# REGISTRATION FORM PURSUANT TO PART X, SECTION 49 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (2002)

Name of Undertaking: Amendment to the Forest Management District 1

2007-2011 Five Year Operating Plan: Harvest Area

J-4C Amendment.

**Proponent:** Forestry and Agrifoods Agency

Department of Natural Resources

P. O. Box 8700 St. John's, NL AlB 4J6

**Chief Executive Officer:** Mr. Len Moores

Chief Executive Officer

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Dept. of Natural Resources

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The Undertaking: (i) Nature of Undertaking

Timber harvesting amendment to the Crown Five Year Operating Plan for Forest

Management District 1.

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking

The Crown Five Year Operating Plan for Forest Management District 1 (2007-11), which was released from the environmental assessment review process in December 2006, identified various areas within District

1 for commercial harvest. Commercial Cutting Area B-1C (Halls Gullies) was approved for harvest in that plan and DNR subsequently scheduled the area for harvest by several local commercial operators. However, due to concerns expressed in 2007 by the Dept. of Environment and Conservation regarding the possible negative impact of timber harvesting on "Species of Concern" cyanolichen Erioderma pedicellatum, a moratorium was placed on Area B-1C until a mutually acceptable mitigation plan could be developed. Until such a plan is in place, DNR must identify other Commercial Cutting Areas in the District to accommodate the commercial forestry operators depending on that harvest.

Two of the commercial operators designated for Area B-1C have already been moved to other approved Commercial Cutting Areas while the third will avail of this amendment area, if approved.

The operator in question has been given permission to harvest timber on the Munn agricultural lease property near Gander Pond on the Trans Canada Highway, east of Whitbourne. The amendment area was identified as an area of mature timber near this agricultural lease which would not otherwise be harvested due to limited access. Access to the amendment area will be via the farm road which will also be used to access the timber on the agricultural lease. No further road construction is required and harvested timber will be removed via skidder trails and the existing farm road.

## **Description of Undertaking:** (i) Geographic Location

Forest Management District 1 generally comprises the Avalon Peninsula as far as the community of Sunnyside on the Isthmus of Avalon.

Proposed Commercial Cutting Area J-4C is located on unalienated Crown land approximately 8 km east of the community of Whitbourne, immediately northwest of the Munn agricultural lease property. The attached overview map and 1:20,000 scale forest inventory map identify the geographic location of the amendment area.

## (ii) Physical Features

## (iii) Operation

# (a) Harvesting

Approximately 24 hectares of mature balsam fir-dominated forest, representing a harvest volume of not more than 3,000m3, are proposed for harvest. All timber will be harvested to utilize the maximum amount of fibre. The timber will be felled using a mechanical timber harvester mechanically, delimbed and topped at the stump, and conventionally forwarded to roadside.

#### (b) Road construction

There will be no road construction associated with this operation.

### (iv) Occupations

This operation will help sustain approximately 40 year round jobs in the timber harvesting / sawmilling industries.

### (v) Project Related Documents

Upon approval, this proposal will become part of the Crown's Forest Management District 1 Five-Year Operating Plan, January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011.

Approval of the Undertaking:	<b>(i)</b>	Commercial operating permits from the District 1 (Paddy's Pond) Forest Management Office.
Schedule:		The Forestry and Agrifoods Agency requests a decision within 45 days after the Minister of Environment and Conservation receives the completed registration form.
Date		Chief Executive Officer