Environment Minister Kevin Aylward has announced the following events relative to the Environmental Assessment Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL PREVIEW REPORT RECEIVED:

Avondale Automobile Drag Racing  
Proponent: Mr. Bernard Hickey (Newfoundland Stock Car Association)

As a result of the Minister’s decision on May 25, 2001 the proponent was required to submit an Environmental Preview Report (EPR) for the proposed Avondale automobile drag racing facility. The EPR was required to address issues such as recreational use of the area, noise pollution and potential effects upon the Avondale River. Guidelines for preparation of the EPR were issued on July 13, 2001. The EPR was received on April 9, 2002; public comments are due on May 14, 2002, and the Minister's decision is due on May 24, 2002.

For a copy of the EPR or further information on this undertaking contact John Eason, Chairperson of the Environmental Assessment Committee at 729-5706 or e-mail jeason@mail.gov.nf.ca.

UNDEARTAKINGS RELEASED:

Milan Arm Region Cottage Access Road  
Proponent: Mr. Wallace Green

Abitibi-Consolidated District 12 Five Year Forest Operating Plan, Jan 2002 to Dec 2002 (Amendment)  
Proponent: Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods (Land Transfer Agreement to Crown)

The Minister has released the undertaking from further environmental assessment subject to the conditions that:
1. Additional employment information needed by the Women's Policy Office be supplied, including analysis of available employment data by gender for contracts and subcontracts. Specific initiatives and targets to address the need to increase the level of participation of women should be identified. The Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods must submit an employment monitoring report on an
annual basis, including collection of employment statistics by gender in order to track progress on participation of women and to implement adjustment strategies if employment targets are not being met.

2. Approval must be obtained from the Minister of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation to transport timber over the abandoned railbed.

The Minister encourages all interested parties to become involved and to make comments known. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Director of Environmental Assessment at (709) 729-2562 or toll-free: 1-800-563-6181 or by mail to:

   Director, Environmental Assessment Division
   Department of Environment
   West Block, Confederation Building
   P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NF, A1B 4J6

Environmental Assessment Information is on the Government Web Site at http://www.gov.nf.ca/env