Honourable Charlene Johnson, Minister of Environment and Conservation, has announced the following event relative to Part 10 Environmental Assessment of the Environmental Protection Act.

COMPONENT STUDIES (FINAL TEXT) ACCEPTED AS SATISFACTORY:

Newfoundland and Labrador Refinery Project
Proponent: Newfoundland and Labrador Refining Corporation

1.) Air Quality Component Study
2.) Migratory Birds Component Study
3.) Marine Fish and Fish Habitat Component Study
4.) Freshwater Fish and Fish Habitat Component Study
5.) Historic Resources Component Study
6.) Socio-Economic Component Study

On January 2, 2008, all six revised EIS component studies were found to comply with the EIS guidelines and require no further work.

UNDEUTAKINGS RELEASED:

1.) Crown District 19A (Goose Bay) Five Year Forest Operating Plan (2008-12)
   Proponent: Department of Natural Resources

2.) Crown District 17 and 18 (Northern Peninsula) Five Year Forest Operating Plan (2008-12)
   Proponent: Department of Natural Resources

The Minister has released the above project from further environmental assessment subject to the proponent implementing the following conditions:

1. Implement the forest management guidelines for woodland caribou in Districts 17 and 18 in operating areas designated by the Wildlife Division.

2. Consult with the Wildlife Division to implement mitigation measures to the satisfaction of the Minister of Environment and Conservation to protect populations of rare or endangered plants.

3. For the area in the proposed expansion to the Cloud River study area of the Natural Areas System Plan (NASP), known as Horsechops, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to
suspend forest harvesting activities for a minimum of two years while the NASP is being completed. In the remainder of the operating area, including the Tickles area, forest harvesting activities will not proceed until DNR has consulted with local stakeholders and submitted a recommendation within 120 days to the Minister of Environment and Conservation for this portion of the five year operating plan.

4. An annual progress report is to be prepared by the proponent to the satisfaction of the Director of Environmental Assessment and is to be filed for public release by April 1 of each year of the plan beginning in 2008. The report is to demonstrate where environmental protection measures have been implemented for that given year.

3.) Ramea Wind-Hydrogen Diesel Project
Proponent: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (Reg. 1357)

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Director of Environmental Assessment at (709) 729-4211 or toll-free: 1-800-563-6181 or by mail to:

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

Environmental assessment information is on the government web site at http://www.gov.nl.ca/env

-30-

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