Supply Base Report:
BIOMASSE DU LAC TAUREAU

Third Surveillance Audit

www.sbp-cert.org

Completed in accordance with the Supply Base Report Template Version 1.5

For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see www.sbp-cert.org

Document history

Version 1.0: published 26 March 2015

Version 1.1 published 22 February 2016

Version 1.2 published 23 June 2016

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Contents

1 Overview

Producer name: BIOMASSE DU LAC TAUREAU

Producer address: 870, 0141 St-Michel-des-Saints, Canada

SBP Certificate Code: SBP-08-28

Geographic position: 46.732687, -73.967070

Primary contact: Yves Crits, +1 514 291 7254,yves.crits@bdlt.ca

Company website: N/A

Date report finalised: 22 Dec 2023

Close of last CB audit: 27 Oct 2023

Name of CB: Preferred by Nature OÜ

SBP Standard(s) used: SBP Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock, SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody, SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data Instruction, Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon Data 1.5, SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance Standard

Weblink to Standard(s) used: https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/standards

SBP Endorsed Regional Risk Assessment: Quebec, Canada

Weblink to SBR on Company website: N/A

Indicate how the current evaluation fits within the cycle of Supply Base Evaluations					
Main (Initial) Evaluation	**First Surveillance**	**Second Surveillance**	**Third Surveillance**	**Fourth Surveillance**	**Re-assessment**
☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

2 Description of the Supply Base

2.1 General description

Feedstock types: Primary, Secondary

Includes Supply Base evaluation (SBE): Yes

Includes REDII: Yes

Includes REDII SBE: Yes

Feedstock origin (countries): Canada, United States

2.2 Description of countries included in the Supply Base

Country: Canada

Area/Region: Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick

Sub-Scope: N/A

Exclusions: No

Biomasse du Lac Taureau (BDLT) is a pellet mill located in St-Michel-des-Saints, 100 km North of Joliette in the Lanaudière region, Province of Québec, Canada (see figure 1). The table below provides statistics of the forest primary wood industry in Quebec and Lanaudière.

Type of mill	Province of Québec	Total Jobs – primary mills	Lanaudière
Pulp & paper	22	8066	
Sawmills	169	9000	8
Veneer and plywood	10	5298	
Particle boards and OSB	11		
Turned and shaped wood	4	12789	
Cogeneration and pellets	37	1	

Ref. : Ressources et industries forestières du Québec - Portrait Statistique 2020 (MFFP)

The supply base includes the following WWF Ecoregions: the Eastern Boreal Transition Forests, the Eastern Great Lakes Lowland Forests, the New England/Acadian Forests, the Eastern Canadian Forests and the Gulf of St-Lawrence Lowland Forests. In terms of biomes, we find a small proportion of boreal forest in Quebec and New Brunswick. The remainder are considered mixed forests of hardwood and softwood tree species. Most common trees are Balsam Fir, spruces, maples, aspens, larches, hemlock, oaks, ashes, willows, etc.

The extent of the supply base to the West includes only the south eastern part of the province of Ontario. Wood supply from the province of Quebec is mostly in the meridional regions going as far as the Côte-Nord region to the North East and the Gaspé peninsula to the East. This is where the boreal biome is found accounting for 13% of the total supply base of the biomass producer. Wood supply origin is from anywhere in the province of New Brunswick.

The total Supply Base in Quebec is estimated at 104,638 km2 including land and water bodies. Of this total, 12,155 km2 of land are legally protected. Tenure is almost evenly split 50-50. Private land area was estimated based on those neighboring public land included in the Supply Base and proximity to a secondary feedstock supplier located on the south shore of the St-Lawrence River. Finally, tertiary feedstock is sourced from a mill located in the province of New Brunswick as FSC certified.

All feedstock sourced from the province of Quebec is covered by the SBP Regional Risk Assessment for the province of Québec. A significant proportion of primary feedstock from public lands can be delivered with either an FSC or SFI claim. Forest management units (FMU) on public land part of BDLT supply base are all certified with the exception of FMU 61-51 which is not certified and FMU 64-52 with partial certification. Product feedstock Group - Primary from Canada: More than 97% of this feedstock is composed of hardwood species, mainly of maple (Acer sp.) and of birch (betula papyrifera) and the rest is composed of the remaining hardwood species listed in the section below. The +2% of primary feedstock remaining is composed of white and red pine (Pinus strobus and resinosa) and larch (Larix laricina). This feedstock was actively sourced from 5 MUs during the reporting period. Aside from the government, wood from public land was provided from 9 suppliers. As for private woodlots, primary feedstock is sourced under subcontractor agreements of neighboring municipalities to a mill. This includes municipalities of the Lanaudière and the Mauricie administrative regions. The Supply Base includes additional regions because of their proximity to public FMU. They are the Outaouais and Laurentides regions on the north shore of the St-Lawrence River.

Secondary feedstock is sourced either primarily from FSC certified primary manufacturing mills or through FSC certified brokers (ie. Product feedstock group: secondary from Canada). All Mills (5) are located in the province of Quebec and source a mix of coniferous species SPF (spruce, pine and fir). The forest origins of this feedstock are from Quebec's administrative regions of Outaouais, Laurentides, Lanaudière, Mauricie, Capitale-Nationale, Montérégie, Centre-du-Québec, Estrie, Beauce, Chaudière-Appalaches et Bas-St-Laurent.

Laws, communications and their application are part of the Provincial government responsibilities. Forest management plans and regulation compliance are undertaken by the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks. The overall evaluation of forestry practices on both private and public land is undertaken by an independent officer, the *Forestier en Chef*.

Created in 2005, as a recommendation from the Commission of Studies on the Management of the Public Forest in Quebec (the Coulombe commission), the *Forestier en Chef*'s mission is to determine the annual allowable cut, bring clarifications to the leaders and inform the population on the well-being of the forest. The *Forestier en chef* roles and responsibilities are described by the *Sustainable Forest Development Act* - SFDA.

The SFDA establishes a forest regime designed to:
(1) implement sustainable forest development, in particular through ecosystem-based development;
(2) ensure integrated and regionalized resource and land management based on clear, consistent objectives, measurable results and the accountability of managers and users of the forest;
(3) determine how responsibilities under the forest regime are shared between the Province, regional bodies, Native communities and users of the forest;
(4) follow up and monitor forest operations in the domain of the Province;
(5) govern the sale of timber and other forest products on the open market at a price reflecting their market value, and the supply of timber to wood processing plants;

(6) regulate the development of private forests; and
(7) govern forest protection activities.

The regime implements sustainable forest development which must contribute, in particular to:
(1) the preservation of biological diversity;
(2) the maintenance and improvement of the condition and productivity of forest ecosystems;
(3) the conservation of soil and water;
(4) the maintenance of forest ecosystem contributions to major ecological cycles;
(5) the maintenance of the many socio-economic benefits society derives from forests; and
(6) the consideration, in making development choices, of the values and needs expressed by the populations concerned.

