

1 INTRODUCTION

The New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRED) launched a Call for Tenders for a peat exploration licence for Peatland No. 6 (PEL 2021-01). Theriault & Hachey Peat Moss Ltd. (hereafter “Theriault & Hachey”) submitted a proposal and was awarded the Peat Exploration Licence 2021-1. The development of Peatland No. 6 for peat harvesting will allow Theriault & Hachey to replace and rebuild its own production capacity and have a better control over its supply. The peat will solely be used for the production of value-added horticultural growing mix products that will assist the DNRED in attaining its objective of increasing the level of secondary processing of natural resources within the province.

Peatland No. 6 is located on Crown land 20 km southeast of Miramichi and it covers 301 ha including 206 ha with over 1 m of peat depth (Map 1). The site will be developed over a 9-year period using standard peat harvesting methods. The life expectancy of the operation is estimated to be 50 years. Theriault & Hachey will comply with all applicable regulations including the Peat Policy that states that peatlands must be reclaimed or restored at cessation of harvesting activities to re-establish their natural functions and services.

The company appointed WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) to assist for the obtention of the required permits and approvals. This document represents the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that is part of the proponent’s project registration. It was prepared in accordance with *A Guide to Environmental Impact Assessment in New Brunswick* (Department of Environment and Local Government, 2021a) and the *Additional Information requirements for Peat Development Projects* (Department of Environment and Local Government, 2021b) of the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government (DELG). This EIA document includes:

- Introduction of the proponent and rationale for the project
- Description of the project construction, operations, and decommissioning phases
- Description of the physical, biological, and human environment
- Summary of the impacts of the project and associated proposed mitigation measures and monitoring program
- Summary of the public consultation process

