

Ministry of Environment
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship
4th floor, 3211 Albert Street
Regina, Canada S4S 5W6
Phone: 306-787-6132

March 4, 2022

Jennifer Dallaire
Project Manager, Prairie & Northern Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Canada Place, Suite 1145, 9700 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5J 4C3

Dear Jennifer Dallaire:

RE: Request for Provincial Input Regarding a Designation Request for the Proposed La Ronge Area Peat Harvest Project under the *Impact Assessment Act*

Thank you for your letter dated January 21, 2022, seeking provincial input regarding a designation request for the Lambert Peat Moss Inc. (Lambert) La Ronge Area Peat Harvest Project (the project), under Section 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). The following information and attachments are provided in response to your request.

Provincial Environmental Impact Assessment

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ministry) Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch received an application on December 6, 2018 requesting approval under section 15 of *The Environmental Assessment Act*. Lambert self-declared the project a “development” and is therefore required to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and submit findings in an environmental impact statement (EIS). Public notice of the EIA was provided in February 2019, pursuant to section 10 of the Act.

The project has potential adverse impacts on the exercise of Treaty and Aboriginal rights to hunt, fish, and trap for food, and carry out traditional uses and therefore triggers the duty to consult and accommodate. The Government of Saskatchewan *First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework* establishes the province’s policy on consultation with First Nations and Métis communities.

Lambert has been assigned procedural aspects of consultation as part of the EIA, including: informing communities about the project; arranging meetings; collecting information to understand the communities’ use of the land and the specific potential adverse impacts of the project on the communities’ ability to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal rights; and, working with the communities to determine appropriate accommodation to mitigate impacts to rights.

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To date, the EIS has not been submitted for review. Once submitted, it will undergo technical review by subject matter experts from across the Government of Saskatchewan (GOS). Any deficiencies noted by reviewers will be addressed prior to its acceptance. After the EIS is accepted as final, the document and a summary of the technical review comments received will be released for a 30 – 60-day public review. Concurrent with the public review, First Nations and Métis communities will also be provided an opportunity to review the EIS and provide comments to the ministry. The EIS, technical review and public, First Nations and Métis community comments received will be considered by the Minister of Environment (the Minister) when deciding to approve or refuse the project.

In addition to the EIA process in Saskatchewan, there is an extensive provincial regulatory framework that would provide oversight through all phases of the project, further details of which are included in the attachments. Impacts of the project can be effectively assessed, and appropriately managed under existing provincial legislation and regulation, as such designation of the project under IAA is not warranted.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Brady Pollock
Executive Director, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment

cc: Wes Kotyk, Environmental Protection Division, Ministry of Environment
Brienne England, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment
Steve Wilkie, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment

Attachments:

- 1) Provincial Advice Record - ENV
- 2) Provincial Advice Record - Water Security Agency