

REGISTRATION FORM PURSUANT TO SECTION 49 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Name of Undertaking: Chouse Brook/Kings Brook Amendment, Crown Five Year Operating Plan, Forest Management District 9/16 (2007-2011)

Proponent: (i) Department of Natural Resources
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The Undertaking: (i) Nature of the Undertaking

Timber harvesting amendment to the Crown Five Year Operating Plan for Forest Management Districts 9/16.

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

This amendment will allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to complete harvesting activities in two previously active operating areas, one in Forest Management District 9 and the other in District 16. The first location is at Chouse Brook in District 9. The amendment area is on Corner Brook Pulp and Paper (CBPP) license land that was subject to Crown management responsibility under a Timber Transfer Agreement between CBPP and the Crown which expired on April 30, 2007. Since it was uncertain whether the Transfer Agreement would be renewed when the new 2007-2011 Five Year Operating Plan was submitted for environmental assessment in the early fall of 2006, only a portion of the previous Chouse Brook Operating Area was proposed in that plan. However, a

new Transfer Agreement between CBPP and the Crown has recently been drafted covering all of the previous transfer area. In anticipation that the new agreement will be accepted and signed by both parties, DNR is seeking to amend the operating area to include all the land covered by the 2002-07 Chouse Brook Operating Area. This will allow DNR to allocate for harvest the operable timber remaining in the proposed transfer area.

The Kings Brook amendment area is located in District 16. This area was part of an operating area in the previous Five Year Operating Plan (2002-2007) and it had been anticipated that harvesting operations would be complete by the end of 2006. Therefore, when the new plan (2007-11) was submitted for environmental assessment in the early fall of 2006, the Kings Brook Operating Area was not included. However, harvesting was not finalized in 2006 and this amendment is requested to allow for the completion of the harvest in this locale in 2007.

Description of the Undertaking:

(i) Geographic Location:

The Chouse Brook amendment area is located on CBPP licensed land on the east side of White Bay in Forest Management District 9. The nearest community is the town of Hampden which lies to the southwest. The attached 1:50,000 scale topographic map (12 H/10) and 1:25,000 scale forest inventory map identify the geographic location of the amendment area.

The Kings Brook amendment area is located on unalienated Crown land in the southeast corner of Forest Management District 16. The nearest community is the town of Millertown Junction which lies to the east. The attached 1:50,000 scale topographic map (12 H/1 and 12 H/2) and 1:25,000 scale forest inventory map identify the geographic location of the amendment area.

(ii) Physical Features:

The Chouse Brook amendment area is characterized by moderately rolling to steep slopes. The area contains

approximately 5,000 ha of productive forest land, interspersed with scrub and bog. The forests are dominated by balsam fir and, after harvest, the cutovers regenerate naturally to balsam fir. Harvesting in the amendment area has been ongoing for approximately 17 years. However, there is an estimated merchantable timber volume of 35,000-45,000 cubic metres remaining that will be targeted for harvest over the life of the current Five Year Operating Plan.

The Kings Brook amendment area is characterized by a mixture of bogs and forest land. The forests are dominated by a mixture of black spruce and balsam fir that regenerates primarily to balsam fir after harvesting. The amendment area encompasses approximately 50 ha of productive forest. The estimated total merchantable volume of timber to be harvested is 5,000 cubic meters.

(iii) Operation:

The harvesting operations in the Chouse Brook area will consist of manual felling with forwarder and skidder extraction. The timber from these operations will be harvested by sawmillers and pulpwood contractors from the White Bay area at a rate of approximately 18,000 m³/year. The sawlogs will be processed at a sawmill in Hampden and the pulpwood and sawmill chips will go to the CBPP pulpmill in Corner Brook.

The harvesting operation in the Kings Brook area will be conducted using mechanical harvesters and forwarders with harvesting operations occurring from mid July to the end of October.

These commercial harvesting operations will be subject to the *Forestry Act* and its regulations. In addition, operating permits are subject to the Environmental Protection Plan for Ecologically Based Forest Resource Management.

(iv) Occupations:

The Chouse Brook amendment area workforce will include approximately fifty manual fellers (chainsaws),

four forwarder operators, four truck drivers and two foremen for a three to four month period each year for the duration of the plan.

The Kings Brook amendment area workforce will consist of four harvester operators, two forwarder operators, four truck drivers and a foreman for a two to three month period.

(v) Project Related Documents:

Forest Management District 9/16 Crown Five Year Operating Plan(2007-2011).

Approval of the Undertaking:

Commercial cutting and operating permits from Forest Management District 16 and District 9 offices at Pasadena and Springdale, respectively.

Schedule:

The Department of Natural Resources requests a decision within 45 days after the Minister of Environment and Conservation receives the completed registration form.

Date

Chief Executive Officer