



Supply Base Report: G.D.S. Énergie Inc.

Second Surveillance Audit

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Completed in accordance with the Supply Base Report Template Version 1.5

For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see www.sbp-cert.org

Document history

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1 Overview

Producer name: G.D.S. Énergie Inc.

Producer address: 54 Rang Didier, G0J 1M0 Lac-au-Saumon, Canada

SBP Certificate Code: SBP-04-62

Geographic position: 48.437248, -67.373876

Primary contact: Sylvain Couturier, 418-788-5906, scouturier@groupgds.com

Company website: www.groupgds.com

Date report finalised: 10 Jul 2023

Close of last CB audit: 09 Jun 2023

Name of CB: SCS Global Services

SBP Standard(s) used: SBP Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock, SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody, SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data Instruction

Weblink to Standard(s) used: <https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/standards>

SBP Endorsed Regional Risk Assessment: Not applicable

Weblink to SBR on Company website: N/A

Indicate how the current evaluation fits within the cycle of Supply Base Evaluations					
Main (Initial) Evaluation	First Surveillance	Second Surveillance	Third Surveillance	Fourth Surveillance	Re-assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Description of the Supply Base

2.1 General description

Feedstock types: Secondary, Tertiary, Primary

Includes Supply Base evaluation (SBE): No

Includes REDII: No

Includes REDII SBE: No

Feedstock origin (countries): Canada

2.2 Description of countries included in the Supply Base

Country:Canada

Area/Region: Quebec, New Brunswick

Sub-Scope: N/A

Exclusions: No

In all provinces, public industrial forest/concessions are co-managed to varying degrees together by the Ministry of Natural Resources of each province and the tenure holder (the entity that has the license to operate, and often, also has management responsibility not the owner of the land). This is applicable in the provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick.

The supply base is composed of the Gaspé Peninsula and the eastern edge of the Bas St-Laurent region (UA 012-72). The Gaspé Peninsula, also known as Gaspésia (French: Gaspésie) is a peninsula along the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River to the east of the Matapédia Valley in Quebec, Canada, that extends into the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. It is separated from New Brunswick on its southern side by Chaleur Bay and the Restigouche River. The name Gaspé comes from the Micmac word gespe'g, Meaning "end", referring to the end of the land. The Gaspé Peninsula is slightly larger than Belgium, at 31,075 square kilometers. The population is 140,599 as of the 2011 census. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gasp%C3%A9_Peninsula).

New Brunswick is bordered by Quebec to the North, Nova Scotia to the east, the Gulf of Saint Lawrence to the northeast, the Bay of Fundy to the southeast, and the US state of Maine to the west. There are a total of 6,130,133 ha of forested lands in New Brunswick. Area by land ownership in New Brunswick is the following:

46% - Licensed Crown lands

33% - Private Woodlots
16% - Industrial Freehold
3% - Federal lands
2% - Other Crown lands

Country:United States

Area/Region: New England States

Sub-Scope: N/A

Exclusions: No

Description: To a lesser extent, secondary and tertiary feedstock can originate from the New England states, but mostly the state of Maine. This feedstock is a by-product of material transformed by Twin Rivers Paper. Nearly 89% of Maine is covered by forests, an estimated 17.5 million acres (7.08 million ha) in 2018, which is nearly the same area that was estimated when forest inventories first began in 1959. Roughly 94% of Maine's forest land is privately owned.

2.3 Actions taken to promote certification amongst feedstock supplier

Groupe de Scieries G.D.S. Inc is a member of the *Corporation de gestion de la certification forestière des territoires publics de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine* (Corporation). Members of the Corporation are forest product companies which have wood allocations on public lands in Gaspésie. The Corporation is the certificate holder for two forest management units in Gaspésie ie 112-62 and 112-63, certified to the FSC® standard (FSC-C129841).

Industries G.D.S. Inc is also the certificate holder for a FSC COC multi-site certificate (FSC-C117806). This is a multi-site certificate which shall include GDS's pellet mill, as part of the SBP certification process.

2.4 Quantification of the Supply Base

Supply Base

- a. **Total Supply Base area (million ha):** 2,51
- b. **Tenure by type (million ha):**6.13 (Public), 9.59 (Privately owned)
- c. **Forest by type (million ha):**2.51 (Boreal), 13.21 (Temperate)
- d. **Forest by management type (million ha):**15.72 (Managed natural)
- e. **Certified forest by scheme (million ha):**2.12 (FSC), 6.88 (SFI)

Describe the harvesting type which best describes how your material is sourced: Mix of the above

Explanation: Managed natural forests.

Was the forest in the Supply Base managed for a purpose other than for energy markets? Yes - Majority

Explanation: Forests are managed for the production of the highest value product, starting with sawlogs and studwood. To a lesser value, pulpwood and biomass material is extracted.

