

The Undertaking

(i) Nature of Undertaking

The set up and production of mink fur

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for undertaking

Mr. Morris sees an opportunity in Southern Labrador to bring a high quality mink production facility into operation. With the ever-increasing demand for mink fur worldwide and the availability of land combined with the proper climate for breeding and raising mink, Mr. Morris can create much needed employment in the local market.

Description of the Undertaking

(i) Geographical Location

NTE Northern Furs Inc will be located on the north side Route 514 near Charlottetown, Labrador. The total land mass will include 50 acres which includes approximately 3 acres cleared.

(ii) Physical features

The farm will include 5 mink sheds approximately 22' by 350' and will be constructed using posts and beam with steel on the roof and partially on the sides as well as fabrene material to allow natural lighting of the facility. This shed will include a complete watering system and proper manure gutters for easy removal.

In addition to the 5 mink shed, 2 sheds 50' by 50' will be constructed to provide storage, freezers and pelting area as well as employee facilities.

A manure storage facility will be constructed following the Environmental guidelines for Livestock Producers.

(iii) Construction

The initial construction will begin in the spring of 2008 with the clearing of land and installation of fencing around approximately 300' by 400' section. Once clearing is complete the construction of 2 mink sheds, the manure storage and the 2 auxiliary sheds will be completed by mid September.

In the summer of 2009 a third shed 22' by 350' will be constructed to house the increased number of mink to be held for breeding.

In the summer of 2010, with the anticipated growth of the breeding herd and kits, 2 more mink sheds 22' by 350' will be constructed.

Throughout the whole period, additional land will be cleared to facilitate waste disposal.

(iv) Operation

In January the process of conditioning the mink, both male and female begins. The mink are conditioned by adjusting their feed to develop a leaner mink for the breeding process. Feed is prepared fresh each day as needed in the on site feed kitchen. The feed is again adjusted for breeding. The breeding process begins the 3rd or 4th of March and continue until the 3rd week of March. During the breeding process a lighting program is used to increase daylight hours. After the breeding season, many of the male mink and any females not breed are pelted and sent to spring auction.

Once the mink are implanted, preparations are made for the whelping process. False bottoms are placed in the bottom of pens and the nest boxes are prepared for the arrival of kits. The first litters arrive around April 20th. Litters are counted and recorded as they arrive. The females are weaned away from their litters at approximately 42 days. Shortly after the kits are split down to 4 kits/cage and in July they are again split down to 2 kits/cage, one male and one female.

From April until November careful attention is given to growing quality fur, keeping the ranch clean and the mink healthy. In the fall, mink are graded by health, size and proper fur quality and breeders are chosen. Pelting is done in early December. Carbon Monoxide is used to put the mink to sleep, quickly and painlessly. They will then be shipped off to a pelting facility.

(v) Occupations

The proposed project will require 6 –8 employees during the construction phase each year. When up to maximum breeders of 3,000 it is anticipated to have 4 full time employees and 2 part time during the pelting. The company will adhere to all regulations related to employees.

(vi) Project related documents

None

Approval of undertaking

Approvals required for the proposed project include

- Crown lands application #130185
- Waste management certificate required prior to operations in September 2008

Schedule

The earliest construction would be in May 2008 due to the winter in Southern Labrador and the latest would be in August 2008 due to total construction period and the onset of winter and arrival of mink in fall of 2008.

Funding

Application for funding has been submitted to Aboriginal Business Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Agricultural Policy Framework and Farm Credit Canada. No approvals have been received to date.

November 21, 2007

Alton Morris Jr.
President

APPENDIX 1

Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment