

**REGISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 49 OF**  
**THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT**

**NAME OF UNDERTAKING:**                      **Expansion of existing farm from 5,000 female breeders to 15,000 female breeders.**

**PROPONENT:**

- (i)     *Name of Incorporate Body:*   **Viking Fur Inc.****
  
- (ii)   *Address:*                              **General Delivery**  
**160 Main Road**  
**Cavendish, NL**  
**A0B 1J0****
  
- (iii)   *President:*                              **Mr. Peter Noer**  
**General Deliver**  
**160 Main Road**  
**Cavendish, NL**  
**A0 B 1J0****
  
- (iv)   *Principal Contact:*                      **Ms. Betty Tuck**  
**General Manager**  
**General Delivery**  
**160 Main Road**  
**Cavendish, NL**  
**A0B 1J0****
  
- (v)     *Date:*                                      **June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006****

## **THE UNDERTAKING:**

**(i) *Nature of the Undertaking:***

Viking Fur Inc. has been in operation since 2003. The farm currently houses 5,000 female breeders, with approximately 14 sheds, feed kitchen and cold storage facility, pelting shed, barn and 2 manure pads.

Viking Fur Inc has plans to increase its herd to 15,000 breeder females. Viking Fur Inc also has plans to construct 2 mink sheds, a manure pad, cold storage facility, and a shavings shed to assist with the increase in the herd.

**(ii) *Purpose/Rationale/Need for the Undertaking:***

The mink fur industry has reached an all time high over the past several years and is anticipated to continue to grow with the increased demand for fur and fur products. The proponent, Viking Fur Inc, views Newfoundland as offering a significant opportunity for the development of a world-class mink industry. This province has the proper climate for mink production as well as offering potential advantages in land, feed and labour availability and cost, as compared to Denmark. In addition, the production of mink in North America will also allow Viking Fur Inc to sell their mink at premium price and under North American labels.

Viking Fur Inc is looking to increase their herd and provide the necessary expansion to accommodate same, so as to support both their own mink farming operation as well as provide necessary employment opportunities for the region thus playing a major role in the increase of the economy for the province.

## **DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING:**

● ***Geographical Location:***

Viking Fur Inc is located on Route 80 in the boundaries of Cavendish, NL. The farm consists of approximately 160 acres of leased agriculture land. A topographic and aerial map can be viewed in appendix 1 for identification purposes.

- ***Physical Features:***

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

2 mink sheds ( (1), 150m X 14m, (2), 60m X 9m)  
Manure Pad (60' X 40')  
Cold Storage Facility (30m X 18m)  
Shavings shed (24' X 70')

These sheds will be capable of housing the herd increase. Approximately 2-3 acres of land from the existing farm site will be used to accomplish the task. See attached site layout drawings that detail the existing farm and also the planned expansion, appendix 2.

(a) **Mink Sheds:**

The proposed mink sheds will be 1 shed measuring 150m X 14m and 1 measuring 60m X 9m. The largest shed will hold 6 rows of cages and the smaller one will hold approximately 4 rows. 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.

(b) **Cold Storage Facility:**

The proposed cold storage facility will be approximately 30m X 18m and will be constructed by the most competitive bidder. This facility will be used to hold feed product until ready for use. A sketch of the cold storage facility can be found in appendix 3.

The facility will contain:

- a pelting and lunch room(6m X 14m)
- an office area
- blast freezer for freezing the product (feed)
- a thawing room (thawing frozen feed)
- an area for removing the product from pans, palletizing, and pallet wrapping

(c) **Manure Pad:**

A concrete structure measuring approximately 60' X 40' will be constructed to allow for manure storage. The waste will be covered as required by the Department of Environment and Conservation (10 days) and then applied to hay fields for hay production.

(d) **Shavings Shed:**

A shavings shed measuring approximately 24' X 70' will be constructed to house materials required for the nest boxes such as bedding for the animals. This facility will be constructed of a wood frame, vinyl sided, and regular shingled roof.

● ***Construction:***

The project construction is proposed to commence in the fall before the winter sets in (2006). The plan is to construct the cold storage facility, shavings shed and manure pad. This will take 3-4 months. As well the mink sheds will take approximately 3 months.

**September 2006 – December 2006** – Construct cold storage facility, shavings shed, and manure pad.

**April 2007 – June 2007** – Construct the mink sheds including cages and nest boxes. Install watering system.

During the construction stage, there will be no potential for any pollutants, as only hand tools, drills, saws, etc and necessary light machinery, ie backhoe, will be used to construct buildings with regular building materials ie lumber, etc and little wastage.

● ***Operation:***

The proposed undertaking will involve the increase in the livestock herd from 5,000 to 15,000.

- The breeding season for mink commences in early March
- Whelping begins approximately April 20<sup>th</sup>. The females have an average of 4-5 kits per 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 to 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 approximately 1-2 years to establish, at which time we will have 15,000 breeder females and the required amenities to accommodate same. We also have a feed kitchen on site that allows us to produce our own feed for many years using local feedstuff such as fish offal and spent hens, etc.

(a) **Pollutants:**

There are no water bodies on the farm site and the ocean is approximately 1 km away. Our nearest neighbor is approximately 1 ½ -2 km. The local Cavendish dump site is on the upper side of the farm site. We have approximately 160 acres of land that we can utilize for agriculture purposes. We have recently cleared approximately 8-10 acres of this land to use for hay production and to spread the manure on.

(b) **Waste Collection:**

With all of the animals housed in cages, the manure and urine collects directly under the cages in the sheds. 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 wire, 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 using a motorized wheel barrel for easier management. It will be placed on the manure pad and covered for 10 days, after which time it will be removed and spread on the fields. We also have commitment from various farmers in the area who will take the manure for their personal use. Please refer to appendix 4 for letters of intent.

(c) **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 a 15,000 female farm the recommended minimum acreage for manure spreading would be 100 acres. Viking Fur Inc has a land base of 10 acres and commitments from local farmers with a total land base of 287 acres that will provide more than enough sufficient space for manure spreading.

- ***Occupations:***

The proposed project will require approximately 11 employees during construction and operation. During construction, employees required would be 1 supervisor/carpenter, 4 carpenters, 6 labourers.

- ***Project-Related Documents:***

N/A

- ***Approval of the Undertaking:***

Permit required – Electrical (obtained by contractors)  
Environmental Farm Planning – Refer to Appendix 5

- ***Schedule:***

Herd expansion will commence immediately following environmental approval.

- ***Funding:***

ACOA – St. John’s, NL  
Farm Credit Corporation – St. John’s, NL  
Company Investment – Viking Fur Inc

The total cost of the proposed project is approximately \$790,000.00

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Date

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Signature of Chief Executive Officer

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