

COR-2023-2669

NOV 17 2023

Reg. #2261

Bryan Oke
Director of Forest Ecosystem Management
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Forestry & Wildlife Branch
E-mail: bryanoke@gov.nl.ca

Dear Bryan Oke:

RE: Crown Zone 6 Five-Year Forestry Operating Plan (2024-2028) (the Project)

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 the Project is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- All commitments made in the environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the Project on the environment must be met.
- The Climate Change Branch (CCB) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change requires the following:
 - A Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (GGMP) must be prepared and submitted for approval by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. A draft plan must be submitted within six months of the date of the Minister's decision letter with the final plan to be submitted within one year of the decision. 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 modeling regarding climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. For further information, please contact the CCB at (709) 729-1485.
- The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change requires the following:
 - A 30-metre protective buffer around the following active hydrometric stations:
 - Harry's River below Highway Bridge (Station ID 02YJ001);
 - Isle aux Morts River below Highway Bridge (Station ID 02ZB001);
 - Grandy Brook below Top Pond Brook (Station ID 02ZC002); and
 - Rattler Brook near McIvers (Station ID 02YL005).
 - Prior to the start of the forestry operations, the erosion susceptible areas in the following flood plain watersheds must be identified to prevent erosion during forest harvesting:
 - Blanche Brook, Warm Brook and Cold Brook watersheds (Stephenville Floodplain Mapping);
 - Harry's River, St. Georges River, Trout River and Black Duck Brook watersheds (Stephenville Crossing and Black Duck Siding Flood Plain Mapping);
 - Little Codroy River and Grand Codroy River watersheds (Codroy Valley Flood Plain Mapping);
 - Humber River and Steady Brook watersheds (Deer Lake and Steady Brook Flood Plain Mapping);
 - Trout River watershed (Trout River Flood Plain Mapping);
 - Cox's Brook watershed (Cox's Cove Floodplain Mapping); and
 - Corner Brook Stream and Bell's Brook watersheds (Corner Brook Flood Plain Mapping). For further information, please contact the WRMD at 729-2563.
- Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA), requires the following:
 - The Proponent must work with the Wildlife Division on mitigation measures to avoid roost sites for the Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis (Bats), species listed as Endangered under the **NL Endangered Species Act (NLESA)**.
 - Black Ash is listed as Threatened under the **NLESA** and Western Newfoundland is considered part of the species' core range. Mitigation measures that are in place for Red Pine (including avoidance of cutting, trimming) during road construction, site preparation, or harvesting activities, also apply for Black Ash.
 - *Degelia plumbea* is a lichen species listed as Vulnerable under the **NLESA**. There are known occurrences of this lichen within the operating area CC14021. You must work with the Wildlife Division to determine survey protocols and conduct a

presence/absence survey for *Degelia plumbea* prior to any clearing activity to confirm the need for mitigations such as buffering and protection.

- Block CC14061 is located within Marten Critical Habitat, and a deferred harvest is required until a down-listed management plan for Marten is in place.
 - A designated Sensitive Wildlife Area for endangered plants and species of conservation concern, which also serves as a Significant Wetland known as Robinson's River and Middle Barachois River, overlaps with Forest Management Plan block CC14018, (as shown on the attached map). Any proposed harvesting north of transmission line and south/southwest of the resource road must be avoided. For further information, please contact FFA at (709) 637-2950.
- The Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation requires a 100-metre buffer along the shoreline of South Brook and Lomond River, as shown in operating area mapping for CC15026 and CC15005 respectively, to ensure archaeological resources are not negatively impacted. For further information, please contact the PAO at (709) 729-2462.
 - You must 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.
 - You must update the Environmental Assessment Division on the status of the Project, including a copy of all permits, licences, certificates, approvals and other authorizations required for the Project, one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if required. Please e-mail the Project updates to EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

Although the undertaking as proposed is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. You must comply with all relevant legislation and obtain all necessary permits and approvals. You must inform this Department of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

Please note that in accordance with Section 17 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, my decision is valid for a period of three years from the date of this letter. If you have not commenced the Project within this three-year period, you may apply to extend the term of my decision for a maximum of three periods of one year. Should the term of my decision expire, the Project will have to be registered again for environmental assessment, if you wish to proceed. For further information, please e-mail EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.



If you have any questions about the environmental assessment process, please contact Joanne Sweeney, Director of the Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or via e-mail joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernard Davis", written over a circular scribble.

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

Cc: Honourable Andrew Parsons, MHA - District of Burgeo - La Poile
Scott Reid, MHA - District of St. George's
Edward Joyce, MHA - District of Humber- Bay of Islands
Tony Wakeham, MHA - District of Stephenville - Port au Port