

Memorandum

From: Bob Savage
Acting Director, Climate Change Secretariat

Date July 27, 2012

Subject: **Clarification on Eligibility Requirements for Aggregated Tillage Projects on First Nations Lands**

It has come to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development's attention that there is some confusion around requirements for aggregated tillage projects on First Nations lands. Please note the following clarifications:

- 1) The deadline for submission to the Alberta Emissions Offset Registry of verified offset credits from aggregated tillage projects on First Nations lands for vintage years 2002 to 2011 is **March 31, 2013** as stated in the November 15, 2011 memo available at: <http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/8413.pdf>.
- 2) First Nations must have a signed Agreement with Canada by March 31, 2012 that transfers to First Nations any ownership and liability rights for offset credits that Canada may have that are generated from reduced and no till agriculture.
- 3) First Nations must meet **all** proof of practice requirements needed to support greenhouse gas emissions offset credits being claimed. These include:
 - **Proof of annual crop**: evidence may include crop insurance, seed purchase receipts, custom seeding agreements, or other.
 - **Proof of acreage**: evidence may include crop insurance, re-assessment using satellite imagery, GoogleEarth, aerial photographs, G.P.S. readings from farm equipment, or other.
 - **Proof of practice**: evidence typically includes proof of access to or ownership of equipment confirmed through visual inspection, purchase receipts, custom seeding agreements, or crop insurance
 - **Ecozone classification**: this must be done using the soil line viewer provided by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
 - If claiming adjusted coefficients for **irrigated lands**, supporting records to confirm irrigation.
 - **Proof of ownership**: Bands must have a signed agreement with Canada transferring any ownership and liability rights for offset credits that Canada may have to the Band. Bands must then be able to demonstrate the lands being claimed in the project are reserve lands set aside by Canada for the use and benefit of the Band. Note: land titles are not available for Band lands. Orders setting aside lands for reserve are available in the Indian Land Registry System (ILRS) at: <http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ilrs/>. Any Band lands that are leased to a third party for farming must include a signed agreement

between that party and the Band stating how ownership of offset credits is being addressed.

- 4) First Nations are eligible to register their reduced and no till agricultural credits with the aggregation company of their choice, or may choose to act as their own aggregator if desired. No licenses for contracting have been awarded to any specific third parties.
- 5) Other systems may have different deadlines and may differ from Alberta Offset System deadlines. The requirements stated above only apply to offset projects being registered for use in the Alberta Offset System.

Please note the information above only applies to aggregated tillage projects on First Nations lands. Ownership requirements for other offset projects types undertaken by First Nations must be established through contractual agreement between affected parties.

Bob Savage
Acting Director, Climate Change Secretariat