Forests are part of the province's heritage and continue to be a source of pride for all. It provides socio-economic and environmental benefits for local communities and the general population. They are managed in respect of their environmental services, resources and products they generate. They are managed under the *Sustainable forest development Act* (chapter A-18.1) which promotes ecosystem based forest management for the benefit of all users and society as a whole. Forest management takes into account the impact of climate change, the preservation of biodiversity, the protection of land and water ecosystems and the interests, values and needs of First Nation communities.

The *Environment Quality Act*, the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act* and the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species aim, respectively, to protect the environment, to safeguard the character, diversity and integrity of Quebec's natural heritage, and to protect and manage species designated threatened or vulnerable or likely to be so designated as well as their habitats. The MELCC and the MRNF enforce these laws and regulations in the forest territory.

In Ontario and New Brunswick, supply from public forests is mainly from certified lands. In Ontario, all forest management units part of the supply base (4) are certified of which three are FSC and one is CSA (approved by PEFC). During the 5-year period between 1995 and 2020, 2% of the total wood allocation in Ontario was for biomass of which less than half was allocated from forest management units part of the supply base (Report on forest management, Ontario). All but one forest management unit in New Brunswick (License #5) is not certified under any forest certification schemes. In New Brunswick, the total annual allowable cut on Crown land is 5.7Mm3 of which an estimated 1% is allocated to biomass producers. In Quebec, 2.4% of the total volume allocated on public forest is in branches of un-merchantable wood generally for energy production and 2% is for biomass producers (ref. MRNF Supply Guarantee 2018- 2023).

The vulnerable plants and animal species found in the supply base sensitive to forest operations are the American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). Best management practices and regulations are implemented to mitigate the risk of forest operations on these species. The American elm (*Ulmus Americana*), White ash (*Fraxinus americana*) are listed as endangered by the UICN but neither by federal and provincial governments nor by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). According to the IUCN, threats to White Ash and American elm are from invasive non-native/alien species/diseases and not related to forestry practices. These species are found in the southern part of the supply base in mixed stands and can be harvested although they are usually of non commercial dimensions.

Country: United States

Area/Region: New England States (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island)

Sub-Scope: N/A

Exclusions: No

Raw material originating from the USA is only secondary feedstock sourced through brokers and mills located in Quebec. This fibre was used solely as biofuel and not in pellets manufacturing. Sub suppliers are located in Southern Quebec not far from the american border.

The supply base was confirmed with the portal woodsupplychain.com and with the documents and information collected from suppliers such as transport tickets and customs forms. Wood fibre sourced from the United States is from New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Maine. State forests in New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts have dual forest management certifications under FSC and SFI. Certified forests on private land are found in all eight states part of the supply base. The vegetation biome is mixed softwood and hardwood forests. There is a greater diversity and quality of tree species in this part of the supply base (e.g. maples, oaks, walnuts, birches, poplars, pines, spruces).

Feedstock include hardwood chips and sawdust from one supplier (species Maple (Acer sp.), Yellow Birch (Betula alleghaniensis), Oak (Quercus sp.), Ash (Fraxinus sp.). Two suppliers delivered softwood of by-products (chips, sawdust) of Spruce (Picea sp.), Pine (Pinus sp.) and Fir (Abies balsamea).

STATES	TIMBERLAND AREA	CUBIC FEET OF WOOD IN FOREST	PROTECTED LANDS[1]
Maine	Stable since 1960	+5.8% increase from 2010	11%
New Hampshire (2012)	Loss of 1.5%	+1.8% since 2012	25%
Vermont (2012)	Loss of 1.9%	+1% increase since 2012	15%
New York (2014)	Loss of 1.6%	-	13%
Massachusetts (2012)	Stable	+5.5% increase	15%
Rhode Island (2017)	+ 0.8%	+6.4% increase	9%
Connecticut (2017)	+ 2.9%	+6.7% increase	8%

[1] Gap classes 1, 2 and 3 (https://usforests.maps.arcgis.com/)

National Forests are managed by the US Forest Service. State Forests and other woodlands are managed under state legislation. Wood harvests in all states is marketed mainly for pulpwood and sawlogs. Biomass is part of the landscape for over 20 years and some cases represent more than 25% of total products harvested.

In Maine, the forest sector generates 8.5$ billion and represent 27% of the state's total exports. In New Hampshire, the forest industry and recreation generate 3.8$ billion to the economy. In Vermont, the forest sector maintains more than direct 10,000 jobs with an annual output in the economy of 1.5$ billion. In New York, more than 41,000 direct jobs and generates more than 13.1$ billion in direct output in the economy. In Pennsylvania, 10% of the state's total workforce is from the forest industry. More than 12,000 jobs comes directly from the forest industry in Connecticut with 3.3$ billion output in the economy.
In Massachusetts, it is more than 26,000 jobs and over 5.2$ billion economic output. With a small forest land base, Rhode Island still generates close to 5,000 jobs and over 1$ billion in the economy.

There are several species at risk found in the North East region of the United States for example the Northern long-eared and Indiana bats, the spotted and spiny soft-shell turtles, the common five-lined skink, the timber rattlesnake, the American ginseng and small whorled pogonia. A low risk designation for species

at risk in the region has been determined by the FSC US National Risk Assessment version 1.0. There are no CITES (https://checklist.cites.org/) nor IUCN (https://www.iucnredlist.org/) listed species part of the supply base.

2.3 Actions taken to promote certification amongst feedstock supplier

Forest certification in Quebec is the norm on public land and in the forest sector. Certification of forest management practices and chain of custody is widespread in the province and in the supply region of BDLT. This guarantees consumers forest products are certified and practices verified by a third-party. BLDT requires suppliers to deliver feedstock with proper documentation demonstrating proof of origin and certification status when possible.

2.4 Quantification of the Supply Base

Supply Base

a. **Total Supply Base area (million ha)**: 51.08
b. **Tenure by type (million ha):**23.11 (Public), 27.97 (Privately owned)
c. **Forest by type (million ha):**2.01 (Boreal), 49.07 (Temperate)
d. **Forest by management type (million ha):**52.08 (Managed natural)
e. **Certified forest by scheme (million ha):**16.84 (FSC), 27.21 (SFI)

Describe the harvesting type which best describes how your material is sourced: Mix of the above
Explanation: Harvesting mimic natural disturbance patterns and intensity. Clearcuts are more common in the boreal forest where natural disturbances can impact forests at a landscape level. Forest management is based on ecosystem based management and integrated in the Quebec Forest Act. In the mixed hardwood forests of the southern part of the supply base in Quebec, harvest areas are on average smaller in size and where selective cutting is more common practice. This is because natural disturbances are smaller in size in terms of patches or groups of trees. Stand composition is also more diverse in terms of species and structure.
Was the forest in the Supply Base managed for a purpose other than for energy markets? Yes - Majority
Explanation: Timber volume allocation is publicly available by forest administrative regions. - Only 25% of the total volume allocation is made available to the open market (bmmb.gouv.qc.ca). Since the volume are attributed to the highest bidder, biomass producers are not targeted end users of this process. - Five year timber volume allocation - There are currently marginal punctual allocation for biomass producers. Feedstock of BDLT represent approximately 8% of the volume allocated on public forests part of its supply base (Allocated volumes for forest management units on public land in regions of Lanaudière, Laurentides, Outaouais - https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/les-droits-consentis/la-garantie-dapprovisionnement-ga/droits-forestiers-application-garanties-dapprovisionnement-ga/).

