

DEC 20 2017

File # 2.1133.0220
Reg. #1905

Mr. Francis Skeard, Director
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
Forest Ecosystem Management
P.O. Box 2006
Corner Brook NL A2H 6J8

Dear Mr. Skeard:

RE: Crown Zone 8 Five Year Operating Plan (2018-22)

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protection Act*, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Please be advised that this undertaking is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- Landscape design techniques are to be utilized to design harvest blocks and to minimize negative visual effects of clear cuts along the Viking Trail (Route 430) and along Route 432; and
- A minimum 30-metre undisturbed buffer must be maintained between forestry operations and any surrounding watercourse or waterbody.

The Tourism and Culture Branch of the Department of Tourism, Culture Industry and Innovation (TCII) has advised that proposed forestry activities may negatively affect visitor experiences along touring corridors, rivers, trails, as well as the outfitting industry. It is recommended that you contact both the TCII and the outfitters in Zone 8 to determine mitigation measures in an effort to minimize any potential negative effects. A list of outfitters is provided in the attached Agency Comments document. For further information, please contact the Tourism and Culture Branch at (709) 729-4815.

The Water Resources Management Division of this Department requires that you apply for and obtain a permit under the *Water Resources Act, 2002*, for any proposed development adjacent to or within a Protected Public Water Supply Area. A listing of communities is provided in the attached Agency Comments document. Also, any work adjacent to or within a designated Protected Public Water Supply Area must comply with this Department's Policy for Land and Water Related Developments in Protected Public Water Supply Areas. For further information please contact the Drinking Water and Wastewater Section at (709) 729-4048.

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment supports Environment and Climate Change Canada's recommendation that in order to avoid nest destruction and to accommodate the breeding season of migratory songbirds and waterfowl, operations should consider nesting locations between May 5th and August 15th in this region. However, as some species protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) do nest outside of this time period, it is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that project activities are in compliance with the MCBA and associated regulations. For further information, please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service at (709) 772-2154.

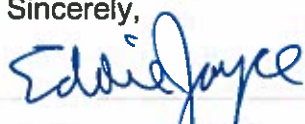
In February 2017, as a condition of release for four Crown Five-Year operating plans a draft document that details a plan for the development and implementation of best management practices for avifauna management relative to forestry operations in Newfoundland and Labrador was required. I understand the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources has drafted and is implementing this plan. The best management practices developed under this planning process should be applied to this five-year operating plan.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) advise that proponents proposing to conduct work in or near water are now required to self-assess using the DFO "Projects Near Water" website, located at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>, and determine if their project requires a review by the DFO. For further information, please see the attached comments and contact DFO at (709) 772-4140.

Although the undertaking, as proposed, is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. A summary of the comments received from government agencies during the review is attached to provide an indication of likely applicable permits, approvals and legislative requirements. Please note that you must comply with all relevant legislation and obtain all necessary permits and approvals. You are required to inform this Department of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Dr. Susan Squires, Director, Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or susansquires@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber-Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Attachment

cc. Dwight Ball, MHA
Chris Mitchelmore, MHA