

File: 19500-20

January 22, 2002

Forest Licensees
SBFEP
Lakes Forest District

District Implementation of Bark Beetle Regulation

Dear Licensee:

At this time, under the *Bark Beetle Regulation*, the Emergency Bark Beetle Management Area (EBBMA) has been designated by the Minister and the beetle management coordinator has designated Emergency Management Units (EMU) within the EBBMA. For Lakes TSA, that area north of Ootsa Reservoir is designated as either "sanitation" or "aggressive" zones. Therefore those forest licensees operating within areas north of the reservoir may use provisions under the regulation. A request for amendment has been submitted for inclusion of the area north of the Chelaslie River as a "sanitation" zone so that area could be eligible as well.



The Bark Beetle Regulation allows the district manager to exempt a person from the requirement to prepare and obtain approval of a silviculture prescription for areas where the volume harvested does not exceed 5000 m³ in volume. The exempted area also may not result in a contiguous clearcut exceeding 15 hectares. This letter serves to provide guidance and procedures for the submission and approval of these silviculture exemptions.

The intent of the regulation is to provide better administration efficiency for harvest of infested blocks. The procedure of this "MCC" (medium cut block) permit issuance for blocks will be similar to that of the SPS and SCC cutting permits.

Before an application can be made, the licensee must ensure that the limited information content outlined within Sections 18 (3) and (4) of the *Operational Planning Regulation* is consistent with the forest development plan (FDP). FDP's will likely require amendment in order to achieve that consistency.

In order to assist with the development of the FDP amendment, I provide the following guidance:

- I interpret the intent of the regulation to provide a mechanism for quick action on infestations that exist within the leading edge area of the epidemic and within those zones where aggressive management is required. I would expect that the application of these blocks

Page 1 of 2

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Ministry of
Forests

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To: Forest :Licensees

would continue as smaller individual blocks and that the blocks over larger contiguous infestations be processed as “normal” CP’s. Licensees should include a statement about adjacency between these blocks.

- the FDP should outline, specifically, how operations will be undertaken within the special resource management zones to assure consistency with the objectives and intent of the LRMP.

As part of the review and approval of the FDP (amendment), I will provide further guidance with respect to specific requirements of “MCC” blocks. Among other things, the District ManagerI will consider the need to consult with stakeholders, the need for assessments and the mapping requirements for notification of harvest to the MOF for these MCC blocks prior to commencement.

The approved FDP and rationale will provide licensees with the necessary tools to plan and harvest blocks under the *Bark Beetle Regulation* without need for further approvals. Please contact my operational staff or me with any questions respecting this guidance.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Vieweg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Vieweg
A/District Manager
Lakes Forest District