For the forests in the Supply Base, is there an intention to retain, restock or encourage natural regeneration within 5 years of felling? Yes - Majority
Explanation: Forest management legislation in Canada on both public and private land require sites to remain productive and regenerated within 5 years of felling

Was the feedstock used in the biomass removed from a forest as part of a pest/disease control measure or a salvage operation? Yes - Minority
Explanation: Natural disturbances occur at various scales, intensities and time frames across the supply base. It is not uncommon to find large areas in the boreal forest impacted by fires, pest outbreaks or wind-throws. Salvage logging is prescribed when possible depending on accessibility and the rate at which the timber can be harvested. Not all affected stands are salvaged and for multiple reasons such as for conservation objectives and accessibility or lack thereof. Generally, salvage logging should occur within 2 years of the disturbance for the mills to be able to process the logs. In mixed-hardwood forests, large wind-throw areas do occur but are less common than large disturbances found in the boreal forest. This is why salvage logging in this part of the supply base is extraordinary.

What is the estimated amount of REDII-compliant sustainable feedstock that could be harvested annually in a Supply Base (estimated): 400000.00 tonnes
Explanation: The legal framework, implementation and monitoring are well documented. The region's currently offers primary and secondary feedstock opportunities for manufacturing facilities.

Feedstock

Reporting period from: 01 Aug 2022

Reporting period to: 31 Jul 2023

a. **Total volume of Feedstock**: 200,000-400,000 tonnes
b. **Volume of primary feedstoc**k: 1-200,000 tonnes
c. **List percentage of primary feedstock, by the following categories.**
    - Certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 80% - 100%
    - Not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 1% - 19%
d. **List of all the species in primary feedstock, including scientific name:** Picea mariana (Black Spruce); Larix laricina (Larch); Fagus grandifolia (Beech); Acer saccharum (Sugar Maple); Acer saccharinum (Red Maple); Betula alleghaniensis (yellow birch); Betula papyrifera (White Birch); Populus balsamifera (Balsam Poplar); Tilia americana (American Basswood); Picea glauca (White Spruce); Abies balsamea (Balsam Fir); Pinus resinosa (Red Pine); Pinus banksiana (Jack Pine); Pinus strobus (White Pine);
e. **Is any of the feedstock used likely to have come from protected or threatened species?** No
    - Name of species: N/A
    - Biomass proportion, by weight, that is likely to be composed of that species (%):
f. **Hardwood (i.e. broadleaf trees): specify proportion of biomass from (%):** 90.00
g. **Softwood (i.e. coniferous trees): specify proportion of biomass from (%):** 10.00
h. **Proportion of biomass composed of or derived from saw logs (%):** 0
i. **Specify the local regulations or industry standards that define saw logs:** A hardwood sawlog must have a diameter of at least 24cm at breast height. ref. Classification des tiges d'esences feuillues, Normes techniques, MFFP (Feb. 2022)
j. **Roundwood from final fellings from forests with > 40 yr rotation times - Average % volume of fellings delivered to BP (%):** 100.00
k. **Volume of primary feedstock from primary forest:** 0 N/A
l. **List percentage of primary feedstock from primary forest, by the following categories. Subdivide by SBP-approved Forest Management Schemes**:
    - Primary feedstock from primary forest certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: N/A

- Primary feedstock from primary forest not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: N/A

m. Volume of secondary feedstock: 1-200,000 tonnes

- Physical form of the feedstock: Chips, Sawdust

n. Volume of tertiary feedstock: 0 N/A

- Physical form of the feedstock:

o. **Estimated amount of REDII-compliant sustainable feedstock that could be collected annually by the BP:** 250000.00tonnes

Proportion of feedstock sourced per type of claim during the reporting period				
Feedstock type	**Sourced by using Supply Base Evaluation (SBE) %**	**FSC %**	**PEFC %**	**SFI %**
Primary	80.00	5.00	0.00	15.00
Secondary	75.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
Tertiary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3 Requirement for a Supply Base Evaluation

Note: Annex 1 is generated by the system if the SBE is used without Region Risk Assessment(s). Annex 2 is generated if RED II SBE is in the scope.

Is Supply Base Evaluation (SBE) is completed? Yes

The SBE is based on the Quebec SBP RRA. Consultation on mitigation measures was undertaken in 2022 and again in 2023 specifically in regards to REDII compliance.
Is REDII SBE completed? Yes

The Quebec Regional Risk Assessment is used to source SBP Compliant Biomass from the province of Quebec. Feedstock from Ontario and New Brunswick was received as certified FSC Mix. Secondary feedstock generated from mills located in Quebec sourcing primary feedstock from the USA was used only as biofuel.
REDII SBE was completed for primary feedstocks sourced from forests in the province of Quebec and used in the production of pellets.

4 Supply Base Evaluation

Note: Annex 2 is generated if RED II is in the scope.

4.1 Scope

Feedstock types included in SBE: Primary, Secondary

SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: Quebec, Canada

List of countries and regions included in the SBE:

Country: Canada

Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:
1.6.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is not sourced from areas where there are violations of traditional or civil rights.

Specific risk description:
Some First Nations, such the Abenaki in southern Quebec and the Mi'kmaq in the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie regions, have signed agreements that recognize their hunting and fishing rights on private land. According to a representative of the Waban-Aki Nation, implementation of this type of agreement in private forests presents challenges for First Nations. Organizations must ensure forest harvesting do not violate such publicly known agreements and claims of the First Nations on private forests.

Country: Canada

Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:
2.2.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimise them.

Specific risk description:
Private forests without development assistance:
Forest activities which do not benefit from the Programme de mise en valeur are not subject to professional foresters (ingénieur forestier) assistance and may prove difficult to demonstrate conformance with indicator.

Country: Canada

Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:
2.1.2 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to identify and address potential threats to forests and other areas with high conservation values from forest management activities.

Specific risk description:
Private forests without development assistance:

Forest activities which do not benefit from the Programme de mise en valeur are not subject to professional foresters (ingénieur forestier) assistance and may prove difficult to demonstrate conformance with indicator.

Country: Canada

Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:
2.2.4 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).

Specific risk description:

Private forests without development assistance:
There is a specified risk that forest practices in these forests will not ensure protection and maintenance of biodiversity. Municipalities or RCMs may have by-laws governing such practices, but such by-laws are specific to each as are the resources deployed to check compliance by forest owners.

Country: Canada

Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:
2.2.5 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems.

Specific risk description:

Research on forest biomass management for ongoing Canadian Forest Service projects focuses on forest biomass harvesting, including soil fertility mapping, site sensitivity to harvesting, and development and validation of indicators of site sensitivity to biomass harvesting. The integration of new requirements to minimize the impacts of the five main issues of forest biomass harvesting into harvesting prescriptions and activities is incomplete.

