

Forest Management Certification Assessment of State Forestry Enterprise SFE «Bogushevsky forestry» of Vitebsk State Forestry Board in Belarus 18.03.2016

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessments of GLHU «Disnensky leshoz» in Belarus. The assessment will be implemented **from 04.05.2016 to 30.05.2016 (upon agreement with the forestry enterprise).**

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic of **State Forestry Enterprise SFE «Bogushevsky forestry»** in Belarus of with using the “NEPCon Interim Standards for Belarus, V01-15. To obtain a copy of these standard, please contact NEPCon by telephone, email or on website listed below; standard may also be found at the link in the internet www.nepcon.net .

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment team will consist of auditors from Belarus as well as Lithuania, Ukraine.

Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Assessment organization – NEPCon team will assemble in Minsk - **04.05.2016 г.**
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit sites managed by **State Forestry Enterprise SFE «Bogushevsky forestry»** in the period **from 04.05.2016 to 30.05.2016.**
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders, regarding forest management in the settlements, located near the territory under assessment. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ Public stakeholder meetings – A public stakeholder meeting will be held in main office of State Forestry Enterprise. Date, time, and location will be announced soon.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with the managers of State Forestry Enterprise and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – Team will prepare a confidential assessment report that will be provided for comments to State Forestry Enterprise and a minimum of 2 independent peer reviewers. This should occur 30 days after completion of the assessment.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from the representatives **State Forestry Enterprise** and independent peer reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur **30.05.2016 г.**

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback of State Forestry Enterprise in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public

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or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment, or prior to **30.05.2016**. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Aleksandr Zubkevich, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment as representative of NEPCon in Belarus. If Aleksandr Zubkevich is not in the office, please give your comments to Victor Mikhalkevich.
3. Submit written comments by mail, or by email to Aleksandr Zubkevich. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the State Forestry Enterprise.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and NEPCon staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon complaints, appeals and dispute resolution procedures at <http://www.nepcon.net/dispute-resolution-policy>

Contacting NEPCon

- ◆ Email: az@nepcon.net (Aliaksandr Zubkevich), vmi@nepcon.net (Viktar Mikhalkevich)
- ◆ Website – www.nepcon.net.
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