Department of Fisheries and Land Resources

Environmental Assessment Registration Document

For the

Land clearing and construction of farm access roads for

Agriculture Area of Interest (AOI) 39-Junction Brook

June 2020

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
P.O. Box 2006, 192 Wheelers Road
Corner Brook, NL A2H 0J1

1. Name of undertaking:

Land clearing and access road construction at AOI 39 – Junction Brook

2. Proponent:

(i) Name of corporate body

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
Agriculture and Lands Branch

(ii) Address

Fisheries and Land Resources Building
192 Wheelers Road
P.O. Box 2006
Corner Brook, NL
A2H 6J8

(iii) Chief Executive Officer

Tracy King
Deputy Minister
729-3722

(iv) Principal Contact for the Purpose of the Environmental Assessment

Jeremy Short
Manager, Agriculture Lands
Land Management Division
637-2084

3. The undertaking:

(i) Name of the Undertaking

Land clearing and access road construction into Agriculture Area of Interest (AOI) #39, Junction Brook, near Deer Lake, Newfoundland and Labrador.

(ii) Purpose / Rationale / Need for the Undertaking

The purpose of this construction is to access and develop farm land at AOI #39, Junction Brook, located near the Trans Canada Highway just east of Deer Lake, to be used for the growing of vegetables and agriculture crops necessary to enhance the food security for residents in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

4. Description of the undertaking

(i) Geographic Location

AOI 39 – Junction Brook, located near the Trans Canada Highway just east Deer Lake. The site is a total of 788.0 Hectares (1,946.4 Acres) of which 397.9 Hectares (982.8 Acres) are planned for agricultural development. This is bounded to the North by Crown Land, East by Crown Land, South by the Trans Canada Highway / Junction Brook and West by the Upper Humber River as per attached map in Annex 1.

(ii) Physical Features

This parcel contains a variety of terrain from gently rolling hills to steep river valleys. The soils developed on sandy loam till derived from red sandstone conglomerate. The predominant tree species in the area include Balsam Fir, Black Spruce and White Spruce. Consideration was given to maintaining a 100 meter un-developed buffer along the Upper Humber River and Junction Brook. This 100 meter buffer area has been removed from the application area as identified in Annex 1.

(iii) Construction

The construction of access roads and farm land development will be preformed by contractors hired by the Province under the Public Procurement Agency tender process. The construction phase will consist of road surface development, grading, ditching, culverts/bridge installation where required and subsequent clearing of trees and vegetation from suitabile areas and the removal of overburden/stumps. Construction is planned to begin in the Summer of 2020.

(v) Clearing and Overburden Removal

Any merchantable timber removed during the road clearing and site development will be salvaged. Overburden will be stockpiled for potential future use for farm development.

(vi) Site Development

The farm access road construciton includes a total of 9.3 kilometres as illustrated in Annex 1. This construction will include one 18 metre bridge on Crooked Feeder Brook, a series (approximately 100) of 450 millimeter (mm) culverts to aid in ditch cross drainage, 5 large culverts (ranging from 1200-2600 mm) and approximately 12 kilometre of ditching. Other culverts may be required following access road profiling ranging from 450, 600 and 900 mm. This site will require the construction of these access roads and the clearing, grubbing and development of suitable arable land for the development of farm land as identified as A1 and A2 soils in Annex 1.

(vii) Potential Sources of Pollution during Construction

Sources of pollution during construction is limited to the potential of hydrocarbon spillage from the road construction equipment. Contractors will be advised of the environmental requirements for hydrocarbon spill reporting/clean-up and the necessity of strict compliance. The potential for adverse environmental impacts during construction of the roads will be minimized. All construction activities will be undertaken in accordance with provincial environmental regulations/directives.

(viii) Occupations

The various types of occupations anticitated for this project include;

a. Civil Engineers (NOC code – 2131)
b. Engineering Technicians (NOC code – 2231)
c. Environmental Planner (NOC code – 2153)
d. Heavy Equipment Operators (NOC code – 7521)
e. Heavy Equipment Mechanics (NOC code – 7312)
f. Laborers (NOC code – 7611)
g. Truck Drivers (NOC code – 7511
h. Commercial Harvester (NCO Code – 8241)
i. Commercial Excavating Contractor (NCO Code – 7302)
j. Wood Transportation Operator (NCO Code – 7511)
k. NL Land Surveyor (NCO Code – 2154)

(ix) Project-related Documents and Assessments

a. Attached suitability / proposed road map (Annex 1)

5. Approval of the undertaking

The following is a list of permits, licences and approvals that may be required for this project.

(i) Stream Crossings – Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, Water Resources Division and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans
(ii) Wood Cutting Permits – Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
(iii) Fuel Storage and Handling – Government Services
(iv) Stream Crossings Approvals for temporary crossings required by the contractor – Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, Water Resources Division and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans
(v) Highway Access Approval – Department of Transportation and Works
(vi) Crown Lands Approval for Agriculture Lease and Access Road Construction – Department of Fisheries and Land Resources.

6. Schedule

Commercial harvesting was completed in this area in mid 1990's. Any remaining merchantable timber will be harvested during the beginning phase of the land clearing contract in the summer of 2020. Land clearing and enhancement should begin concurrenlty with road construction, as access becomes available to suitable areas.

Annex 1: Soil Suitability & Proposed Road Construction Map