

Forest Management Certification Reassessment GLHU "Smorgonski experimental leshoz" of Grodno State Forestry Board

Introduction – NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification reassessments of the GLHU "Smorgonski experimental leshoz" of Grodno State Forestry Board located in Grodno Region, Republic of Belarus.

The reassessment will be implemented in the time period starting 22.03.2017-24.03.2017 (upon agreement with the forestry enterprise).

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification procedure aims at assessing the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by Forestry State Enterprise using the "NEPCon Interim Standards for Belarus. In order to obtain a copy of these standard, please contact NEPCon representatives by telephone, email or on website listed below; standard may also be found at the link in the internet www.nepcon.org

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

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

- ♦ Reassessment organization – NEPCon teams will be met in Minsk (discussing organizational issues).
- ♦ Field assessments – The teams will visit sites managed by GLHU "Smorgonski experimental leshoz".
- ♦ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldworks, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding GLHU "Smorgonski experimental leshoz" in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ♦ Presentation of preliminary audit results – Prior to departure the team will meet with the GLHU "Smorgonski experimental leshoz" managers and other parties to finalize their collected data, and present preliminary findings.
- ♦ Draft report development – The assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comments to GLHU "Smorgonski experimental leshoz". This should occur 30 days after completion of the reassessment.
- ♦ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from GLHU "Smorgonski experimental leshoz" forest managers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision.

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Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comments and feedbacks on GLHU "Smorgonski experimental leshoz" - in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the reassessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the reassessment, during the reassessment, or prior to 22.03.2017, so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon reassessment team members during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Aliaksandr Zubkevich, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment as representative of NEPCon in Belarus. If Aliaksandr Zubkevich is not in the office, please give your comments to Viktor Mikhalkovich.
3. Submit written comments by mail, or email to Aliaksandr Zubkevich. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the GLHU "Smorgonski experimental leshoz".

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

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