



Supply Base Report: Granule 777 Inc.

First Surveillance Audit

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Completed in accordance with the Supply Base Report Template Version 1.3

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

On the first page include the following information:

Producer name: Granule 777 Inc.

Producer location: C.P. 248
KM 346, Route 113
Chapais, Qc
G0W 1H0

Geographic position: Lat 49° 47' 27.69" N, Long 74° 42' 38.49" W

Primary contact: Denis Chiasson
Responsable planification
Barrette-Chapais Ltée
C.P. 248, KM 346, Route 113, Chapais, Qc, G0W 1H0, CA
Phone: 418.745.2545 x4238
denis.Chiasson@ca.ebarrette.com

Company website: <http://www.barrette-chapais.qc.ca>

Date report finalised: 15/04/2020

Close of last CB audit: 15/05/2020, Chapais, Québec, Canada

Name of CB: SCS Global Services

Translations from English: No

SBP Standard used: Standard 2 version 1.0

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

SBP Endorsed Regional Risk Assessment: Not applicable

Weblink to SBE on Company website: www.granule777.com

Indicate how the current evaluation fits within the cycle of Supply Base Evaluations				
Main (Initial) Evaluation	First Surveillance	Second Surveillance	Third Surveillance	Fourth Surveillance
<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

The pellet mill of Granule 777 and the sawmill of Barrette-Chapais Ltée are located near Chapais, in the James Bay Municipality, Province of Québec, Canada. Both mills are owned and operated by Les Entreprises Barrette Ltée. Granule 777 supplies its wood fiber from secondary feedstock generated by the sawmilling operations of Barrette-Chapais Ltée. All the primary wood fiber transformed by the sawmill is procured from public forests except for one privately owned forest land which can account up to approximately 5% of the total volume of round wood procured by the sawmill. In the short term, Granule 777 will procure its feedstock exclusively from Barrette - Chapais Ltée but over time, secondary and tertiary feedstock could also be sourced from other sawmilling and planning mills of the Province. All the primary fiber supply of Barrette - Chapais Ltée, as well as other sawmills of the neighbouring areas, originates in the Province of Québec.

Québec forest resources and forest management practices

The total surface area of the Province of Québec is approximately 166,7 million hectares¹ of which 59.1 million hectares are forested. The Government of Québec owns 87% of the forest area while the remaining 13% is privately owned. The Sustainable Forest Development Act rules the forest management of Québec public forests.

“This Act² establishes a forest regime designed to

- (1) implement sustainable forest development, in particular through ecosystem-based development;*
- (2) ensure integrated and regionalized resource and land management based on clear, consistent objectives, measurable results and the accountability of managers and users of the forest;*
- (3) determine how responsibilities under the forest regime are shared between the State, regional bodies, Native communities and users of the forest;*
- (4) follow up and monitor forest operations in the domain of the State;*
- (5) govern the sale of timber and other forest products on the open market at a price reflecting their market value, and the supply of timber to wood processing plants;*
- (6) regulate the development of private forests; and*
- (7) govern forest protection activities.”*

As stated in the Sustainable Forest Development Act, “[...] the Sustainable forest development must contribute, in particular, to

- (1) the preservation of biological diversity;*
- (2) the maintenance and improvement of the condition and productivity of forest ecosystems;*
- (3) the conservation of soil and water;*
- (4) the maintenance of forest ecosystem contributions to major ecological cycles;*
- (5) the maintenance of the many socio-economic benefits society derives from forests; and*
- (6) the consideration, in making development choices, of the values and needs expressed by the populations concerned.”*

¹ https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/PortraitStatistique_2018.pdf

² A-18.1 - Sustainable Forest Development Act <http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/A-18.1>

The Quebec Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (MFFP in French) is responsible of the implementation of the Sustainable Forest Development Act.

The forests composition of the province is as follow:

