

REGISTRATION FORM
PURSUANT TO SECTION 49 OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Name of Undertaking: Amendment to the Forest Management District 17 and Forest Management District 18 Five Year Operating Plans (2002-2007)

Proponent: (i) Department of Natural Resources
Forestry Services Branch
P.O. Box 250
Roddickton, NL
A0K 4P0
(709) 457-2300

(ii) Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Len Moores
Forestry Services Branch
(709) 637-2488

(iii) Principal Contact Person

Mr. Basil English
Supervisor of Strategic Planning
(709) 637-2343

The Undertaking: (i) Nature of Undertaking
Timber harvesting and forest access road construction amendments to the Five-Year Operating Plan for Forest Management Districts 17 and Forest Management District 18.

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking

This amendment will give the Department of Natural Resources authorization to construct 5.4 km of additional forest access road in District 17 and 21.5 km of additional forest access road in District 18. These roads will access 523.5 hectares of productive forest land, with an associated commercial volume of 37,130 m³. This commercial volume will not be harvested until 2008. This amendment will also enable the Department to

domestically harvest 65 hectares of insect-killed softwood timber in the St Anthony area of District 18, with an associated volume of 7,400 m³.

This amendment is required in order to develop the road access infrastructure needed for the first year of the incoming District 17/18 Five Year Operating Plan (2008-12) which will be registered (as an undertaking under the *Environmental Protection Act*) in its entirety in the late summer of 2007. Forest access roads are typically built in the year prior to harvest so that they have the opportunity to settle and dry out before use. The timber proposed for harvest was killed by defoliating insects (hemlock looper) in 2005 and 2006. It is the Department's objective to have some of this timber harvested by domestic wood cutters during the winter of 2007.

Description of Undertaking: (i) Geographic Location

Forest Management Districts 17 and 18 encompass the majority of the Great Northern Peninsula. They commence at the northern boundary of Gros Morne National Park on the western side of the peninsula and at Great Cat Arm on the eastern side of the peninsula. The districts share common eco-region characteristics and, for forest management purposes, have been combined to form planning zone 8. The attached 1:150 000 topographic map overview, 1:50 000 topographic maps and 1:12 500 stand type map outline the general and specific locations of the proposed forestry activities.

(ii) Physical Features

The Department plans to construct 5.4 kilometers of forest access road in District 17. Specifically, this consists of: a 1.5 km extension to the Bateau Barren Road; a 1.0 km extension to the East Castor Road; a 1.0 km extension to the Mooney Block Road; and 2.9 km of new road at Pittman's Pond. The latter will commence from Route 430 (the Viking Trail), approximately 400 m south of the intersection of Route 430 and the Castors River North Intersection.

The Department plans to construct 21.5 kilometers of forest access road in District 18. Specifically, this

consists of: a 2.0 km extension to Wilbert's Road; a 2.0 km extension to Catch-A-Feeder Road; a 1.5 km extension to Round Lake Road; a 4.2 km extension to Spring Hill Road; a 1.7 km extension to Dog Pond Road; a 2.1 km extension to Ocean Pond Road; a 2.2 km extension to Horsechops Road; a 1.6 km extension to Sail Pond Road; and 2.2 km of new road at Five Mile Steady. The latter will commence approximately 3.0 km north from the intersection of Route 432 and Route 433.

(iii) Operation

These roads are being constructed to access commercial timber for integrated sawmill and pulpwood operations. These operations will create approximately 130 direct person-weeks of employment in right-of-way clearing, timber harvesting and forwarding, and actual road construction.

Forest access road construction is subject to the regulatory requirements of the *Forestry Act* and other related legislation. In the case of stream crossings and operations near water, the appropriate regulatory requirements of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Water Resources Management Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation will be met. Finally, all operations will adhere to the Environmental Protection Plan For Ecologically Based Forest Resource Management.

(iv) Occupations

These operations will employ approximately 4 excavator operators, 3 mechanical harvester operators, 2 forwarder operators, and 4 truck drivers.

(v) Project Related Documents

Forest Management District 17 and Forest Management District 18 Five Year Operating Plans; April 1, 2002 - March 31, 2007.

Approval of the Undertaking:

Commercial operating permits from the District 17 and 18 Forest Management Offices at Port Saunders and Roddickton.

Schedule:

Forestry Services Branch of DNR requests a decision within 45 days after the Minister of Environment and Conservation has received the completed registration form.

Date

Chief Executive Officer