

DEC 20 2017

Reg No. 1908

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

Dear Mr. Skeard:

**Re: Crown Zone 4 Five Year Forestry 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. Upon consideration of the comments received, please be advised that this undertaking is released from further environmental assessment subject to the following condition:

- The proponent must maintain a minimum 30-metre naturally vegetated buffer along all watercourses, waterbodies, and wetlands to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species and their habitat.

This condition supports your commitment to maintain a 50 m no cut buffer around Conne River. I also understand you are working with the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources to maintain adequate no cut buffers along protected areas, such as the Jipujikuei Kuespem Provincial Park.

Please be advised, you must obtain a permit for any development within a Protected Water Supply Area from the Water Resources Management Division. Contact Dr. Ali Khan, Manager, at (709)729-2295 or akhan@gov.nl.ca. The Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy committed to using carbon modeling to inform forest management planning and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Climate Change Branch request the next five-year plan include reference to carbon modeling or adaptation/mitigation measures and an estimate of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. For additional information, contact Ms. Jennifer Forristall-Prim, Manager, at (709)729-1485 or jenniferfprim@gov.nl.ca.

The Tourism and Culture Branch of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation recommends that you employ landscape design techniques to minimize negative visual effects of clear cuts for specific cut blocks along the Burgeo Highway, Route 480 as well as provide adequate buffers around Conne River. Additional groups for consultation are also

recommended. For further information, please contact Mr. John Angelopoulos, Manager, Sector Development, Tourism and Culture Branch, at (709)729-4518 or johnangelopoulos@gov.nl.ca.

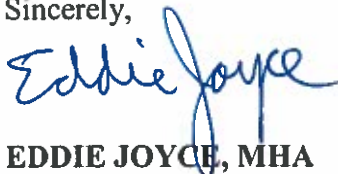
The Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment supports Environment and Climate Change Canada's recommendation that in order to avoid nest destruction and to accommodate the breeding season of migratory songbirds and waterfowl, operations should consider nesting locations between April 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> 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 MBCA and associated regulations. For further information, please contact Mr. Joshua Mailhiot, Canadian Wildlife Service, at (709)772-2154 or Joshua.Mailhiot@canada.ca

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.

Although the undertaking, as proposed, is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. A detailed 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, 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: Hon. Gerry Byrne, Minister  
Fisheries and Land Resources

Hon. Christopher Mitchelmore, Minister  
Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation