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Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and
Conservation
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Sir/Madam:

Buchan's Fur Company would like to submit this application for an Environmental Assessment of a Mink Farm to be constructed near the Buchans region. Hope this application meets all necessary requirements, we can be reached at the above address or email tb@nf.sympatico.ca. Phase 1 of construction to begin in the fall of 2006. Two mink sheds will be built to house 500 breed females by April 2007 with further construction in the future to house 1500 breed females by 2010.

If there is any problems feel free to contact us at anytime .

Thank-you

Terry Byrne

REGISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 49 OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Name of undertaking: Mink Farm-North East of
Buchans

Proponent:

(1) Name of Corporate Body: Buchans Fur Farm

(2) Address: Buchans Fur Farm
PO Box 364
Buchans, NL
A0H 1G0

(3) Chief Executive Office: Terry Byrne
President/Owner
PO Box 364
Buchans, NL
A0H 1G0

(4) Principal Contact: Terry Byrne
PO Box 364
Buchans, NL
A0H 1G0
Tel. (709)672 3661
Email tb@nf.sympatico.ca

THE UNDERTAKING:

(1) Nature of Undertaking:

Proposed development of a mink farm at a site just north east of Buchans. The farm is being developed to produce high quality mink for Auctions. Farm construction is proposed to begin in the summer of 2006.

(2) Proposed/Rationale/Need For The Undertaking:

The proponent, Mr. Terry Byrne, sees a great potential for mink development in the province. The province has the proper climate for mink production as well as offering potential advantages in land, feed, labour availability and cost. Mr. Byrne will access feed through the Central Feed Kitchen near Bishop's Falls.

DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:

* Geographical Location:

The proposed site of approximately 200 acres, is located north east of Buchans, approximately 1 km from nearest dwelling. The land will be leased from Abitibi Consolidated. Maps of the proposed site are attached. These maps include an overall site map as well as aerial photograph. The land base is flat and currently in a sparsely wooded

state. The farm will be about 1 km from the nearest body of water or river.

and
spreading.

Physical Features:

Physical requirements for the mink farm to be added to the site include mink sheds, storage sheds, perimeter fencing, temporary manure storage and access road. A total of 10 acres will be cleared and leveled to encompass the sheds and fencing. Additional land will be developed, as required for manure spreading. Each of the required physical features are described below.

Road:

Access to the site from an existing road leading to the airstrip. Approximately 100 meter road will be constructed to access the farm. No water bodies have to be crossed in developing this site.

Mink Sheds:

The proposed mink sheds for this farm will be 100m by 12.5m wide. Each shed will hold six to eight rows of mink cages, depending on whether they are breeder sheds(six rows) or pelter sheds(eight rows).The sheds are to be constructed using simple post and beam wooden construction, with galvanized sheeting attached for roofing , as well as fibreglass skylights and a plastic frabene material on the sides for natural lighting. An automatic watering system will be installed so the mink have access to a fresh continues water supply.

Artesian well will be used to provide the necessary water requirements.

Storage/Auxiliary Sheds:

Two sheds around (5000 sq ft) will be constructed on site tp provide storage space for equipment and materials as well as a small staff room facilities.

Perimeter Fencing:

The main farm site will be enclosed with chain link fencing, to prevent encroachment by pest/animals and mink escapement. To prevent possible escapement, the bottom of the fence will extend six to eight inches below ground, the height of the fence will be four to five feet.

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Manure Storage:

A temporary manure storage area will be constructed, consisting of a concrete and bucking wall , with a steel/aluminum foof to prevent washout by precipitation. This facility will be constructed and located in keeping with Environment Guidelines for Livestock Producers. This facility will provide temporary storage only, with the manure being made available to spreading and/or used on land developed by the proponent.

Construction:

Project construction is projected to occur from July 2006 to July 2009. Construction will be in a staged approach to meet the requirements of an expanding farm. Following are the projected construction requirements for each phase.