Country: Canada

Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:
2.2.6 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that negative impacts on ground water, surface water and water downstream from forest management are minimised (CPET S5b).

Specific risk description:

Private forests without development assistance:
Forest activities which do not benefit from the Programme de mise en valeur are not subject to professional foresters (ingénieur forestier) assistance and may prove difficult to demonstrate conformance with this indicator.

Country: Canada

Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:
2.1.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation value in the Supply Base are identified and mapped.

Specific risk description:

Private forests without development assistance:
Forest activities which do not benefit from the Programme de mise en valeur are not subject to professional foresters (ingénieur forestier) assistance and may prove difficult to demonstrate conformance with

indicator.

Country: Canada

Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:
2.2.2 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is sourced from forests where management maintains or improves soil quality (CPET S5b)

Specific risk description:
Specified risk in private forests to the extent that monitoring mechanisms need to be identified and, in the case of work not carried out under the program, the identification of possible impacts and the requisite planning are uncertain.

4.2 Justification

BDLT implements findings of the SBP approved RRA for the province of Quebec for their supply sourced from the province. A certain proportion of forests and suppliers are not certified under recognized certification program. BDLT decided to modify the scope of its certificate to include the RRA and have access to a greater quantity of SBP Compliant feedstock.

4.3 Results of risk assessment and Supplier Verification Programme

The SBE refers to the results of the RRA which defined seven specified risks and no undetermined risks.

Field visits are undertaken of a sample of forest origins to validate compliance of forest harvesting and indicators with RRA Qc specified risks and REDII forest management indicators.

4.4 Conclusion

The SBE refers to the results and conclusions of the RRA.

5 Supply Base Evaluation process

See SBP Approved RRA Quebec.

6 Stakeholder consultation

See SBP Approved RRA Quebec. Additional consultation was undertaken in 2022 to gather comments on the mitigation measures implemented for the risks identified in the RRA. The elected mitigation measures are based on or similar to those provided in the SBP RRA Qc. The consultation process consist of outreach by phone and by email to stakeholders and to First Nations of the total region of supply of the organization (see 2022 SBR for stakeholder comments).
In 2023, additional consultation was undertaken in relation to REDII requirements. Only one stakeholder comment was received (see section 6.1).

6.1 Response to stakeholder comments

Description:	Governmental Agency - recreation, hunting and fishing management
Comment:	Is the biomass producer required to consider the needs of users for recreation, hunting and fishing on public lands? Is harmonization with other users required?
Response:	All harvest sites, including those of BDLT are planned by the MRNF which are required to comply with laws and regulations such as stakeholder consultation and harmonization.

7 Mitigation measures

7.1 Mitigation measures

Country:
Canada

Specified risk indicator:
1.6.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is not sourced from areas where there are violations of traditional or civil rights.

Specific risk description:
Some First Nations, such the Abenaki in southern Quebec and the Mi'kmaq in the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie regions, have signed agreements that recognize their hunting and fishing rights on private land. According to a representative of the Waban-Aki Nation, implementation of this type of agreement in private forests presents challenges for First Nations. Organizations must ensure forest harvesting do not violate such publicly known agreements and claims of the First Nations on private forests.

Mitigation measure:

No feedstock is sourced from sites where First Nations publicly oppose forest harvesting on private woodlots.

Country:
Canada

Specified risk indicator:
2.2.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimise them.

Specific risk description:
Private forests without development assistance:
Forest activities which do not benefit from the Programme de mise en valeur are not subject to professional foresters (ingénieur forestier) assistance and may prove difficult to demonstrate conformance with indicator.

Mitigation measure:
Primary feedstock:
Obtain signed agreements from contractors prior to deliveries of primary feedstock sourced from private lands to BDLT. Document field forms completed either by contractor or by BDLT representatives confirming assessment of harvest operations.

Verify woodlot localisation with mapped values and landscape planning.

Indirect primary and Secondary feedstock:
Obtain list of woodlots where wood delivered to sawmill supplying by-products to BDLT was sourced.

Field visits: Sample woodlots based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, based on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Complete field visit form.

Country:
Canada

Specified risk indicator:
2.1.2 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to identify and address potential threats to forests and other areas with high conservation values from forest management activities.

Specific risk description:
Private forests without development assistance:
Forest activities which do not benefit from the Programme de mise en valeur are not subject to professional foresters (ingénieur forestier) assistance and may prove difficult to demonstrate conformance with indicator.

Mitigation measure:
Primary feedstock:
Obtain signed agreements from contractors prior to deliveries of primary feedstock sourced from private lands to BDLT. Document field forms completed either by contractor or by BDLT representatives confirming assessment of harvest operations.

Verify woodlot localisation with mapped values and landscape planning.

Indirect primary and Secondary feedstock:
Obtain list of woodlots where wood delivered to sawmill supplying by-products to BDLT was sourced.

Field visits: Sample woodlots based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, based on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Complete field visit form.

Country:
Canada

Specified risk indicator:
2.2.4 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).

Specific risk description:
Private forests without development assistance:
There is a specified risk that forest practices in these forests will not ensure protection and maintenance of biodiversity. Municipalities or RCMs may have by-laws governing such practices, but such by-laws are specific to each as are the resources deployed to check compliance by forest owners.

Mitigation measure:

Primary feedstock:
Obtain signed agreements from contractors prior to deliveries of primary feedstock sourced from private lands to BDLT. Document field forms completed either by contractor or by BDLT representatives confirming assessment of harvest operations.

Verify woodlot localisation with mapped values and landscape planning.

Indirect primary and Secondary feedstock:
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Field visits: Sample woodlots based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, based on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Complete field visit form.

Country:
Canada

Specified risk indicator:
2.2.5 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems.

Specific risk description:
Research on forest biomass management for ongoing Canadian Forest Service projects focuses on forest biomass harvesting, including soil fertility mapping, site sensitivity to harvesting, and development and validation of indicators of site sensitivity to biomass harvesting. The integration of new requirements to minimize the impacts of the five main issues of forest biomass harvesting into harvesting prescriptions and activities is incomplete.

Mitigation measure:
Primary feedstock:
Public lands: Ensure harvest blocks and prescriptions respect regulations of sites sensitive to nutrient loss.
Private woodlots: Ensure harvest blocks and prescriptions respect sites sensitive to nutrient loss.

Obtain signed agreements from contractors prior to deliveries of primary feedstock sourced from private lands to BDLT. Document field forms completed either by contractor or by BDLT representatives confirming assessment of harvest operations.

Verify woodlot localisation with mapped values and landscape planning.

Indirect primary and Secondary feedstock:
Obtain list of woodlots where wood delivered to sawmill supplying by-products to BDLT was sourced.

Field visits: Sample woodlots based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, based on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Complete field visit form.

Country:
Canada

Specified risk indicator:
2.2.6 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that negative impacts on ground water, surface water and water downstream from forest management are minimised (CPET S5b).

Specific risk description:
Private forests without development assistance:
Forest activities which do not benefit from the Programme de mise en valeur are not subject to professional foresters (ingénieur forestier) assistance and may prove difficult to demonstrate conformance with this indicator.

