



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Regional Director General
200 - 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6C 3S4

Région du Pacifique
Pièce 200 - 401 rue Burrard
Vancouver (C.-B.)
V6C 3S4

Your file *Votre référence*

MAY 10 2016

Our file *Notre référence*
16-HAPC-00494

Brian Houle, Manager, Environment
Catalyst Paper Corporation
Crofton Division
Box 70
8541 Hay Road
Crofton, BC V0R 1R0

Dear Mr. Houle:

Subject: ***Fisheries Act Authorization (Emergency Circumstances)***

Pursuant to paragraph 35(2)(b) of the *Fisheries Act*, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada authorizes the carrying on of your proposed work, undertaking or activity that results in serious harm to fish arising from proposed decreases to minimum flows in the Cowichan River. A paragraph 35(2)(b) *Fisheries Act* authorization (the Authorization) issued to Catalyst Paper Corporation (Catalyst Paper) is attached.

Failure to comply with any of the terms or conditions of the attached Authorization may lead to prosecution under the *Fisheries Act*.

A copy of this Authorization should be kept on site while the work is in progress and upon request be provided to relevant federal or provincial officials. Work crews should be familiar with, and able to adhere to, the conditions.

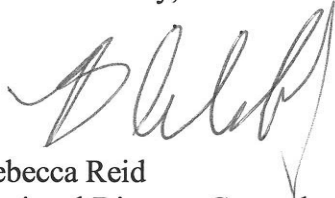
Please note that the Authorization is valid until November 1, 2016. Also note that the Request for Review that you submitted earlier this year is being considered by FPP to be a proposal to reduce current minimum flows for next and future years. This Request for Review is currently under review by FPP and, subject to Catalyst Paper providing the information requested, FPP will endeavour to complete its review well in advance of spring 2017.

While the Authorization authorizes specified minimum flows until November 1, 2016, it is recommended that Catalyst Paper continue to work with stakeholders with a view to maintaining Cowichan River flows above the specified minimums while striving to store and ration water in Cowichan Lake in order to allow maintain lake discharge into the Cowichan River until lake levels increase in the fall.

Canada

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Naito by phone at 604-790-4260 or by email at brian.naito@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Reid', written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Reid
Regional Director General

ATTACHMENT: AUTHORIZATION

cc: T. Rutherford, DFO
S. Baillie, DFO
L. Brown, DFO