- * July 2006 to April 2007
 - Access road
 - Clear/level land
 - 1 mink shed for breeders(500)
 - 1 mink shed for kits
 - 1 storage/auxiliary shed
 - Manure storage pad
 - Perimeter fencing
- * April 2007 to April 2008
 - 2 mink sheds for expansion to 1000 breeders
- * April 2008 to April 2009
 - 2 mink sheds for expansion to 1500 breeders

The main site will be selected to minimize clearing and leveling requirements. Construction involves simple structures with low potential for environmental impact.

primary

Mink Farm Season:

Operations:

The process of mink farming is closely tied to the natural breeding cycle of the animal. The basics of the mink year are outlined in the following figure, which was prepared for the US mink industry. For mink farming in Newfoundland the seasons are as follows:

- .Breeding- Breeding to start in early March
- .Whelping- The breeding females will start having their kits as early as April 20th. Litters may range from as few as three to as many as 13, but four or five is the average.
- . Weaning- Separating the kits from there mother and getting them on solid food starts six to eight weeks, in late June early July.
- .Growth and Furring- From August through to pelting time in November—December the focus is on kit growth and proper fur development.
- .Grading and Pelting- Prior to pelting, mink are graded such that the best performers can be retained as breeding stock. Pelting starts in November and can continue to early December.

Buchan's Fur Farm plans to import 500 disease free, high quality dark mink bred females from Nova Scotia in April 2007. On average mink produce between four to five offspring. In 2007 the projected kit production will be approximately 2500 kits. Over the following two to three years the operation will expand to 1500 female breeders, producing up to 7500 kits per annum. The proposed operation will consist only of the farm.

Waste Production/Handling:

Waste production from a mink farm consists of one primary waste stream, manure and urine from the mink, which is mixed with wood shavings and straw from the nest boxes. Manure production varies with the time of the year, with lower volumes produced from late November through May, as the farm is populated only with breeding stock, and larger and increasing volumes produced from June through November, as kits grow. The mixing of the manure/urine with the wood shavings/straw produces a very manageable solid waste product.

Waste Collection:

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With all animals held in cages the manure and urine collects directly under these cages, in the sheds. In a vast majority of cases the mink return to the same spot to deposit their waste on an ongoing basis. In addition, straw and/or wood shavings are used in the nest boxes and the manure/urine becomes mixed with the straw/shavings that fall through the cage, producing a more manageable waste product. For hygiene purposes and to reduce odour, waste will be collected from the sheds on a regular basis, consisting of every two weeks in the late summer less often during cooler periods.

Waste Handling and Disposal:

The handling and disposal of the waste from the mink will be undertaken using approved manure management strategies. The primary handling and disposal methodologies to be used will include short-term stockpiling. Land application and potentially composting.

Short-Term Stockpiling:

Stockpiling of manure will only take place on a short-term basis, to accumulate for land application. Stockpiling will be done in an approved manner and at a site on the farm of sufficient distance and location from the sheds and wells to ensure no risk of contamination.

Land Application:

A total of 150 female mink(plus kits and males) per acre is the recommended maximum from Environmental Farm Practice Guidelines for Livestock Producers in Newfoundland and Labrador for manure spreading. The land base once approved , providing more than sufficient area for manure spreading. In addition, manure will be made available to other local farmers for spreading on their fields. Prevailing westerly winds will carry any odour away from area residents.

Occupations:

The proposed farm will require a projected 6 employees during the construction and operations phases. This will include 1 foreman and the remainder general labourers. This labour pool will meet the requirements for farm construction during the construction phase as well as ongoing farm operations as the farm grows from 500 female breeders to 1500 female breeders.

Project-Related Documents:

N/A

APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:

Approvals required for the construction and operations phases for Buchan's Fur Farm include the following:

- * Waste management certificate-Government Services Centre-Approval required prior to 2006 operations.
- * Import Permit/Quarantine- Canadian Food Inspection Agency- Approval required for import of breeding stock from Nova Scotia in April 2007 and for on site quarantine.

SCHEDELE:

The initial land development and construction phase for this project must be started by July 2006. Land clearing and leveling, the construction of two mink sheds, storage/auxiliary shed, manure area and perimeter fencing must be completed prior to the arrival of the breeding stock in April 2007.

FUNDING:

Funding for this operation will consist of private investment. Buchan's Fur Farm plans to apply for assistance through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency(repayable loans), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada(wage subsidies), and the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development(seed capital equity program). Total cost of the proposed project \$380,443. No approvals have been granted to date.

Mr. Terry Byrne
President/Owner

Date