Mitigation measure:
Primary feedstock:
Obtain signed agreements from contractors prior to deliveries of primary feedstock sourced from private lands to BDLT. Document field forms completed either by contractor or by BDLT representatives confirming assessment of harvest operations.

Verify woodlot localisation with mapped values and landscape planning.

Indirect primary and Secondary feedstock:
Obtain list of woodlots where wood delivered to sawmill supplying by-products to BDLT was sourced.

Field visits: Sample woodlots based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, based on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Complete field visit form.

Country:
Canada

Specified risk indicator:
2.1.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation value in the Supply Base are identified and mapped.

Specific risk description:
Private forests without development assistance:
Forest activities which do not benefit from the Programme de mise en valeur are not subject to professional foresters (ingénieur forestier) assistance and may prove difficult to demonstrate conformance with indicator.

Mitigation measure:
Primary feedstock:
Obtain signed agreements from contractors prior to deliveries of primary feedstock sourced from private lands to BDLT. Document field forms completed either by contractor or by BDLT representatives confirming assessment of harvest operations.

Verify woodlot localisation with mapped values and landscape planning.

Indirect primary and Secondary feedstock:
Obtain list of woodlots where wood delivered to sawmill supplying by-products to BDLT was sourced.

Field visits: Sample woodlots based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, based on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Complete field visit form.

Country:
Canada

Specified risk indicator:
2.2.2 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is sourced from forests where management maintains or improves soil quality (CPET S5b)

Specific risk description:
Specified risk in private forests to the extent that monitoring mechanisms need to be identified and, in the case of work not carried out under the program, the identification of possible impacts and the requisite planning are uncertain.

Mitigation measure:
Primary feedstock:
Obtain signed agreements from contractors prior to deliveries of primary feedstock sourced from private lands to BDLT. Document field forms completed either by contractor or by BDLT representatives confirming assessment of harvest operations.

Verify woodlot localisation with mapped values and landscape planning.

Indirect primary and Secondary feedstock:
Obtain list of woodlots where wood delivered to sawmill supplying by-products to BDLT was sourced.

Field visits: Sample woodlots based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, based on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Complete field visit form.

7.2 Monitoring and outcomes

Reports of field visits conducted during the year are archived and available for review.

Sampling intensity for private woodlots was of 0.6 square root of the sum of number of suppliers sourcing from private woodlots and harvest sites on public lands. Out of the total of 21 sites visited, no issues were observed in respect to specified risks defined in the Quebec SBP RRA nor in respect to REDII indicators.

REDII compliance on public lands is demonstrated with documentation and procedures of the Natural resources and Forest Ministry. Monitoring results and harvesting annual reports show compliance with requirements.

8 Detailed findings for indicators

Detailed findings for each Indicator are given in Annex 1 in case the Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) is not used.

Is RRA used? Yes

9 Review of report

9.1 Peer review

n/a

9.2 Public or additional reviews

n/a

10 Approval of report

Approval of Supply Base Report by senior management			
Report Prepared by:	**Nicolas Blanchette**	**Procurement Specialist**	**22 Dec 2023**
	Name	**Title**	**Date**
The undersigned persons confirm that I/we are members of the organisation's senior management and do hereby affirm that the contents of this evaluation report were duly acknowledged by senior management as being accurate prior to approval and finalisation of the report.			
Report approved by:	**Alexandre Samuel**	**Financial Controler**	**22 Dec 2023**
	Name	**Title**	**Date**

Annex 1: Detailed findings for Supply Base Evaluation indicators

N/A

Annex 2: Detailed findings for REDII

Section 1. RED II Supply Base Evaluation

Country:Canada	
(i) The legality of harvesting operations	
Type of Risk Assessment used	☐ Level A – proof at national or sub-national level ☒ Level B – management system at forest sourcing area level
Level A risk assessment description	N/A
Level B management system at the level of the forest sourcing area	All cited documents and hyperlinks have been shared with the certification body, unless stated otherwise. The demonstration of legal harvesting is presented in the SBP Quebec Regional Risk Assessment. In particular, see indicators 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.3.1, 1.4.1, 1.6.1, 2.5.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2, 2.3.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3. These indicators of the RRA highlight regulations and processes implemented on public and private land ensuring legality of harvesting such as Loi sur l'aménagement durable du territoire forestier, le Règlement sur l'aménagement durable des forêts (RADF), Loi sur la mise en marché des produits agricoles, alimentaires et de la pêche and the regulations on wood commercialization. A harvesting permit is mandatory on public land before operations can begin. All wood deliveries at mill are documented with official trip ticket issued from the government or marketing boards, and recorded in databases (eg. mill's scaling system report). Location of harvest sites are mapped and linked to deliveries to mill. Shape files are accessible and have been consulted for sampled harvest blocks to confirm boundaries, stand composition and sites ecological and social values on both public and private lands. Latitude and longitude of loading sites are documented on transport documentation from public land (eg. autorisation de transport (AT). Information about forest of origin and woodlot owners are provided on a monthly basis either by the mill for secondary feedstock or by marketing boards, and for primary feedstock by the contractor or marketing boards (e.g. see payment reports from Marketing Boards). The reports include species harvested, bill of transport reference, woodlot owner identification and municipality reference. On private lands, regional agencies monitor activities according to their sampling plan established on an annual basis and publish annual reports describing the activities monitored and their level of compliance. For the moment, BDLT receives primary feedstock from areas under the jurisdiction

	of the Mauricie Marketing Board which include regions of the Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie agencies. Both regions reported zero legality non compliances. On public lands, fines are given for non compliances with laws and regulations. All fines are public and can be found here: https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/. The ministry of Natural resources and Forests monitor forest operations and activity reports of the organisation responsible of forest operations. Performance evaluations of organizations allow to identify challenges and issues observed of forest operations. The MNRF adjust their monitoring accordingly and confirm steps with organizations. The MRNF shares these evaluations with BDLT who then take them into consideration for their field visits (see MRNF email and 2022 summary table). Field visits: Sampled harvest blocks on public land and on private woodlots are based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Selected woodlot owners are contacted before field visits to confirm ownership, harvest operations and wood buyer. Field forms are completed and cover a wide range of legal requirements such as: - surface area - wood mill destination - boundaries - riparian buffer and protection - water crossings - gravel pit distance to lake - hazardous material - wildlife habitat
(ii) Forest regeneration of harvested areas	
Type of Risk Assessment used	☐ Level A – proof at national or sub-national level ☒ Level B – management system at forest sourcing area level
Level A risk assessment description	N/A
Level B management system at the level of the forest sourcing area	All cited documents and hyperlinks have been shared with the certification body, unless stated otherwise. Forest regeneration must be ensured after harvesting. If natural regeneration is insufficient, replanting is prescribed. On public lands, regeneration is required by law and monitored by government (e.g. folder "RapportAnnuelUAPerformance"). Forest plans and prescriptions consider sites characteristics to ensure the establishment of regeneration within a 2 to 10 year timeframe. MRNF monitoring verify if regeneration goals are reached and reassess procedures and requirements every five years to make

