

File # 2.1133.0228
Reg. #1951

MAY 15 2018

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 7 (District 9) Five-Year Operating Plan (2017-2021) Amendment

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.

The Tourism and Culture Branch of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation recommend that you consult outfitters near the amendment area prior to commencing the project to minimize negative effects on outfitting lodges. For further information, please contact the Tourism and Culture Branch at (709) 729-4518.

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 15th 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 of Registration 1871 - Crown Zone 7 Five-Year Operating Plan (2017-2021), 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 (FLR) 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 amendment.

The Climate Change Branch of my department notes that as deforestation can foster the release of sequestered CO₂ into the atmosphere, forest management is directly related to climate change. I understand that FLR is considering how to assign and measure the carbon value of our forests as a potential factor for inclusion in future management plans. As this amendment only changes the location of harvesting and not the volume of wood harvested, it is recognized that any impact on carbon sequestration will be unchanged from the approved five year 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. In addition, the terms and conditions provided to you on the Crown Zone 7 Five-Year Operating Plan (2017-2021) apply to this area as well. 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 of Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or susansquires@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



ANDREW PARSONS, QC
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

cc: Brian Warr, MHA
Baie Verte – Green Bay