

DEC 15 2021

COR/2021/04669

Reg. # 2151

Mr. Stephen Balsom  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture  
Box 2006, Wheeler's Road  
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8

E-mail: [StephenBalsom@gov.nl.ca](mailto:StephenBalsom@gov.nl.ca)

Dear Mr. Balsom:

**Re: District 21 Five-year Forestry Operating Plan (2022-2026)**

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental environmental assessment screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by Part X of 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:

- You are required to uphold all commitments made in your environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the project on the environment.
- The Climate Change Branch of my Department requires you to submit a Greenhouse Gas Management Plan for my approval within one year of the date of this letter, with an update on the progress of this plan to be submitted within six months. The plan is expected to include:
  - any carbon modeling that has been or will be used to inform forest management planning;
  - projections on the level of greenhouse gas emissions that are anticipated to be captured and/or released over the five year period; and,
  - a description of how forest management will be informed by carbon modelling with regard to climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.

For more information, please contact the Climate Change Branch at (709) 729-1485.

- The Water Resources Management Division of my Department requires a 30-metre buffer to be maintained around infrastructure for a real-time hydrometric, water quality and climate monitoring station at Alexis River near Port Hope Simpson (03QC002). For more information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-1646.
- The Land Management Division of the Department of Fisheries Forestry and Agriculture requires you to consult the land use atlas to determine if there are issued Crown titles and applications within the project area and whether there are land use conflicts. For more information, please contact the Land Management Division at 1-833-891-3249.
- The Tourism Product Development Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation requires the following:
  - You are to coordinate forest management efforts with outfitters during the big game season from September 15-December 31 and spring bear harvest, which occurs May 1-July 15.
  - You are required to submit a Tourism Stakeholder Consultation Plan (Consultation Plan) that will report on consultations with tourism stakeholders. The Consultation Plan is to identify the potential impacts of forestry operations on each tourism stakeholder and describe how harvesting, road construction and silviculture activities will be modified to minimize impacts to tourism stakeholder values, which include but are not limited to: wildlife populations and hunting success rates, pristine and remote wilderness settings, and, increased access by local residents. The Consultation Plan must be reviewed and approved by Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation prior to conducting forestry operations. If the Consultation Plan is derived from the EngageNL process, Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation would like to review it with Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture to ensure that all stakeholders are represented; and,
  - You shall implement measures that preserve the visitor experience and viewscapes along the Trans Labrador Highway. Harvest blocks visible from this route should be developed using landscape design techniques to minimize the negative visual effects of clear cuts. You are advised to consult directly with the Manager of Tourism Product Development regarding efforts to minimize the visibility of clear cuts from the Trans Labrador Highway.

For more information, please contact the Tourism Product Development Division at (709) 729-4518.



- You are required to advise the Environmental Assessment Division when the conditions of release have been met, by emailing a written description, documents, and images (where applicable) to demonstrate that the conditions have been fulfilled to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).
- You are required to update the Environmental Assessment Division on the status of your project, including a copy of all permits, licences, certificates, approvals and other authorizations required for your project, one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if required. Please email your project updates to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).

**Federal and provincial government departments and agencies that reviewed your project during the environmental assessment provide the following advice:**

The Pollution Prevention Division of my Department advises that if pesticide use is required, all pesticide purchases, storage, and use are to comply with the Pesticide Control Regulations. For more information, please contact the Pesticide Control Section at (709) 729-6054.

The Water Resources Management Division of my Department requires you to obtain a water use licence for the use of water from any water source for any purpose. In addition, you must obtain permits for any work within any body of water (including wetlands), any work within shore water zones, any infilling work within 15 metres of a body of water, and for any development adjacent to or within a protected public water supply area. A list of protected public water supply areas in the project area have been included in the attached document entitled "Comments for the Proponent." You are advised to comply with my Department's policies on shore water zones, infilling bodies of water, and on land and water related developments in protected water supply areas. These policies are found on the Department's web page at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/regulations/policies/>.

The Water Resources Management Division further advises that you are to avoid any work or activities within 100 metres of drinking water wells. A list of coordinates for private/drilled wells within the project area is included in the attached document entitled "Comments for the Proponent." For more information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-1646.

The Government Service Centre of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises that a development permit may be required for any construction within 400 metres of the centre line of a highway or other protected road. A permit is also required for the



construction of an access road in a protected area, or for any access onto a protected road. For more information, please contact the Government Service Centre at (709) 944-5282.

The Occupational Health and Safety Division of Digital Government and Service NL advises you to ensure that the activities associated with the development are conducted in compliance with the **Occupational Health and Safety Act** and its regulations. This includes the responsibility for ensuring that contractors hired to perform work also comply with this legislation. The Occupational Health and Safety Division reminds you to consider procedures associated with the protection of workers related to COVID-19. Procedures must follow the requirements set forth by the Chief Medical Officer of Newfoundland and Labrador. For further information, please contact the Occupational Health and Safety Division at (709) 729-6690.

The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology advises that any quarry materials needed for this undertaking must be obtained from approved sources. In addition, the Department expects that values expressed in other recent Five-year Operating Plans with respect to mining, mineral exploration and quarrying, will apply to the District 21 Five-year Operating Plan. Industry, Energy and Technology is of the understanding that the plans for specific silviculture treatments within the project area will be submitted on an annual basis through the Interdepartmental Land Use Committee (ILUC) process. The Mines Branch will take those opportunities to review for specific overlaps. Furthermore, and if you have not already done so, you are encouraged to advise Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro of this project as there are distribution assets in the project area. For more information, please contact Industry, Energy and Technology at (709) 729-5811.

The Parks Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation recommends that a 100-metre no-cut buffer around Provincial Parks be included on public domestic wood cutting maps/permits.

The Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs advise that, where harvesting areas overlap a municipal planning area or protected road zone, harvesters are to apply with the municipality or Service NL, respectively, for a development permit. For more information, please contact Municipal and Provincial Affairs at (709) 729-3090.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) recommends 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 25 and August 15 in this region. ECCC provides advice on managing revegetation and invasive species, limiting noise, the protection of Bank Swallows and for effective wildlife response plans. ECCC recommends that you complete an analysis of project impacts on mature and interior forest habitat for



migratory birds on a local scale. Further, you are requested to provide a GIS file of the project boundaries so that the project can be mapped for cumulative effects considerations. For further information, please contact ECCC at (709) 772-2126.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada advises that the modernized **Fisheries Act** includes fish and fish habitat protection provisions which came into effect on August 28, 2019. If you are conducting work in or near water you should refer to the Projects Near Water website to get information about how to comply with the **Fisheries Act** and as well as information on the project review process. The "Projects Near Water" website is located at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>. For further information, please contact the Fisheries Protection Program at (709) 772-4140.

Health Canada advises that if there is potential for impacts to human receptors from changes to air quality, noise, drinking or recreational water quality, and country foods caused by forestry management activities (including the use of heavy equipment, prescribed burning, and spraying of pesticides), you should consider establishing mitigation measures as well as a process to ensure complaints are collected and addressed. If complaints are received, you should consider additional mitigation measures.

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. 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.

Please note that in accordance with Section 17 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, the Minister's decision is valid for a period of three years from the date of this letter. If you have not commenced your project within this three-year period, you may apply to extend the three-year period for a maximum of three one-year periods, if needed. For further information, please email [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).



If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Sweeney, Director, Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or [joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "BD", enclosed in a blue oval.

**HON. BERNARD DAVIS, MHA**  
District of Virginia Waters - Pleasantville  
Minister

cc: Hon. Lisa Dempster, MHA, District of Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair

Enclosures