

JAN - 6 2016

File # 2.1133.0207

Reg. #1817

Mr. Ivan Downton
Director of Ecosystem Management
Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
4th Floor Fortis Building
PO Box 2006
Corner Brook NL A2H 6J8

Dear Mr. Downton:

**RE: Crown District Five Year Operating Plan FMD 17/18 (2013-2017) Amendment
– EA 1817**

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.

The Department of Municipal Affairs indicate that the amendment includes some private land and a Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation licensed trail. For further information, please contact the Department of Municipal Affairs at (709) 729-3231.

The Department of Environment and Conservation supports Environment Canada's recommendation 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 15th and August 15th in this region. However, as some species protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA)* do nest outside of this time period, it is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that project activities are in compliance with the *MBCA* and associated regulations.

The Department of Environment and Conservation also supports Environment Canada's recommendations regarding wetland conservation: to avoid development on wetlands, to maintain a 30 metre buffer around wetland areas, to maintain the hydrologic function of nearby wetlands, and to direct any runoff from development away from wetlands.

The Water Resources Management Division advises that the comments on the original environmental assessment registration 1680 for Crown Districts 17 & 18 Five-Year Operating Plan (2013-2017) still apply. For further information, please call the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-2563.

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.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division at (709) 729-0673.

Sincerely,



PERRY TRIMPER, MHA
District of Lake Melville
Minister

Attachment