

OCT 14 2020

COR/2020/03740

Reg. #2092

Mr. Faron Knott
Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited
P.O. Box 2001
Corner Brook, NL
A2H 6J4

Dear Mr. Knott:

Re: Corner Brook Pulp and Paper (CBPP) Zone 5, District 10 Five-Year Operating Plan

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 Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture requires that:
 - a minimum 30-metre undisturbed buffer is maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands that appear on a 1:50,000 topo map to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat;
 - no vegetation clearing is to occur within 800 metres of a bald eagle or osprey nest during the nesting season (March 15 to July 31) and 200 metres during the remainder of the year; the 200-metre buffer also applies to all other raptor nests (e.g. Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl); the location of any raptor nest site must be reported to the Wildlife Division;
 - the Environmental Protection Guidelines apply to all cut blocks for Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited (CBPPL) operations;
 - harvesting operations in the Frozen Ocean cut block are to be deferred until further consultation with the Wildlife Division;

- all other commercial forest operations in Forestry Management District 10 (including road building) that intersect with spring caribou core and secondary areas, must occur post July 30 when caribou post-calving has ended; and,
- until further discussion, all spring and winter caribou core areas must have a minimum of suitable 30% of mature forest cover remaining post-harvest.

For further information, please contact the Wildlife Division at 709-637-2025.

- The Water Resources Management Division of my department requires that a minimum 200-metre buffer is maintained between the operating boundaries of the Forest Management District 10 Five Year Plan and private groundwater wells, particularly in areas where the boundaries appear to encompass/encroach on privately owned properties. For more information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-1671.
- The Climate Change Branch requires you to prepare and submit a Greenhouse Gas Management Plan to my department for approval. A draft of this plan must be submitted within one year of the date of this decision letter with an update on the progress of this plan to be submitted in six months. The plan is 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 further information, please contact the Climate Change Branch at 709-729-1485.

- The Office of the Status of Women advises you to develop a Women's Employment Plan (WEP) for the project, to be approved by the Office for the Status of Women, and the plan should identify specific commitments to support the recruitment, training, employment and retention of women. For more information, please contact the Office of the Status of Women at 709-729-5032.
- You are required to advise the Environmental Assessment Division when each of the conditions of release has been met, by emailing a written description, documents, and images (where applicable) to demonstrate that the conditions have been fulfilled to EAPProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

- You are required to 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, within one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates, if requested. Please email project updates to EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

The Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises you that a development permit may be required for any construction within 400 metres of the centre line of the Trans Canada Highway or any other protected road.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture informs that there are a number of cabin lots and outfitters in the proposed area and access to these sites is not to be blocked.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture requests that forest activities will not negatively impact Cottage Development Areas and Cottage Planning Areas, specifically:

- LaMotte's Lake - Area CC11502, where there is a Cottage Planning Area around the shoreline of this lake;
- Crystal Lake - Area CC11511, where there is a Cottage Planning Area around the South and West portions of Diversion Lake;
- Paradise Lake - Area CC11512, where there is a Cottage Development Area around many of the lakes in this forest treatment block;
- Martin Lake - Area CC 11513, where there is a Cottage Development Area around the North and West portions of Martin Lake; and,
- Toe Brook - Burnt Lake - Area CC11516, where there is a Cottage Development Area around the west side of the lake south of Sunday Lake.

The Natural Areas Division of my department advises that the proposed area overlaps the International Biological Program site called Crooked Bog. This site represents an example of ombrotrophic and oceanic raised bogs, potentially vulnerable to disturbance. Natural Areas recommends no forest harvesting in Crooked Bog.

The Pollution Prevention Division of my department recommends developing a contingency plan specific to your project, and keeping a spill kit on site to enable a quick and effective response to a spill event.

The Provincial Archaeology Division of the Department of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation advises that a Historic Resources Assessment is required under the *Historic Resources Act*. The Sector Diversification Division of this department encourages you to continue consultations with the Outfitters identified in the proposal, and to engage with the Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association. For more information, please contact the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation at 709-729-7000. The Parks Division of that department requests a 100-metre no cut buffer for commercial harvesting,

and no trail or road construction within 500 metres, of Provincial Park Properties. I understand that you have made that commitment to establish a 100-metre buffer around the T'Railway as well as maintaining a 500-metre no roads around all existing and proposed protected areas. I support this commitment as the T'Railway is an important tourism corridor, and the protected areas supports our ongoing commitment to preserve the province's biodiversity.

The Mines Branch of the Department of Industry, Energy, and Technology recommends that you consult with them regarding the best management practices for timber harvested as a result of mineral exploration activities. The Energy Branch of that department recommends that you consult with Newfoundland Power regarding the transmission line running within the area of the undertaking. For more information please contact Stephen Hinchey, Land Use Geologist at (709) 729-5748, stephenhinchey@gov.nl.ca.

Environment and Climate Change Canada recommends the following:

- 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;
- sightings of the Red Crossbill, Bank Swallows Olive-sided Flycatcher and Barrow's Goldeneye, be reported to Environment and Climate Change Canada- Canadian Wildlife Services (ECCC-CWS), as they are listed on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act;
- you should consult with the provincial Wildlife Division, as the project occurs in an area known to be frequented by caribou that have been assessed as Special Concern by the Committed on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), and two species of bats that have been assessed as species at risk; and,
- you should undertake measures to prevent or minimize erosion and contain sediments given the close proximity of the project to waterbodies and wetlands, including a scheduled salmon river.

For further information, please contact Environment and Climate Change Canada at (709) 772-2126.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans 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.

Transport Canada advises that based on the information provided, the proposed project (including bridges and culverts) appears to involve navigable waters not listed on the

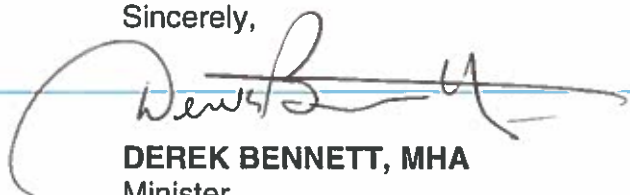
schedule. Under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA), owners of works that are located on navigable waterways not listed on the schedule, which may interfere with navigation, have the option to either apply to the Minister for Transport or seek authorization through the public resolution process. Both processes have a 30 day public review process. The application process and public resolution process on the Registry can be accessed at <https://npp-submissions-demandes-ppn.tc.canada.ca/>. For further information, please contact (506) 851-3113.

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. 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.

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.

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

Sincerely,



DEREK BENNETT, MHA

Minister

District of Lewisporte – Twillingate

Enclosures

c: Hon. Brian Warr, MHA - Bair Verte-Green Bay
Hon. Chris Tibbs, MHA - Grand Falls-Windsor-Buchans