

**NAME OF UNDERTAKING:**

**Agricultural Land Development - 1.2 km East of  
Portland Creek**

**PROPONENT:**

(i) Name of Corporate Body: Brophy Dairy Farms Ltd.

(ii) Address: P.O.Box33  
Daniel's Harbour, NL  
AOK 2C0

(iii) Chief Executive Officer:

Name: Leslie Brophy  
Official Title: Farm Manager  
Address: Same as Above  
Telephone No.: (709)898-2377

(iv) Principal Contact Person for purposes of environmental assessment:

Name: Leslie Brophy  
Official Title: Farm Manager  
Address: Same as Above  
Telephone No.: (709)898-2377

**THE UNDERTAKING:**

(i) Nature of the Undertaking: This project involves the development of approximately 150 acres for forage production within a 200 acre Crown land agricultural lease.

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for the Undertaking: This project aims to increase the productive land base of Brophy Dairy Farms Ltd. in order for the farm to become self sufficient in forage production.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

(i) Geographical Location: The general location of this project is approximately 1.0 km east of Route 430, 3 km south of Portland Creek Pond, and 1 km west of Greavett Brook, near the community of Portland Creek. The project site is shown on the maps and air photo which are included in the appendix. The more detailed map and the air photo show four possible access routes. A few comments on each potential route are listed below:

- 1) - 600 meters to the land
- another 800 metres through the land
- provides access through the lease to the back country

- route is a cut line used for seismic work
  - access off of route 430 with good sighting distance
  - first 200 metres across bog (depth unknown)
- 2)
    - approx 940 metres
    - stops at land boundary
    - route relatively dry
    - access off of route 430 with marginal sighting distance
  - 3)
    - approx. 1125 metres
    - located off an existing forest access road
    - stops at land boundary
  - 4)
    - approx. 725 metres
    - existing access from Route 430
    - stops at land boundary

(ii) Physical Features: This project will include a Class C-2 gravel access road and the development of forage fields. The development of forage fields will require the removal of all vegetation, removal of stumps and stones, leveling, addition of soil amendments and planting of forage seeds. Forage crops will include grasses, legumes and corn. There will be no buildings or other constructed farm infrastructure associated with this project.

Within the agriculture lease area all arable soils will be developed for forage production. Areas that are too wet as well as buffers along water bodies will be maintained in their natural condition and will not be developed.

The topography of the area is generally gently sloping with an abundance of organic deposits of various depths and water cover. Several small streams drain the area and the predominate forest cover is a mix of balsam fir and black spruce. There has been a history of domestic wood cutting in the area. A detailed soils assessment of the area carried out in 2006 has shown there are 200 acres with moderate potential for forage production.

(iii) Construction: One of the four potential access roads will be selected for construction and built in the spring/summer of 2008. Land development will begin once the road is constructed and the approved lease area has been surveyed. Once constructed the access road will be a public right-of-way and people will be able to use it to get closer to the back country and traditional fishing, hunting and wood cutting areas. Land clearing and development will take place during the normal construction season (late spring to early fall) and it is anticipated that all arable land will be developed over a five year period.

There are no significant sources of pollution anticipated during construction. All work will be completed according to the Environmental Farm Practice Guidelines for Livestock Producers (2001, Dept. of Natural Resources). There are no potential causes of resource conflicts identified. The area of crown land applied for is being processed through the normal Crown Land referral

process and all relevant government departments will have the opportunity to identify land use conflicts.

(iv) Operation: Once the access road is completed and fields have been developed all arable land will be put into forage production on an ongoing basis for the life of the farm. Depending on the specific forage crop this will include the regular addition of soil amendments such as, limestone, chemical fertilizers, and dairy manure. Hay crops will be harvested twice per season, with multiple manure applications per season (usually three applications per year). Forage corn is harvested once per season with two applications of manure per year (spring and fall). Normal farm operations include the use of agricultural herbicides including broad spectrum defoliant such as *Roundup* and selective defoliant such as *Converge Pro*. All herbicides are approved for agricultural use and are applied by a licensed applicator.

All farm operations in the project area will be carried out according to the Environmental Farm Practice Guidelines for Livestock Producers (2001, Dept. of Natural Resources) to ensure that there are no impacts on the environment and the surrounding area.

(v) Occupations: All work on this project will be carried out by farm employees using equipment owned by the farm. It is anticipated that during the construction phase 2 or 3 new employees will be hired for this project and once the full area is put into production that it will require an additional 3 farm employees to be hired during the growing season.

(vi) Project-Related Documents:

Appendix A: 2 Maps and 1 airphoto outlining the project area and 4 possible access routes.

**APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

- 1) Crown Lands Lease - Dept. of Environment and Conservation
- 2) Approval From the Dept. Transportation and Works for access from Route 430.
- 3) Pesticide Applicators License - Dept. of Environment and Conservation

**SCHEDULE:**

Construction will begin in the Spring of 2008 when site conditions are dry enough (approximately May 1<sup>st</sup>). Construction of fields will take place over an approximately five years during the normal construction season (May 1<sup>st</sup> to Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>) for the Northern Peninsula area.

Date January 24, 2008 Signature of Chief Executive Officer 

## Appendix A: Maps