHEDULE:

Construction to commence - Immediately

FUNDING:

ACOA - St. John's
Agriculture Policy Framework - Corner Brook
Farm Credit Corporation - St. John's

The total cost of the proposed project is approximately \$307,157.

September 27, 2005

DATE

Signature

