

August 26, 2004

To: Robin Sharples
Forest management Branch
Energy Mines and Resources
Box 2703 (K-918)
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Re: August 9, 2004 Environmental Assessment Act screening of previously deferred Year 1 Interim Wood Supply Blocks C5, C9, and C12

Dear Ms. Sharples,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above blocks.

Thank you also for taking measures to correct the inaccuracies and discrepancies within the information package dated Aug. 9, 2004, that we discussed with you in previous communications. I am responding to the EA before I see the new information package, because I will be out of town next week.

We are still concerned about the size of the openings that result from the combination of the proposed new blocks and existing openings. As outlined below, the combined openings still significantly exceed the Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Guidebook.

C5: 4 new openings of 4.7 ha + 19.6 ha + 8.5 ha + 3 ha. = 38.5 ha. + existing contiguous openings = approx. 104.2 ha. (Compared to a total opening of approx. 173 ha. in the previous iteration.)

C9: One new opening of 44.2 ha + existing contiguous openings totaling 44.5 ha = 86.7 ha (compared to 118 ha in the previous iteration.)

C12: 3 new openings of 33 ha + 7.7 ha + 31.7 ha. = 103.4 ha + existing contiguous openings = two new openings of 57 ha and 75.5 ha. (Compared to 57 and 88 ha in the previous iteration.)

However, we do appreciate the effort that the Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council has made to reduce block sizes, and to withdraw some of the oldest and less commercially attractive stands (e.g. in C5D withdrawing the V9 component, which is 213

year old fir-leading.) Also, we appreciate the urgency of quickly finishing the planning for interim wood, and moving on to the important business of long term planning. Therefore we have only one small recommended change.

For Block C5D the map of the proposed new reserve which withdraws the V9 (213 year old fir-leading) type seems to have missed a small portion of the V9 on the west side. We assume it was just an oversight that caused this small portion of V9 type to be included as part of the cut block.

Recommendation:

Include all of the V9 component of Block C5D in the reserve.

Please feel free to contact Sue Kemmett or me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Baltgailis
YCS Forestry Coordinator