

File # 2.1133.0230
Reg. #1984

Mr. Bryan Oke, Director
Forest Ecosystem Management
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
P.O. Box 280
Pasadena NL A0L 1K0

Dear Mr. Oke:

RE: Crown Zone 6 Five-Year Operating Plan (2019-2023) – Registration 1984

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:

- The proponent must maintain a 15-metre undisturbed buffer around the hydrometric stations at Grandy Brook Below Top Pond Brook (Station Number 02ZC002), Harry's River Below High Way Bridge (Station 02YJ001) and Isle Aux Morts River Below Highway Bridge (Station Number 02ZB001). For further information on these stations, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-2563.
- 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 Local Governance and Planning Division of this department advise that some cut blocks are located within municipal boundaries. They advise that you contact each municipality for permit requirements. For further information, please contact the Local Governance and Planning Division at (709) 729-4265.

The Water Resources Management Division of this Department advises that you must obtain a permit for any proposed development adjacent to or within Protected Public Water Supply Areas (PPWSA). A water resources management plan, including information requirements pursuant to the *Water Resources Act*, SNL2002 cW-4.01 and its regulations and policies, must be prepared and submitted review and approval. Prior to start of work, any work adjacent to or within 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 found at http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/waterres/regulations/policies/water_related.html. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-2295.

The Climate Change Branch advises that forest management is directly related to climate change. Trees store reserves of carbon and deforestation can cause the release of CO₂ into the atmosphere, which is a principal gas that contributes to climate change. Responsible forest management can serve to mitigate the impacts of harvesting timber, from a climate change perspective. As such, silviculture activities will be essential in restoring the carbon sequestration function of forests within this zone. They also note that climate change is expected to result in more frequent extreme weather events that may result in increased flooding and coastal erosion. They suggest that provincial climate change projections (rather than historical data) for Burgeo, Port Aux Basque, Stephenville and Deer Lake be considered in the planning and development of any access roads within this zone. These projections suggest that extreme precipitation events will become more intense. For further information, please contact the Climate Change Branch at (709) 729-1485.

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 Government Service Centre of the Department of Service NL advises that a development permit is required under the *Protected Road Zoning Regulations* for access roads in protected road buffers. For further information, please contact the Government Service Centre at (709) 637-2229.

The Parks Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation advises that permits are required for access of the T'Railway Provincial Park. They also advise that access across any bridge or trestle along the T'Railway Provincial Park is prohibited without an independent engineering study confirming the bridge or trestle can withstand forestry-related traffic. For further information, please contact the Parks Division at (709) 637-8077. I understand that you have made a commitment with the Parks Division to maintain a 100 metre no cut buffer on either side of the T'Railway Provincial Park throughout Zone 6 and province-wide. I also understand that an agreement has been made with the Parks Division to minimize any new road construction within 500 metres of the T'Railway Provincial Park boundary. I support this commitment and agreement as the T'Railway Provincial Park is an important tourism corridor.

The Mines Branch of the Department of Natural Resources advises that you contact them to discuss select quarry and cut block locations in Forest Management Zone 6. For further information, please contact the Mines Branch at (709) 729-5738.

The Department of Transportation and Works advises that any new accesses to highways (or repurposed accesses) must be reviewed and approved by Transportation & Works with Highway Access permit acquisition by the Proponent through Service NL. For further information, please contact the Department of Transportation and Works at (709) 729-5493.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada 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 Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). For further information, please contact the Fisheries Protection Program at (709) 772-4140.

I understand that you will be working with the Sector Diversification Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation to incorporate landscape design techniques to minimize or prevent negative visual impacts of clear cuts involving harvest blocks CC14019a, CC14019b, CC14018, CC14014, CC14015a, CC14015b, CC14011, CC14008, CC14007, CC15009, CK14013, CK15006, CK15005, and CC14026 near Cape Anguille Lighthouse. For further information, please contact the Sector Diversification Division at (709) 729-4518.

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,



Graham Letto
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Attachment

Cc. Scott Reid, MHA
District of St. George's-Humber

John Finn
District of Stephenville-Port au Port

Andrew Parsons
District of Burgeo – La Poile

