

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROPONENT:** MR. J. BERT SMITH, P.ENG.  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** FPM PEAT MOSS CO. LTD.  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** MINING – PEAT HARVESTING & PROCESSING OPERATIONS  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 5274.00

### **OVERVIEW:**

On June 19, 2007, Manitoba Conservation received a Proposal dated June 15, 2007, from FPM Peat Moss Co. Ltd. for the construction/installation, operation and eventual restoration of a peat mining Development at Sprague Lake Bog, Caribou Southwest Bog and Northwest Angle Bog. The Sprague Lake Bog Quarry Lease 1286 is 265.69 ha in size and located in portions of Sections 21, 22 and 27 Township 4, Range 16E. The Caribou Southwest Bog Quarry Leases 1117-1120 are 738 ha in size and located in Sections 13, 14, 23 and 24 Township 5, Range 15E and Sections 18 and 19 Township 15, Range 16E. The Northwest Angle Bog Quarry Leases 1288, 1893 and 1894 are 622.7 ha in size and located in portions of Sections 19, 20, 29, 30 and 31 Township 4, Range 16E all in the Unorganized Division No. 1 of Manitoba. The Development includes construction of access roads, on-site facilities, on-site stockpiling area, drainage ditches and improvements to off-site drainage controls. The peat mining operation is proposed to operate until 2031 on an April to November seasonal basis.

No public concern was received in response to the advertisement of this proposal in the Steinbach Carillon published on Thursday, June 28, 2007. The proposal was placed in the Public Registries at the Millennium Public Library, the Manitoba Eco-Network, Jake Epp Public Library (Steinbach), the R.M. of Reynolds' Office and the Conservation Library (Main). The proposal was distributed to TAC on June 25, 2007, with the closing date for TAC and Public comments on July 27, 2007.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

No public responses were received.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency** state that based on their staff survey, application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with respect to this proposal

is not required. Fisheries and Oceans state they will provide a letter of advice with respect to two proposed culvert crossings.

**Sustainable Resource Management** state that approval for this mine may be subject to the Crown Land Act allocation. They have concerns that fuel is properly stored on-site and that a proposed ecological reserve (several kilometers to the east) existing hydrology and drainage patterns are not altered. They request consideration be given to having the peat industry fund and establish long term monitoring of depleted peat mining operations in southeastern Manitoba to evaluate the applicability of industry restoration techniques. They state the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre database is not definitive for all areas of the province for rare or endangered species and it is the proponent's responsibility to inspect the project area to determine if rare or endangered species may be impacted. If species of concern are present, they must be reported to the Biodiversity Conservation Section of the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch. This branch also requests final reports of vegetation and wildlife surveys as each area is phased-in prior to any disturbance. They also have concerns that no migratory birds are harmed or nests destroyed. They support the mine closure plan and process as outlined and suggest that donor material from intended mining areas be used for closure reclamation. This includes re-establishing plants and mosses and monitoring to the species level.

**Disposition:**

The comments and concerns were provided to the proponent for response. The proponent supplied additional information responding to concerns and questions. The concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

**Historic Resources Branch** has reviewed the proposal and has no concerns with regard to this project's potential to impact heritage resources.

**Mines Branch** state they have reviewed the proposal and have no concerns.

**Water Stewardship** state they have specific concerns regarding the effects of peak flow and volumes emanating from the site once in operation. They request some hydrologic calculations to address their concerns. They also state that the Whitemouth River has a unique fish community and increased drainage and runoff could carry more sediment and pollutants. They request that monitoring surface water flows be required to determine what effects these activities have on the hydrograph. Other concerns include waste disposal; surface drainage patterns to avoid the Shoal Lake Watershed and meeting the Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines for metal concentrations including aluminum, nickel and lead. Water Quality request to be part of the consultation regarding surface water sampling and design and request a Microsoft Excel compatible electronic copy of water quality results annually.

Disposition

Concerns and requests have been supplied to the proponent for response. Additional information was supplied by the proponent. Concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

**Infrastructure & Transportation** state that permits from MIT will be required for accesses onto provincial roads and agreement on culvert installation. They also request projected truck traffic. Provincial road 308 is subject to B1 loading.

Disposition

The information has been supplied to the proponent for information and response. Concerns are addressed in the draft licence

**Science, Technology, Energy & Mines** state that prior to development and construction can commence, a Closure Plan must be submitted to Mines along with a financial security.

Disposition

The information has been supplied to the proponent.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

No public hearing will be conducted.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

TAC concerns are addressed in the draft licence.

The responsibility for enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the responsible region.

A draft Environment Act Licence is attached for the Director's consideration.

PREPARED BY:

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August 24 , 2007

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