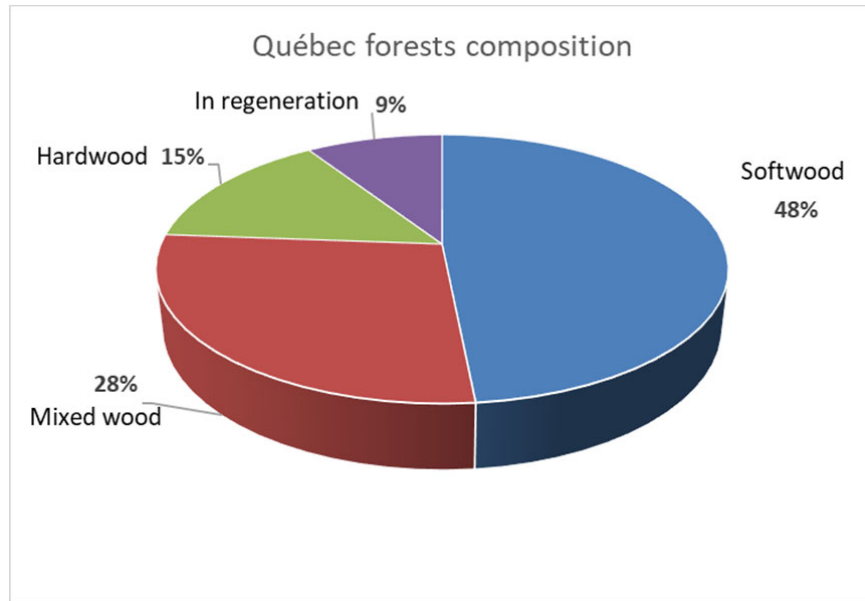


Figure 1: Québec forests composition

The allowable annual cut level (AAC) is calculated by the Chief Forester of the Province. For the 2018-2023 period, the total volume of wood per species or group of species that can be allocated to the forest industry is as follow:

	Provincial Annual allowable cut (m ³)	
	2018	Updated November 2019 ³
Softwoods (Spruces, Jack Pine, Fir and Larch)	22 975 500	22 936 900
White Birch	4 122 400	4 120 000
Poplars	3 272 100	3 260 400
Hard and Soft Maple	1 398 400	1 398 400
Yellow Birch	1 096 100	1 096 100
Eastern Cedar	471 400	471 700
Pines White and Red	448 700	448 700
Other Hardwoods	337 500	337 500
Hemlock	78 300	78 300
Total :	34 200 400	34 148 000

Table 1: Provincial Annual allowable cut level per species or group of species

³ https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/rxx_synthese_provinciale_nov_2019.pdf

The volume of softwood harvested annually by the forest industry in the Forest Management Units covering the Supply Base Area of Granule 777 is approximately 5.8 million m³. Some 20% of this volume is processed by the sawmill of Barrette-Chapais Ltée and hence, generates 100% of the secondary feedstock used by Granule 777.

For the purpose of forest management, the public forests of the Province are divided in 59 Forest Management Units (FMU). The Quebec Chief Forester determines the annual allowable cut by species or group of species in order to allocate timber volumes on each FMU, he also makes recommendations on management strategies to apply. As mentioned, Granule 777 secondary feedstock will be sourced from Barrette-Chapais Ltée sawmilling operations. Barrette-Chapais Ltée, like other regional and provincial wood processors, holds timber supply guarantees on the supply base area which is not the case for Granule 777. These timber supply guarantees are granted by the Government of Québec. The location of the Forest Management Units from which Barrette - Chapais Ltée supplies its primary fiber are shown in figure 2 below.

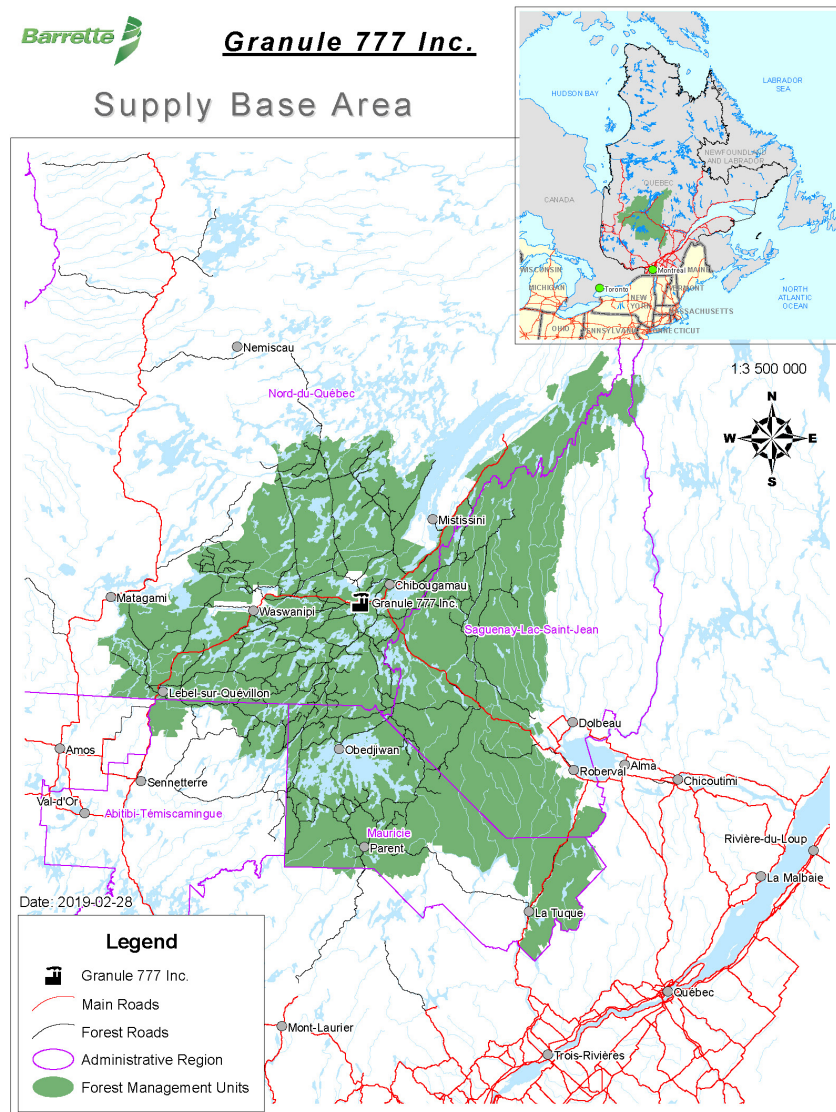


Figure 2. Supply base area for the primary fiber of Barrette-Chapais and secondary feedstock of Granule 777

