BRITISH COLUMBIA

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File: 10450-01 / 18818-30/BBR

January 15, 2002

«Address1»

Dear «Title»:

As you may be aware, new Bark Beetle Regulations came into effect December 10, 2001. The purpose of this letter is to advise you that harvesting operations, as described within these regulations, will be taking place this winter within the Morice Forest District.
In the very near future, I will be reviewing Forest Development Plan amendments and exemption requests associated with the new Bark Beetle Regulations.

One of the most important aspects of the new Bark Beetle Regulations is the provision to allow harvesting of bark beetle infested timber to occur, within the limitations of the regulation, without an approved Silviculture Prescription. As described within the regulation, this type of harvesting can only occur within an area covered by an approved exemption.

Aboriginal rights and interests will continue to be assessed through the use of our Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) model and specific information provided by First Nations. Furthermore, I will only consider issuing an exemption for harvesting activities that I believe to be a low potential for infringement on aboriginal rights and interests. Therefore, I encourage you to continue to provide the forest licensees and me with specific information concerning aboriginal interests and values within the Morice Forest district.

I have attached a copy of Bark Beetle regulation to this letter and I urge you to become familiar with them.

Should you have any questions please contact Nick Powell at 845-6200.

Yours truly,

W. J. (Bill) Warner, R. P. F.
District Manager

Pc: Mike Dunbar, Houston Forest Products Company
Tim Smith, Canadian Forest Products Ltd.
Attachment: Bark Beetle Regulations

Ministry of Forests
Morice Forest District
Location:
2430 Butler Avenue
Houston, BC
Mailing Address:
Bag 2000
Houston, BC V0J 1Z0
Tel: (250) 845-6200
Fax: (250) 845-6276

Address1	Title
Cheslatta Carrier Nation Chief Marvin Charlie Box 909 Burns Lake, British Columbia V0J 1E0	Chief Marvin Charlie
Lake Babine Nation Frank Alec Box 879 Burns Lake, British Columbia V0J 1E0	Frank Alec
Skin Tyee People Kate Morin Box 17 Southbank, British Columbia V0J 2P0	Kate Morin
We'suwet'en First Nation Reg Ogen Box 760 Burns Lake, British Columbia V0J 1E0	Reg Ogen
Office of theWet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs Andrew George RR#1, Site 15, Box 56 Moricetown, British Columbia V0J 2NO	Andrew George
Nee Tahi-Buhn Band Chief Raymond Morris RR#2, Site 7, Comp 56 Burns Lake, British Columbia V0J 1Z0	Chief Raymond Morris

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

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Ministry of Forests Lakes Forest District
Location: 185 Yellowhead Hwy
Mailing Address: Bag 3500 Stn Prov Govt Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Tel: (250) 692-2200
Fax: (250) 692-7461

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 Manager 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,

Mark Vieweg
A/District Manager
Lakes Forest District