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

Name of Undertaking:

Amendment to the Forest Management District 21 2007-2011 Five Year Operating Plan: Proposed Commercial Operating Areas - Block 1SLR – St. Lewis to Mary's Harbour and Block 4C - Charlottetown.

**Proponent:** 

(i) Forestry and Agrifoods Agency

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

#### (ii) Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Len Moores Chief Executive Officer Forestry and Agrifoods Agency Dept. of Natural Resources P.O. Box 2006, Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8 (709) 637-2339

### (iii) Principal Contact Person

Mr. Jason Pond Supervisor of Strategic Planning Forestry and Agrifoods Agency Dept of Natural Resources P.O. Box 2006, Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8 (709) 637-2401

### The Undertaking:

### (i) Nature of Undertaking

Amendment to the Crown Five Year Operating Plan for Forest Management District 21 to allow for the construction of ~2.4 km of new primary forest access road and the commercial timber harvest of ~40,000 m³ over 280 ha of insect-infested forest.

# (ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking

The Crown Five Year Operating Plan for Forest Management District 21 (2007-11) was released from the environmental assessment review process in December 2006. During the summer of 2006, a Hemlock Looper (Lambdina fiscellaria fiscellaria (Guen.)) outbreak developed in mature balsam fir dominated forest near the Towns of Charlottetown, Port Hope Simpson, and Mary's Harbour as well as in other areas within FMD 21. The infestation continued in 2007, 2008 and additional insect activity is forecasted for 2009. Repeated defoliation is starting to develop into tree and stand mortality. In an effort to decrease forest mortality, DNR began an insect control program in 2008. Because of the proximity to the Trans-Labrador Highway this particular infestation has become highly visible to resident and motoring public. DNR would like to salvage the insect killed and damaged timber in order to: (1) slow the spread of the infestation; (2) realize economic value from the timber while it still useable and; (3) reduce the fire hazard created by the dying timber stands.

Currently, the areas of insect infestation are not targeted for harvest in the Five Year Operating Plan. DNR is hereby requesting the approval of two new Operating Areas (SLR1 and 4C as outlined on the associated maps attached), of approximately 285 ha in size, where dead and damaged timber will be salvaged through commercial timber harvesting operations. In addition to the harvest block, DNR further requests approval to construct ~2.4 km of new primary forest access road to provide access to the Commercial Operating Areas.

## Description of Undertaking: (i) Geographic Location

Forest Management District 21 (FMD21) is approximately 1.9 million hectares in size. It is bounded to the north by Hawke Bay and Hawke Brook with the boundary following a general westerly direction along the District 20 boundary until it meets the Paradise River, to the west along the Paradise and St. Pauls Rivers and the Quebec – Labrador border to the Strait of Belle Isle, to the east and south by the Labrador Sea including all islands to Hawke Bay.

The proposed Commercial Operating Area SLR1, and associated primary forest access road extension, is located on unalienated Crown land near the community of St. Lewis and Mary's Harbour, NL. The attached overview map, 1:15,000 scale stand-level map and air photo identify the geographic location of the amendment area.

The second proposed Operating Area 4C, and associated primary forest access road extension, is located on unalienated Crown land near the community of Charlottetown, NL. The attached overview map and the 1:10000 scale stand-level map identify the geographic location of the amendment area.

## (ii) Physical Features

The proposed Operating Area is characterized by mature balsam firdominated forest.

#### (iii) Operation

#### (a) Harvesting

Approximately 285 hectares, representing a harvest volume of not more than 40,000m<sup>3</sup>, 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 brought to roadside with a forwarder.

#### (b) Road construction

There will be ~2.4 km of primary forest access road construction associated with this operation.

### (iv) Occupations

This operation will help sustain approximately 15 year-round jobs in the local timber harvesting / sawmilling industries.

#### (v) Project Related Documents

Upon approval, this proposal will become part of the Crown's Forest Management District 21 Five-Year Operating Plan, January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011.

## **Approval of the Undertaking:**

- (i) Commercial operating permits from the District 21 (Port Hope Simpson) Forest Management Office.
- (ii) Stream/River crossing permits from Water Resources Division, Dept. of Environment and Conservation.
- (iii) Stream/River crossing permits from the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Schodule:

The Forestry and Agrifoods Agency requests a decision within 45 days after the Minister of Environment and Conservation receives the completed registration form. Road construction will commence mid summer of 2009, if the amendment is approved. Harvesting will commence in late

summer of 2009.