For the forests in the Supply Base, is there an intention to retain, restock or encourage natural regeneration within 5 years of felling? Yes - Majority

Explanation: It is a legal requirement to ensure proper regeneration of all the harvested areas.

Was the feedstock used in the biomass removed from a forest as part of a pest/disease control measure or a salvage operation? No

Explanation: N/A

What is the estimated amount of REDII-compliant sustainable feedstock that could be harvested annually in a Supply Base (estimated): N/A N/A

Explanation: N/A

Feedstock

Reporting period from: 01 Jun 2022

Reporting period to: 31 May 2023

- a. **Total volume of Feedstock:** 1-200,000 tonnes
- b. **Volume of primary feedstock:** 1-200,000 tonnes
- c. **List percentage of primary feedstock, by the following categories.**
 - Certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 80% - 100%
 - Not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 0%
- d. **List of all the species in primary feedstock, including scientific name:** Abies balsamea (Balsam fir); Picea glauca (White spruce); Picea mariana (Black spruce); Picea rubens (Red spruce); Pinus strobus (White pine); Pinus banksiana (Jack pine); Larix laricina (Tamarack larch);
- e. **Is any of the feedstock used likely to have come from protected or threatened species?** No
 - Name of species: N/A
 - Biomass proportion, by weight, that is likely to be composed of that species (%): N/A
- f. **Hardwood (i.e. broadleaf trees): specify proportion of biomass from (%):** 0,00
- g. **Softwood (i.e. coniferous trees): specify proportion of biomass from (%):** 100,00
- h. **Proportion of biomass composed of or derived from saw logs (%):** 0,00
- i. **Specify the local regulations or industry standards that define saw logs:** General specifications for softwood sawlogs are the following: 16' and 14' at 6 inches (inside bark); 12' logs at 5 inches top end; Other lengths at 4 inch tops (inside the bark).
- j. **Roundwood from final fellings from forests with > 40 yr rotation times - Average % volume of fellings delivered to BP (%):** 100,00
- k. **Volume of primary feedstock from primary forest:** 662 tonnes
- l. **List percentage of primary feedstock from primary forest, by the following categories. Subdivide by SBP-approved Forest Management Schemes:**

- Primary feedstock from primary forest certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 80% - 100%
- Primary feedstock from primary forest not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 0%

m. Volume of secondary feedstock: 1-200,000 tonnes

- Physical form of the feedstock: Chips, Sawdust, Clean chips or dust

n. Volume of tertiary feedstock: 1-200,000 tonnes

- Physical form of the feedstock: Shavings, Sawdust (dry)

o. Estimated amount of REDII-compliant sustainable feedstock that could be collected annually by the BP: N/AN/A

Proportion of feedstock sourced per type of claim during the reporting period				
Feedstock type	Sourced by using Supply Base Evaluation (SBE) %	FSC %	PEFC %	SFI %
Primary	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Secondary	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Tertiary	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Other	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00

3 Requirement for a Supply Base Evaluation

Note: Annex 1 is generated by the system if the SBE is used without Region Risk Assessment(s). Annex 2 is generated if RED II SBE is in the scope.

Is Supply Base Evaluation (SBE) is completed? No

N/A

Is REDII SBE completed? N/A

N/A

4 Supply Base Evaluation

Note: Annex 2 is generated if RED II is in the scope.

4.1 Scope

Feedstock types included in SBE: N/A

SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: Not applicable

List of countries and regions included in the SBE:

N/A

4.2 Justification

N/A

4.3 Results of risk assessment and Supplier Verification Programme

N/A

4.4 Conclusion

N/A

5 Supply Base Evaluation process

N/A

6 Stakeholder consultation

N/A

6.1 Response to stakeholder comments

N/A

7 Mitigation measures

7.1 Mitigation measures

N/A

7.2 Monitoring and outcomes

N/A

8 Detailed findings for indicators

Detailed findings for each Indicator are given in Annex 1 in case the Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) is not used.

Is RRA used? N/A

9 Review of report

9.1 Peer review

N/A

9.2 Public or additional reviews

N/A

10 Approval of report

Approval of Supply Base Report by senior management			
Report Prepared by:	Daniel Martin, ing.f.	Consultant	10 Jul 2023
	Name	Title	Date
The undersigned persons confirm that I/we are members of the organisation's senior management and do hereby affirm that the contents of this evaluation report were duly acknowledged by senior management as being accurate prior to approval and finalisation of the report.			
Report approved by:	Sylvain Couturier	Certification coordinator	10 Jul 2023
	Name	Title	Date

Annex 1: Detailed findings for Supply Base Evaluation indicators

N/A

Annex 2: Detailed findings for REDII

Section 1. RED II Supply Base Evaluation

N/A

Section 2. RED II detailed findings for secondary and tertiary feedstock

10.1 Verification and monitoring of suppliers

N/A

10.2 Feedstock inspection and classification upon receipt

N/A

10.3 Supplier audit for secondary and tertiary feedstock

N/A