

APR 19 2018

Reg No. 1949

Mr. Francis Skeard
Director, Forest Ecosystem Management
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
Box 2006, Fortis Bldg.
Corner Brook NL A2H 6J8

Dear Mr. Skeard:

Re: Crown Forest Management Amendment Zone 5 (District 13)

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. Upon consideration of the comments received, please be advised that this undertaking is released from further environmental assessment subject to the following condition:

- The proponent must maintain a minimum 30-metre naturally vegetated buffer along all watercourses, waterbodies, and wetlands to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species and their habitat.

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment supports Environment and Climate Change 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. For further information, please contact Mr. Joshua Mailhiot, Canadian Wildlife Service, at (709)772-2154 or Joshua.Mailhiot@canada.ca.

In February 2017, as a condition of release for four Crown Five-Year operating plans, a draft document that details a plan for the development and implementation of best management practices for avifauna management relative to forestry operations in Newfoundland and Labrador was required. I understand the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources has drafted and is implementing this plan. The best management practices developed under this planning process should be applied to this five-year operating plan amendment.

Although the undertaking, as proposed, is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. Also, the terms and conditions provided to you on the Five Year Plan and other amendments submitted for Zone 5 apply to this area as well. A detailed 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. Please note that 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.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Dr. Susan Squires, Director, at (709)729-0673 or susansquires@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber – Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Attachment

cc: Hon. Allan Hawkins, MHA
District of Windsor-Buchans