	necessary adjustments. New instructions were adopted for the 2018-2023 period (eg. see folders "Regeneration" and "RapportAnnuelUAPerformance"). All cutblocks are documented and provide prescriptions, maps (see https://www.foretouverte.gouv.qc.ca). Forest regeneration and forest cover maintenance is also required on private woodlots. Performance evaluations on both public and private lands high light above 95% performance of site regeneration. Verification of public and private assessments of regeneration success and procedures is validated through MRNF instructions and annual reports of regional agencies (eg. instructions sur les suivis d'efficacité des interventions sylvicoles, annual reports of region agencies). A sample of private woodlot owners are selected from the list of suppliers and are contacted before field visits to confirm ownership, harvest operations and wood buyer. Field visits: Sampled harvest blocks on public land and on private woodlots are based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Field visit forms assess regeneration by evaluating the adequacy of the silvicultural treatment, presence of rutting and total area occupied by roads and skid trails, presence of compaction, amount of slash and its distribution in the cutblock, damage to residual trees. Visits allow to validate if prescription or harvest operations ensure regeneration establishment if not already present. If observation raises concerns or non-conformities, procedures dictate additional steps to assess the situation for risk mitigation.
(iii) That areas designated by international or national law or by the relevant competent authority for nature protection purposes, including in wetlands and peatlands, are protected unless evidence is provided that the harvesting of that raw material does not interfere with those nature protection purposes	
Type of Risk Assessment used	☐ Level A – proof at national or sub-national level ☒ Level B – management system at forest sourcing area level
Level A risk assessment description	N/A
Level B management system at the level of the forest sourcing area	All cited documents and hyperlinks have been shared with the certification body, unless stated otherwise. All cutblocks on public lands are documented, mapped and accessible to the public (see https://www.foretouverte.gouv.qc.ca). The annual report submitted by supply agreement holders map all harvest sites (see folder "Rapports annuel UA Performance"). This allows for efficient validation of protected area and cutblock boundaries. Infractions on public lands are listed on the ministry website. On private woodlots, site visits are undertaken for a sample of harvest sites. The ministry of Natural resources and Forests monitor forest operations and activity reports of the organisation responsible of forest operations. Performance evaluations of organizations allow to identify challenges and

	issues observed of forest operations. The MNRF adjust their monitoring accordingly and confirm steps with organizations. The MRNF shares these evaluations with BDLT who then take them into consideration for their field visits (see MRNF email and 2022 summary table). None of the non compliances in terms of gravity were related to protected areas or to boundaries. On private lands, regional agencies monitor activities according to their sampling plan established on an annual basis and publish annual reports describing the activities monitored and their level of compliance. For the moment, BDLT receives primary feedstock from areas under the jurisdiction of the Mauricie Marketing Board which include regions of the Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie agencies. Activities must respect boundaries, observed and mapped HCV as documented in the PPMV and the *Schéma d'aménagement*. There are no mention of issues related to legislated protected areas nor to wetlands. A sample of private woodlot owners are selected from the list of suppliers and are contacted before field visits to confirm ownership, harvest operations and wood buyer. Field visits: Sampled harvest blocks on public land and on woodlots are based on level of deliveries made or planned to the sawmill, on type of supplier (ex. contractor vs woodlot owner). Map analysis of selected harvest blocks and private woodlots allow to validate presence of these sites and is then validated during field visits and documented in the field form. Field visits assess if mapped wetlands and peatlands and protected areas were appropriately considered by harvest planning and operations. If observation raises concerns or non-conformities, procedures dictate additional steps to assess the situation for risk mitigation.
(iv) That harvesting is carried out considering the maintenance of soil quality and biodiversity with the aim of minimising negative impacts	
Type of Risk Assessment used	☐ Level A – proof at national or sub-national level ☒ Level B – management system at forest sourcing area level
Level A risk assessment description	N/A
Level B management system at the level of the forest sourcing area	All cited documents and hyperlinks have been shared with the certification body, unless stated otherwise. 1. No stump or root harvest. - BDLT does not source stumps or roots. 2. Exclusion of areas sensitive to erosion, soil compaction, steep slopes, etc.) has. Exclusion of Rendzina, Lithosol, Ranker, Histosols, Fluvisols, Gleysols and Andosols soils. - Prescriptions (e.g. see folder "Visite Terrain/BMMB Chapelin/Prescriptions")

	- RADF, art. 46: if harvesting on public or private land is carried out on sensitive sites targeted by the article, validate that methods (e.g. “hot-logging”, partial felling, short-wood harvesting, etc.) are implemented to limit the impacts. The ministry of Natural resources and Forests monitor forest operations and activity reports of the organisation responsible of forest operations. Performance evaluations of organizations allow to identify challenges and issues observed of forest operations. The MNRF adjust their monitoring accordingly and confirm steps with organizations. The MRNF shares these evaluations with BDLT who then take them into consideration for their field visits (see MRNF email and 2022 summary table). None of the non compliances in terms of gravity were related to soil nor to biodiversity. On private lands, regional agencies monitor activities according to their sampling plan established on an annual basis and publish annual reports describing the activities monitored and their level of compliance. For the moment, BDLT receives primary feedstock from areas under the jurisdiction of the Mauricie Marketing Board which include regions of the Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie agencies. Agencies of both regions report above 95% performance in terms of harvesting executions (see folder "Rapports Annuels - Agences"). Map analysis of sampled harvest blocks and private woodlots allow to validate if sensitive soils are present and field visits confirm if harvest operations were conducted appropriately (see folder "Visites terrain/Sites visités"). 3. Demonstration that harvesting on poor or vulnerable soils is carried out according to appropriate guidelines Evidence of the existence of guidelines - Prescriptions (e.g. see folder "Visite Terrain/BMMB Chapelin/Prescriptions") - Compliance with article 46 of the RADF in public forest and private forest (mapped harvest block vs on-site observations) The ministry of Natural resources and Forests monitor forest operations and activity reports of the organisation responsible of forest operations. Performance evaluations of organizations allow to identify challenges and issues observed of forest operations. The MNRF adjust their monitoring accordingly and confirm steps with organizations. The MRNF shares these evaluations with BDLT who then take them into consideration for their field visits (see MRNF email and 2022 summary table). None of the non compliances were related to sensitive soils as prescriptions are based on mapped soil characteristics and cannot be modified by forest operators without MRNF's approval (see https://www.foretouverte.gouv.qc.ca). On private lands, regional agencies monitor activities according to their sampling plan established on an annual basis and publish annual reports describing the activities monitored and their level of compliance. For the moment, BDLT receives primary feedstock from areas under the jurisdiction of the Mauricie Marketing Board which include regions of the Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie agencies. Agencies of both regions report above 95% performance in terms of harvesting executions (see folder "Rapports Annuels - Agences").

