

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE
SPECIAL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008 AT 9:00 A.M.**

Present **Council:** Mayor Anderson; Councillors Webster, Johnson, Summer, Johansson and Quibell
 Staff: C. Bonnicks, Administrator; and B. Mercereau, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Proposed Cut Blocks by Tembec (6660-20)

421/08

Moved by Councillor Webster and Seconded by Councillor Johansson;
"That Council allow public input during this meeting."

CARRIED

Mr. Braybrook and Mr. Phinney discussed the proposed cut blocks on the Twelve Mile Road. The following information was provided:

- during the spring tour with Council these blocks were shown and discussed with no major concerns being raised at that time;
- the block size has been reduced from 10 to 20 percent from the proposed original size;
- Williston Lake is 75 meters from the cut block which is within the regulated distance required;
- they are aware of the mixed feeling about harvesting in the area;
- there have witnessed the dust storms in the area and do not believe that removing these particular trees will cause more problems;
- it was suggested that Council and the residents on Twelve Mile Road meet with BC Hydro to discuss the impacts the dust from the reservoir is having on them as this issue has more to do with BC Hydro than Tembec;
- a terrain assessment has been completed which outlined that there is a risk of erosion by the water that may cause sloughing of the banks, however this will still occur whether or not the trees are removed;
- they were not aware that the specific area was a wildlife viewing area, as there is no signage or classification on the lands;
- the ribbons along the road mark the area for the contractors to cut;
- the cut block will be done right up to the road as the company does not buffer roads; however, they do buffer mineral licks and animal dens and will leave patches of trees for animal habitat;
- the current economy has affected sales and the company will decide how production will continue dependant on market conditions;
- the stewardship program had asked communities to outline areas of concern and Hudson's Hope should forward an updated map with areas of concerns because at this time Tembec is only aware of a few areas of concern that Council has already outlined;
- in the past, areas for cut blocks have been chosen where no one could see the cutting but now to balance out these areas it is necessary to cut closer to homes and roads; and
- Council receives a copy of the proposed areas for upcoming proposed blocks annually.

The representatives from the Ministry of Forests provided the following information:

- there are a number of processes that a company must go through prior to receiving a permit;
- the cutting permit for these particular blocks on Twelve Mile Road are currently under review;
- prior to issuing a cutting permit the Ministry will look at the plans, the terrain stability

assessment, the visual quality objectives and then if everything is done to their standards the permit will be issued;

- they have made it a requirement for these cut blocks that LP and Tembec complete studies on erosion and dust issues;
- the licensing is based on volume; and
- the Ministry of Forests has not been in contact with BC Hydro regarding the back stability issues in this area due to the Williston Lake Reservoir.

Members of the Council and the public noted the following:

- the area is an animal habitat and a wildlife corridor;
- although the area is not protected the residents previously had an agreement with LP that they would not cut in the area;
- requested that Tembec look at a different area within the District to cut;
- this area is a resettlement area for people who were displaced by the construction of the WAC Bennett Dam and this area should be preserved for those people who have already been displaced;
- the cumulative impacts of all the industries needs to be considered;
- questioned whether the economic situation would cause Tembec to lower production and perhaps remove this area from their permit because of that;
- need to consider that this is a recreational area and that many tourists travel this road to access the two lodges;
- safety on the road needs to be considered when the dust storms do occur;
- the wildlife will most likely still come to this area, the current plan allows the trees to grow back and the dust issues will not increase due to this cut block;
- suggested that in the future the public be made more aware of the proposed cut blocks by published an information advertisement in the local Bulletin; and
- BC Hydro staff will investigate sloughing and dust issues and report back to Council with more information.

ADJOURNMENT

422/08

Moved by Councillor Johnson and Seconded by Councillor Quibell;
"That this special meeting of the Council be adjourned." (10:25 am)

Certified Correct:

Clerk

Mayor