

**NAME OF UNDERTAKING:**

MINK FARM

**Proponent:**

***(i) Name of Corporate Body:***

South Coast Fur Farm

***(ii) Address:***

P.O. Box 1 site 6  
Point May, NL  
AOE 2C0  
Tel: (709) 857-2766

***(iii) Chief Executive Officer:***

Mr. Clem Benteau  
P.O Box 1 site 6  
Point May, NL  
AOE 2C0  
Tel: (709) 857-2766

***(iv) Principal Contact:***

Mr. Clem Benteau  
P.O Box 1 site 6  
Point May, NL  
AOE 2C0  
Tel: (709) 857-2766

***(v) Date:***

March 08, 2007

## THE UNDERTAKING:

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

Production of Mink

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

The purpose is to yield a high quality mink pelt to help fill the need of the international marketplace. The rational is that the need for mink furs has always been high and has increased significantly in the past several years. Access to high caliber breeding stock, abundant quantities of high quality foodstuffs, and a land base whose climate and location lends itself well to the production of quality pelts are some of the major factors contributing to an undertaking of this nature. Record levels in pelt pricing together with the availability of land, versus the decreasing availability of land in countries traditionally associated with the production of fur bearing animals, makes the Burin Peninsula an ideal location for the establishment of mink ranches capable of producing significant numbers of high quality pelts. In addition the proposed location has a competitive advantage in the area of labor cost as well as a huge supply of labor, this accompanied by the fact that the island portion of the province is free from Aleutian Disease which can devastate a mink ranch, contributes to the need to establish a project of this nature at this time.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:

(i) ***Geographical location: (attached map)***

South Coast Furs will be located on Route 220 approximately 2.3 kms from any civilization. The proposed site is located in a secluded area. The proposed site has 5 -6 acres of land that will be utilized by South Coast Fur Farm. The location is bordered to the North by the main road leading to the Town of Lamaline In addition; the proposed area is bordered to the east and west by uninhabited crown land and to the South by the ocean.

**(ii) Physical Features:**

The land is covered with low brush. The ocean is approximately 1.5 kms from this land, to the SOUTH. A utility line borders the highway adjacent to this land to the east and west making the availability of power easily accessible.

**(iii) Construction:**

Total construction period will be approximately three years and will commence early June, 2007.

**Phase 1 June 2007 – July 2007**

The creation of an access road leading to the land that is to be used. Clearing and developing of land will begin during this time. Freeing the land of low brush and making the necessary preparations for the deposit of loads of fill for spread to level the land. Construction of wire fence, enclosing entire plot of land will also take place at this time. This fence will be constructed in compliance with the Natural Resources Standard. It is important to note that fence construction; (in relation to mink escape) will be a precautionary measure only, as animal's permanent residence will be in individual cages, within enclosed structures. The construction of two Artesian Wells that will provide the necessary water requirements necessary for mink will also commence during this time frame.

## **Phase 2. August 2007 - December 2007**

As with all fur production facilities this project will require a structure known as a feed kitchen where foodstuffs are prepared, an equipment storage area, and a number of mink sheds where livestock will be housed. This will include construction of a mink housing unit, (1800 cage capacity), food preparation area, cold storage unit, equipment storage room, lunchroom, office, and a washroom. During this time frame the introduction of livestock will also take place. Sizes of structures are as follows:

2 Mink Sheds	(1), 150m x 14m, (2), 60m x 9m
Manure Pad	(40' x 20')
Cold Storage Facility	(30m x 18m)
Shavings Shed	(24' x 70')
Lunchroom/Office/Washroom	(10' x 20')
Equipment Storage Room	(40' x 70')

These sheds will be capable of housing the number of mink introduced to South Coast Fur Farm. Approximately 3.3 hectares of land will be used to accomplish this task.

During the construction phase the proposed project will require approximately 11 employees. Employees required as follows:

- 1 Supervisor/Carpenter
- 4 Carpenters
- 5 Labourers
- 1 Bookkeeper

**(iii) Operation:**

Waste will be collected using a motorized wheel barrel. It will be removed from the site every two weeks from mid June – October. There's also commitment from a local farmer in the area who will take the manure for their personal use. The diminutive size of the mink, on average 1.4kg, results in minimal accumulation of fecal matter. When the mink are harvested, they will be shipped in tact, in temperature controlled vehicles to a custom pelting operation where the pelts will be removed and the remainder of the carcass to be disposed of. The pelts are then shipped to North American Fur Auction houses for sale. The operation will commence with, 300 impregnated female mink that will yield an average of 4 kits per adult. An automatic watering system will be installed in the sheds such that the mink will have access to a continuous supply of water. The water supply will be that of Artesian Wells and will be used to provide the necessary water requirements. As mink farming is quite dependent upon the breeding cycle, the calendar below has been included which shows a general outline of what happens during the mink year.

**Breeding** - Breeding to start in early March

**Whelping** - The breeding females will start having their kits around mid-April. Litter may range from as few as three to as many as 13, but four or five is the average.

**Weaning** - Separating the kits from their mother and getting them on solid food starts about 45 days after they are born.

**Growth and Furring** - From August to pelting time in November /December the focus is on kit growth and proper fur development.

**Grading and Pelting** - Prior to pelting, mink are graded such that best performers can be retained as breeding stock. Pelting starts in November and can continue to early December. Harvesting only will be performed on site using approved method.

The proposed facility will be a permanent one.

**(iv) Occupations:**

The staff for the facility in year one will consist of the following:

Building and Maintenance Manager 1  
Mink Care and Mink Production Manager 1  
Secretary 1  
Security Personnel 1  
Seasonal Laborers 2

**(v) Project Related Documents:**

N/A

**APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

A municipal permit to construct is required before construction commences within the appropriate municipal boundaries.

**SCHEDULE:**

The requirements for the Environmental Assessment Act should be completed by mid May 2007, and the renovation/construction phase can commence at approximately the same time pending appropriate permits are in place.

**FUNDING:**

The funding for this project will be from:

- ACOA – Grand Bank
- CBDC – Marystown
- APF non-repayable government grant
- Company Investment- South Coast Fur Farm

No approvals have been granted to date.

March 08, 2007

Clem Benteau, Director