R.J. BEHAM FOREST PRODUCTS, LLC

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October 16, 2013
Dover Planning Board
126 East Duncan Hill Rd
Dover Plains, NY 12522

Dear Chairperson Wylock and members of the Planning Board:

This letter is in response to a recommendation by Berger Engineering and Surveying, representing the town in regards to the Winchester Timber Harvest Application, specifically for a more detailed description of erosion control measures.

As stated in the application, existing landing and skid roads will be used to access the timber. The roads appear to have been laid out to take advantage of the topography, and no bulldozing or earthmoving will be required to use them. As shown on the application, there is an extensive wetland downhill of this project across a gravel access road. In order to protect the wetlands from sedimentation from soil erosion, the following measures will be implemented:

The logging operation is planned for winter in order to take advantage of frozen ground conditions and low runoff potential. The landing will be laid out to avoid low areas and is slightly sloped. Silt fence will be installed along the lower perimeter of the landing, and crushed stone will be installed at the entrance to the landing area to act as a tracking pad before entering Brasher Road. The skid road will leave the landing, heading uphill along an old farm road which crosses an intermittent stream at two locations. These crossings spots are laid out at right angles to the stream where the banks are low and the stream bottom is rocky. As shown on the application, poles will be placed at the approaches to the stream to stabilize the banks and stream bottom when skidding logs through it. A 55' buffer/filter strip will be maintained along both sides of the intermittent stream. Not more than 20% of the crown canopy will be removed from the buffer strip, and trees harvested from there will be winched out, keeping equipment from disturbing the ground near the stream banks. Skid roads will utilize turnouts to direct water flowing down them to divert into undisturbed leaf litter where it will percolate naturally into the ground.

Upon completion or temporary suspension of the harvesting project, roads will be graded and water bars installed at intervals specified in Best Management Practices for Timber Harvesting, and will serve to slow the velocity and volume of runoff on the skid roads. The water bars will be constructed at 40 to 60 degree angles to the skid road, and will outflow into natural, undisturbed forest floor. Streams will be left unobstructed, and crossings will be graded, seeded, and mulched with hay to stabilize the stream banks. The landing will also be graded smooth and seeded with an appropriate conservation mix of native grasses. Hay will be spread over the landing area to stabilize the soil and promote seed germination. Silt fence will be left in place until an adequate vegetative cover is established.

Sincerely,

Robert Beham

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