

Québec, November 24, 2011

TRANSLATION

Mr. Clément Gignac
Minister
Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune
880, chemin Sainte-Foy, 10^e étage
Québec, QC G1S 4X4

Re: Follow-up on the advice requests on the modifications to the forest management plans of forest management units 086-65 and 086-64

Dear Minister Gignac:

Further to the October 25 and 26 Board meeting, this is to follow up on the requests for Board advice on the proposed modifications to the general forest management plans (GFMP) of forest management units (FMUs) 086-65 and 086-64 of the Territory of the *Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Cree of Québec*.

On December 17, 2010, the Board transmitted to your predecessor, Mrs. Normandeau, an advice concerning the modifications presented to the GFMP of forest management unit 086-65. The Board had then recommended approval of the proposed modifications in the south section of the FMU and, considering the issues identified during the analysis, had asked for postponement of its advice on the modifications regarding the three traplines located north of the FMU (W-4, W-5c et W-6), postponement Mrs. Normandeau granted on February 2nd, 2011.

The postponement requested aimed at allowing members to take proper consideration, with all necessary information gathered, of the issues stemming from the analysis of the modifications presented affecting the woodland caribou as well as that of the road infrastructures project having to be subjected to the results of the evaluation of environmental and social impacts.

On June 10, 2011, a new request for advice on modifications presented to the GFMP of FMU 086-64, adjacent to FMU 086-65, was transmitted to the Board. The analysis carried out also revealed the need to consider the proposed modifications with relation to the potential presence of the woodland caribou in the areas affected by the modifications.

The *Agreement* setting out that the Board has 90 days to submit its comments to you prior to approval of the plan, but being unable to bring said file to the attention of the members within this time frame, last September 9, I wrote you asking for an extension in order to allow Board members to address the file at the following Board meeting.

This Board meeting was held on October 25, 2011. Mr. Guy Héту, Director General of Nord-du-Québec, informed Board members that the parties signatory to the *Agreement* had recently agreed to give an expert committee the mandate of taking stock of the situation of the woodland caribou in the Territory of the *Agreement* and to make appropriate recommendations to the parties. A mid-mandate report is expected at the end of January while the final report should be available at the end of March 2012.

After discussing the operational considerations related to the proposed GFMP modifications for FMUs 086-65 and 086-64 and after having been informed of the mandate given to the experts, the members agreed that, in order to have the best information possible regarding the woodland caribou issue, which is of strategic relevance, it is desirable for the Board to wait for the experts' report before drawing up an advice on these modifications.

Moreover, it seems important here to note that since the tabling of the modifications to these two GFMPs, the communities of Nemaska and Waswanipi have each tabled before the ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, a protected area project whose territory partially overlaps the areas concerned by the modifications. Considering the sustainable development framework of the implementation of the *Agreement*, the Board considers important to include this new input into its analysis.

Thus, in order to respond to your advice requests, members agreed on the following two decisions:

1. Considering the discussions that have taken place on the proposed amendments to the GFMP of FMU 086-64, members will continue their discussion on this file at the February meeting.
2. At the latest following the tabling of the experts' final report on woodland caribou, the Board commits to provide you, without further delay, with an

advice on the proposed modifications to the GFMPs of FMUs 086-65 and 086-64, in the light of the new information then available.

Finally, in the framework of the discussions on the modifications presented to the GFMPs of FMU 086-65, a ministère representative has drawn the attention of the members of the Board to an operational problem stemming from the Board's December 10, 2010 advice. The Board has been informed that postponement of its advice on the modifications affecting trapline W04 of the FMU prevented northern access to the areas where forest activities have been approved in trapline W04A. On the basis of the information exchanged and in order to allow access from the north to trapline W04A,

- Board members recommend you approve the building of the 1,5 km road stretch shown on the attached map.

Please be assured, Minister Gignac, of our full cooperation.

The Chairman of the Board,

Albin Tremblay

UAF/ FMU 086-65

Localisation du tronçon de 1,5 km permettant l'accès par le nord à l'aire de trappe W04A

Location of the 1,5 km stretch allowing access from the north, to the trapline W04A

Légende

- Permanents
- Intermitents
- Barrage de castor
- PAIF_08665_20110401_Roads
- Lacs et rivières
- Aire de trappe Cris
- PAIF_08665_20110401_Harvesting
- PAIF_08665_20110401_Harvesting_CMO
- CHEMIN_B04P11_08665**
- <toutes les autres valeurs>
- INTERV_1**
- Construction
- Amélioration

