# REGENCY CONSULTANTS LTD.

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Principal

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To Whom It May Concern:

## 1.0 Introduction

Mr. Terry Hall of Surelog Homes Ltd. has asked me to prepare a report on the status of his log building enterprise on land within the Agricultural Land Reserve. This report should meet the requirement of the Commission as outlined in its Decision Letter of October 5, 1998.

Mr. Hall's use of the land remains temporary as he is continuing to seek a site that will meet the following criteria:

- Location west of Tappen to allow for access by his workers, many of whom live on the north shore of Shuswap Lake.
- Direct entry to the Trans Canada Highway so that road restrictions will not impair spring shipments of containerized log homes for export to Japan.
- Access to utilities, avoidance of land use conflicts.

He believes he has found such a site and is currently in discussions with the Ministry of Transportation regarding an off highway access road. Part of the property is within the Agricultural Land Reserve. Mitigative measures are being developed that will form part of a later application to the Commission. I have been retained to provide my opinion on his plans since April, 2006.

Given these issues, he has been unable to leave his current site but remains optimistic that he will be able to do so.

#### 2.0 Current Conditions

The operations of Surelog Homes Ltd. are located in a gravel pit on part of the SW <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 34, Township 21, Range 10 W6M, KDYD, EXCEPT Plans B3299, 5599, 9944, 13675, 14816, KAP53820. The site is on a side hill with a corn field lying below and gravel extraction proposed above the site.

I could find no evidence of conflict between the log home building enterprise and the farming activities below it. The owner of the land, Trevor Schaafsma, during our discussions, verified that lack of conflict to me.

Photograph 1 illustrates the location of the enterprise.

According to Mr. Hall, no preservatives have been used in the log home construction save for some occasional use of bleach.



Photograph 1: Site of Sure Log Homes Operation

## 3.0 Reclamation Proposal

The site is gravely and contains little organic matter as illustrated in Photograph 2. Nevertheless, the topsoil has been stockpiled and is available for replacement once the log home operation has left. I recommend that the terracing that currently exists in the gravel pit be continued and the topsoil be replaced over the levelled terraces.

The sawdust and wood chip piles will be removed.

A seed mixture containing not less than 50% alfalfa (by weight), plus a mixture of wheat grasses and bromegrasses should be sown. I recommend application of 100 pounds of actual nitrogen, 60 pounds of actual phosphorous, and 60 pounds of actual potassium be applied at the time of seeding. The additional nitrogen should restore the carbon: nitrogen ratio that will be tilted from the inevitable deposit of wood chips and sawdust on the site.

I have been retained to supervise the reclamation of the site after the operations can be relocated.



Photograph 2: Soil Profile of Site

## 4.0 Conclusion

Following my inspection of the property, I can find no evidence of conflict between the current non farm use and the adjacent farming operations. There is nothing in the operations that, in my opinion, will preclude successful reclamation of the site following relocation.

In summary, I see no effect on agriculture from continuation of this non farm use of the property.

Respectfully submitted,

R.G. (Bob) Holtby, P.Ag.