	Map analysis of sampled harvest blocks and private woodlots allow to validate if sensitive soils are present and field visits confirm if harvest operations were conducted appropriately. Field visits of sampled sites assess if mapped sensitive soils were appropriately considered by harvest planning and operations. If observation raises concerns or non-conformities, procedures dictate additional steps to assess the situation for risk mitigation (see folder "Visites terrain/Sites visités"). 4. Implementation of practices minimizing impacts on soil (see iv) Verification and adjustments are the responsibility of the MRNF. Every five years reports assess the effectiveness of the management strategy to reach the objectives such as minimizing impacts on soil (ie. PAFI-T, five year report (see "bilanQuinquennalADF" in folder "Rapports annuel UA Performance"). On private woodlots, PPMV and silvicultural treatments defined by regional agencies set the stage for appropriate woody debris in harvest areas (see folder "PPMV"). The ministry of Natural resources and Forests monitor forest operations and activity reports of the organisation responsible of forest operations. Performance evaluations of organizations allow to identify challenges and issues observed of forest operations. The MNRF adjust their monitoring accordingly and confirm steps with organizations. The MRNF shares these evaluations with BDLT who then take them into consideration for their field visits (see MRNF email and 2022 summary table in folder "Rapports annuel UA Performance"). Soil impacts were not highlighted as problematic, nor require special focus. On private lands, regional agencies monitor activities according to their sampling plan established on an annual basis and publish annual reports describing the activities monitored and their level of compliance. For the moment, BDLT receives primary feedstock from areas under the jurisdiction of the Mauricie Marketing Board which include regions of the Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie agencies. Agencies of both regions report above 95% performance in terms of harvesting executions (see folder "Rapports Annuels - Agences"). Map analysis of sampled harvest blocks and private woodlots allow to validate if sensitive soils are present and field visits confirm if harvest operations were conducted appropriately (see folder "Visites terrain/Sites visités"). Visits allow to validate: Field visits of sampled sites assess if mapped sensitive soils were appropriately considered by harvest planning and operations and if best management practices were used to minimize soil impacts. If observation raises concerns or non-conformities, procedures dictate additional steps to assess the situation for risk mitigation. 5. Assessment of biodiversity and habitat characteristics before harvest Map analysis of sampled harvest blocks and private woodlots allow to validate the presence or not of biodiversity and habitat characteristics. The ministry of Natural resources and Forests monitor forest operations and

	activity reports of the organisation responsible of forest operations. Performance evaluations of organizations allow to identify challenges and issues observed of forest operations. The MNRF adjust their monitoring accordingly and confirm steps with organizations. The MRNF shares these evaluations with BDLT who then take them into consideration for their field visits (see MRNF email and 2022 summary table in folder "Rapports annuel UA Performance"). Assessments of biodiversity and habitat characteristics are done at the time of planning and during harvesting based on observations (see folder "PAFI"). On private lands, regional agencies monitor activities according to their sampling plan established on an annual basis and publish annual reports describing the activities monitored and their level of compliance. For the moment, BDLT receives primary feedstock from areas under the jurisdiction of the Mauricie Marketing Board which include regions of the Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie agencies. Agencies of both regions report above 95% performance in terms of harvesting executions (see folder "Rapports Annuels - Agences"). See folders "PPMV" and "Rapports Annuels - Agences". Regionals plans (ie. PPMV) and agencies define objectives and assess biodiversity and habitat characteristics. Visits allow to validate: - existence of buffer zones for habitat or biodiversity purposes - presence of wildlife trees or fruit bearing underbrush - watercourse protection and disturbance - rutting Field visits of sampled sites assess if operations were executed appropriately and if best management practices were used to address biodiversity and habitat characteristics. If observation raises concerns or non-conformities, procedures dictate additional steps to assess the situation for risk mitigation (see folder "Visites terrain/Sites visités"). 6. Implementation of measures to maintain sufficient dead wood on the site after harvest - Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (2017). Integration of ecological issues into integrated forest management plans for 2018-2023, Notebook 5.1 – Issues related to the internal structure attributes of stands and dead wood, Forestry Management and Environment Department, 66 p. - Internal structure objectives (PAFI-T) (see folder "PAFI" section 1.4.1-2 and 1.2.1.4 et annexe 1) o Maintain complex structural attributes in stands treated by partial cutting. o In all management units, plan a minimum of 20% variable retention felling which includes retention arrangements of at least 5% of the merchantable volume. Ideally, favor large cutting beds for the application of retention. o In partial cuts, apply a retention of at least 1 m2/ha of basal area (ST) of stems classified 8 “M” and “S” of large DBH9 (≥ 36 cm, ideally 40 cm and more). PPMV and agencies define goals and measures to improve stand characteristics such as presence of woody debris. The ministry of Natural resources and Forests monitor forest operations and activity reports of the organisation responsible of forest operations. Performance evaluations of organizations allow to identify challenges and

	issues observed of forest operations. The MNRF adjust their monitoring accordingly and confirm steps with organizations. The MRNF shares these evaluations with BDLT who then take them into consideration for their field visits (see MRNF email and 2022 summary table in folder "Rapports annuel UA Performance"). Evaluations do not report any challenges in respect to woody debris and deadwood. On private lands, regional agencies monitor activities according to their sampling plan established on an annual basis and publish annual reports describing the activities monitored and their level of compliance. For the moment, BDLT receives primary feedstock from areas under the jurisdiction of the Mauricie Marketing Board which include regions of the Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie agencies. Agencies of both regions report above 95% performance in terms of harvesting executions (see folder "Rapports Annuels - Agences"). See folders "PPMV" and "Rapports Annuels - Agences". Regionals plans (ie. PPMV) and agencies define woody debris/stand vertical complexity objectives. Field visits of sampled sites assess if operations were executed appropriately and if best management practices were used to maintain sufficient woody debris after harvest. If observation raises concerns or non-conformities, procedures dictate additional steps to assess the situation for risk mitigation (see folder "Visites terrain/Sites visités"). 7. Verification that deadwood maintenance objectives are being achieved or will improve. Verification and adjustments are the responsibility of the MRNF. Every five years reports assess the effectiveness of the management strategy to reach the objectives such as presence of woody debris (ie. PAFI-T, five year report; see folders "PAFI" and "Rapports annuel UA Performance"). On private woodlots, PPMV and silvicultural treatments defined by regional agencies set the stage for appropriate woody debris in harvest areas. Forest management plans (PAFI-T) on public all contain objectives to maintain woody debris in harvest blocks. These are established after evaluation of last 5 year planning period part of the planning process for the next 5 year period. Documentation of the process is available to the public. These clearly show evaluation of practices and of objectives concerning woody debris (see folders "PAFI", "Rapports annuel UA Performance"). PPMV and silvicultural treatments for private woodlots are also subject to evaluation and to adjustments if necessary (see folders "PPMV" and "AgenceCahierReferenceTechnique"). The ministry of Natural resources and Forests monitor forest operations and activity reports of the organisation responsible of forest operations. Performance evaluations of organizations allow to identify challenges and issues observed of forest operations. The MNRF adjust their monitoring accordingly and confirm steps with organizations. The MRNF shares these evaluations with BDLT who then take them into consideration for their field visits (see MRNF email and 2022 summary table in folder "Rapports annuel UA Performance"). Evaluations do not report any challenges in respect to woody debris and deadwood. Updates to management plans every five years and consultations reports highlight the importance of woody debris and how to reach this objective (see https://www.quebec.ca/agriculture-

	environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/planification-forestiere/plans-regionaux-consultations). On private lands, regional agencies monitor activities according to their sampling plan established on an annual basis and publish annual reports describing the activities monitored and their level of compliance. For the moment, BDLT receives primary feedstock from areas under the jurisdiction of the Mauricie Marketing Board which include regions of the Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie agencies. Agencies of both regions report above 95% performance in terms of harvesting executions (see folder "Rapports Annuels - Agences"). See folders "PPMV", "Rapports Annuels - Agences" and for a list of recognized treatments: "AgenceCahierReferenceTechnique". Regionals plans (ie. PPMV) and agencies define woody debris/stand vertical complexity objectives. Field visits of sampled sites assess if operations were executed appropriately and if best management practices were used to maintain sufficient woody debris after harvest. If observation raises concerns or non-conformities, procedures dictate additional steps to assess the situation for risk mitigation (see folder "Visites terrain/Sites visités"). - Prescriptions or harvest treatment - residual trees - presence and potential of woody debris 8. Verification that measures have been implemented to maintain biodiversity and habitats. Verification and adjustments are the responsibility of the MRNF. Every five years reports assess the effectiveness of the management strategy to reach the objectives such as presence of to maintain and to enhance biodiversity and habitats (ie. PAFI-T, five year report). On private woodlots, PPMV and silvicultural treatments defined by regional agencies set the stage for appropriate biodiversity and habitats (eg. PPMV, list of silvicultural treatments). The ministry of Natural resources and Forests monitor forest operations and activity reports of the organisation responsible of forest operations. Performance evaluations of organizations allow to identify challenges and issues observed of forest operations. The MNRF adjust their monitoring accordingly and confirm steps with organizations. The MRNF shares these evaluations with BDLT who then take them into consideration for their field visits (see MRNF email and 2022 summary table in folder "Rapports annuel UA Performance"). Evaluations do not report any challenges in respect to biodiversity and habitats. Updates to management plans every five years and consultations reports highlight the importance of biodiversity and habitats and how to reach their objectives (see https://www.quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/planification-forestiere/plans-regionaux-consultations). On private lands, regional agencies monitor activities according to their sampling plan established on an annual basis and publish annual reports describing the activities monitored and their level of compliance. For the moment, BDLT receives primary feedstock from areas under the jurisdiction of the Mauricie Marketing Board which include regions of the Centre-du-

	Québec and Mauricie agencies. Agencies of both regions report above 95% performance in terms of harvesting executions (see folder "Rapports Annuels - Agences"). See folders "PPMV" (ie. maps, objectives), "Rapports Annuels - Agences" (ie. evaluations) and for a list of recognized treatments: "AgenceCahierReferenceTechnique". Regionals plans (ie. PPMV) and agencies define objectives in terms to biodiversity and habitats. A sample of private woodlot owners are selected from the list of suppliers and are contacted before field visits to confirm ownership, harvest operations and wood buyer. Field visits of sampled sites assess if operations were executed appropriately and if best management practices were used to maintain sufficient woody debris after harvest. If observation raises concerns or non-conformities, procedures dictate additional steps to assess the situation for risk mitigation. - Prescriptions or harvest treatment - residual trees - presence and potential of woody debris
(v) That harvesting maintains or improves the long-term production capacity of the forest.	
Type of Risk Assessment used	☐ Level A – proof at national or sub-national level ☒ Level B – management system at forest sourcing area level
Level A risk assessment description	N/A
Level B management system at the level of the forest sourcing area	All cited documents and hyperlinks have been shared with the certification body, unless stated otherwise. 1. Calculation of the allowable cut. - Calculation of the allowable cut of the Chief Forester and Private woodlot Agencies - Permanent and temporary inventory (see https://www.quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/recherche-connaissances/inventaire-forestier) - AAC calculation by the Forestier en chef and by the Federation of private woodlots of Québec (see https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/possibilites-forestieres/periode-2023-2028/) Reports of AAC for public confirm a stable volume of standing timber for the province in general. On private woodlots, volume capital is increasing with a significant increase of more than 53% for SPF (spruce-pine-fir) group (forêt de chez nous plus, juillet 2023). See folder "Possibilités annuelles". Forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca foretprivee.ca 2. Respect of volume allocations and allowable forestry. - Calculation of the allowable cut by the Chief Forester (see https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/possibilites-forestieres/periode-2023-2028/) - Annual report of rights granted (ie. https://www.quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/gestion-forets-

	publiques/territoires-droits-forestiers/droits-consentis-delegation-gestion) - FMU five-year report (ie. 5 year Report from the MRNF. https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/nos-publications/bilan-amenagement-durable-forets-2013-2018/) - Annual report of marketing boards and regional agencies (when available; https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/forets/documents/LI_agences_regionales_forets_privees_MFFP.pdf) - 10 year report of regional agencies (ie. PPMV knowledge document) Reports from the Forestier en chef confirm harvests are no where near the AAC and some instances are lower than the allocated volume to the forest sector (eg. https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/possibilites-forestieres/). On private woodlots, volume capital is increasing with a significant increase of more than 53% for SPF (spruce-pine-fir) group (forêt de chez nous plus, juillet 2023). see folder "Possibilités annuelles". 3. Justification why the forest harvest would have exceeded the annual possibility (e.g. annual allocation). Reports from the Forestier en chef confirm harvests are no where near the AAC and some instances are lower than the allocated volume to the forest sector. On private woodlots, volume capital is increasing with a significant increase of more than 53% for SPF (spruce-pine-fir) group. see folder "Possibilités annuelles".
LULUCF criteria 29(7)	
Type of Risk Assessment used	☐ Level A – proof at national or sub-national level ☒ Level B – management system at forest sourcing area level
Level A risk assessment description	N/A
Level B management system at the level of the forest sourcing area	All cited documents and hyperlinks have been shared with the certification body. See SBP-endorsed REDII Level A risk assessment for Article 29(7) LULUCF.

Section 2. RED II detailed findings for secondary and tertiary feedstock

10.1 Verification and monitoring of suppliers

Procedures are defined and must be followed for the selection of suppliers of primary or secondary feedstock. Feedstock sourced externally from the province of Quebec is only accepted if it is certified secondary feedstock. All suppliers sign a legal contract committing to deliver feedstock in conformance with specifications and in compliance with BDLT certification requirements. All secondary feedstock suppliers have signed the REDII commitment to respect the by-products REDII definition. Harvest sites of primary feedstock are documented so field visits can be undertaken with a sample intensity of 0.6 square root of number of suppliers.

10.2 Feedstock inspection and classification upon receipt

All feedstock is inspected and classified upon reception. Origin and category of feedstock are recorded in the scale system under the supervision of BDLT staff. Samples are taken to assess quality, moisture content and physical characteristics.

10.3 Supplier audit for secondary and tertiary feedstock

A supplier audit will be carried out only for raw material delivered as chips. The site visit is documented and archived.