



Highlights from Feb. 4-6'20 (relative to SSNB's mandate) from Legislative Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship

ATTENTION to those who want to listen for themselves: The webcast link for these meetings is not working right now: <https://www1.gnb.ca/legis/webcasts/archive/index-e.asp>

Feb. 4, 2020 (afternoon session only)

Department of Environment and Local Government (DOELG).

USAGE PATTERNS OF GLYPHOSATE IN NB

Govt. calculates glyphosate use percentages by sector as follows: TOTAL SALES minus usage that requires permits (forestry, CFB Gagetown, NB Power, CN Rail) = agriculture (no permits required):

- 50-55% of all glyphosate is used in forestry (permits required)
- 4-6% used by NB Power, CFB Gagetown, CN Rail (permits required)
- Remainder (around 40%): agriculture (no permits required)

These percentages are a bit different from the 2016 Glyphosate Report by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, which stipulated 61% forestry, 27% industry, 11% agriculture).

Non-permitted users DO need a Pesticide Applicator Permit, and DOELG mentioned that only a fairly large landowner would go through the trouble to get one.

- In 2019, applications were made, but DOELG did not issue any spray licenses on designated (protected) watersheds (side note, this meant 121 Hectares were not sprayed).
- There is a stipulation in the Environment Act, that calls for an advisory committee, which should hold a meeting every year to listen to concerns from the public. This committee has not been convened for years now.
- DOELG places its faith in Health Canada and the PMRA, and is not doing its own research on environmental effects. Some surface water monitoring is done by DOELG, but it was unclear from today's session how much monitoring is done in NB. DOELG mentioned that the Glyphosate Report issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer (OCMO) from 2016, found that there are no issues to be concerned about. (SIDE NOTE: this is incorrect, because the report by the OCMO was mainly a literature review, and it stated patterns of use in NB).
- Connection between glyphosate and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae). DOELG is aware of research in that area, but the dept relies on Health Canada, and is not doing its own research.
- DOELG was asked to give a detailed breakdown of all aerial, ground, forestry, agriculture pesticide use to get a full picture. They agreed to provide this information.
- DOELG was asked about alternatives, and responded that they don't know of any jurisdiction where there is an outright ban on glyphosate. The province of Quebec does not allow glyphosate spraying in forestry, and has not allowed this since 2001. It is still allowed in agriculture in Quebec.



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Feb 5, 2020 (full day session)

AM session: Department of Natural resources and Energy (DNRE)

- Forest spraying is done aurally by helicopter.
- 15,000 hectares of Crown forests are harvested each year.
- 10,000 hectares of plantations are planted each year. The goal is to have a total of 620,000 hectares in plantations, which would be 20% of the crown land base. Currently 14% (434,000 hectares) of Crown land base is planted as softwood plantations. Annual allowable cut is 3.9M cubic meters of softwood, and 2.1M cubic meters of hardwood.
- 15,000 hectares of crown land plantations are sprayed every year. (no plans to change this)
- Govt spends an average of \$2.3M (based in the past 5 years) on herbicide (glyphosate) spraying. Of this amount, \$330,000 goes to private woodlot owners (they do not receive 100% compensation for spraying).
- 1.7kg/hectare of active ingredient (glyphosate) is used. This amount is 40% of the maximum allowed per area on the product label. Mixtures that contain the active ingredient glyphosate: Vantage Forestry, VP80, Vision Max etc. Adjuvants in the mixtures, to give increased effect and adherence to foliage.
- Forest Protection sprays for NB Govt., but information about the sprayed plots is not made available to the public once the spray season is over.
- DNRE has a total budget of \$70M. \$46M of this budget is spent on forest management (\$20M license mgmt, \$20M forest management (includes spray cost), remainder are staff costs)
REVENUE: \$50M (\$25M royalties plus avg \$25M per year in tree sales) revenue on sold trees. The dept also mentioned indirect revenue of \$120M tax revenue from corporations and personal taxes paid by workers.
NET ZERO revenue unless you count the indirect tax revenue paid by forestry corps and workers.
- Govt. uses GPS guidance to see exactly where the spray pilots are, and checks on the quality (buffers etc) during and after spraying. According to govt. the spray droplets are quite large, and fall straight down, so govt. claims that there is not a lot of drift.
- DOE legislation does not require that the Pesticide Advisory Board has a DOELG representative on its board.
- NB Govt has decided that glyphosate spraying is the optimal method to manage competition growth on softwood plantations, and has no plans to look for alternatives, or adopt manual thinning.
- In Quebec, forest spraying is not allowed, and management involved larger seedling stick and manual silviculture. DNRE maintains that this would be too costly for NB crown forest management.
- DNRE has plans to launch an OPEN DATA site on its website. SSNB has stressed repeatedly that NB Govt. needs to have its own website, independent of industry.



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Feb. 6, 2020 (full day session) AM session: NB Power

- NB Power has 28,000 km of power lines, 1600 km of transmission lines. NB Power sprays 1000-1500 hectares per year along selected transmission lines. NB Power mentioned that some spraying is done in limited other locations but no specifics were given.
- NB Power never sprays in urban areas.
- NB Power does spraying with ground crews on ground skidders: no aerial spraying.
- NB Power claims that manual cutting machines would cause more damage/problems than herbicide spraying.
- NB Power sprays 6 litres/hectare, which amounts to 6 kg per hectare.
- NB Power uses 19 different types of herbicide: 4 glyphosate mixtures, and 15 products that do NOT contain glyphosate (no specifics as to what active ingredient). 30% glyphosate and 70% other herbicides. Sometimes two applications are needed on vegetation that is out of control. Glyphosate is not used on the second application.
- NB Power did not use any glyphosate in 2019: other herbicides were used instead. No products were mentioned. Committee members asked for a list of products.
- NB Power mentioned that the company is open to working with communities/conservation groups to grow vegetation that does not become too tall (blueberries, snowmobile trails, small Christmas trees, vegetation that deer prefer). Once habitat is established under power lines, the wildlife would come in, which would maintain habitat, which in turn would require very little maintenance.