Forest Management Planning

The timber supply guarantees confer upon each beneficiary the annual right to obtain, from one or several forest management units (FMUs), a harvesting permit for a volume of roundwood of a given specie or group of species. Staff from the MFFP performs forest management planning in collaboration with the Beneficiaries of Timber supply Guarantees (BGAs, in French), and the First Nation, as well as other parties with an interest in the land base, whether it be via 1) the Table-GIRT which brings together all stakeholders, 2) the Joint Working Groups which convene the members of the Cree communities, MFFP staff, and representatives of the BGAs, or 3) the 'Operational Tables' which bring together the relevant MFFP staff and the BGA representatives.

The beneficiaries of timber supply guarantees participate, at various levels, in the preparation of the long-term tactical plan (PAFIT), operational plan (PAFIO) and the annual planning (PRAN). The holder of a timber supply guarantee is also required to carry out certain management activities, such as harvesting operations and forest road construction, in accordance with the conditions set by the MFFP.

The long-term tactical plan sets values, objectives, indicators and targets in response to sustainable forest management issues previously identified for each FMUs. Details on the issues and management objectives for the area are published in the tactical plans (PAFIT) for every single FMU.

The MFFP managers, working with expert analysts from the Office of the Québec Chief Forester, select a range of silvicultural scenarios suitable for the forests stands of the supply base area.

Examples of silvicultural treatments applied to the forest stands are as follow:

- Harvesting with regeneration and soil protection
- Harvesting with protection of small merchantable stems
- Seed tree cutting
- Partial cut
- Commercial thinning
- Site preparation
- Planting
- Precommercial thinning

Monitoring processes and control

The implementation of the forest management strategy requires several forms of short- and medium-term monitoring to ensure that objectives are achieved. In the Province of Quebec, forest monitoring (forest inventories, pests and diseases surveying, monitoring and control of harvesting activities), and protection of sites with exceptional values are managed by the MFFP. Supervision of activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and other recreational activities are also managed by the Ministry of Forest.

The sustainable forest development strategy and the significant environmental aspects associated with the forest management activities are specifically monitored, as well as Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets (VOITs) established in the long-term plan with the participation of the stakeholders all represented at the Table-GIRT (the Table de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources et du Territoire - Table for the Integrated Management of the Resources and the Territory). Forest growth is also followed in several ways and at three levels: monitoring of natural forest growth, monitoring of the impact of silvicultural operations and operational monitoring of management activities. Analysis of the monitoring data, from the landscape level down to the

local level, ensures suitable modelling of ecosystems and allows the MFFP to adjust its sustainable forest management strategy.

Threatened or vulnerable species and CITES

A list of species with a precarious statute found on the supply base area has been established. Occurrences of the species were obtained through various sources among which is the IUCN Red list⁴. The woodland caribou is by far the most scrutinized of the vulnerable species that can be found on the supply base area and it is the object of a specific recovery strategy developed by the MFFP. Field workers are trained to identify threatened or vulnerable species at risk and forest management activities are implemented accordingly to the required protections measures prescribed for their habitat.

Barrette-Chapais Ltée and Granule 777 Inc. maintains a third party audited Controlled Wood Risk Assessment which satisfies the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Chain of Custody requirements. These certifications address the controls needed to avoid the use of CITES and/ or IUCN species concerns.

None of the species used by Granule 777 Inc. for wood pellets are listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendices⁵.

Supply Base Area description per region

Nord-du-Québec

Total surface area of the Forest Management Units: **9 065 780 ha**

Total surface area of productive forest: **4 612 010 ha (51 %)**

Total volume of round softwood annually allocated to the forest industry: **3 251 585 m³**

The FMUs of the Nord-du-Québec region are in the Spruce-moss and Balsam fir-white birch bioclimatic domains. The forest landscape is dominated by softwood stands with a regular structure. The productivity of the sites is generally lower than the average provincial stand productivity. A majority of FMUs are also affected by the paludification of the soil and an invasion of Ericaceae.

Regional specifications:

The territory of the supply base area is inhabited by the Cree Nation (Oujé-Bougoumou, Mistissini, Waswanipi, Waskaganish and Nemaska), the Algonquines (Communities of Pikogan and Lac Simon) and the Atikamekw Nation (Opitciwan). It is to be noted that 14 of the 17 FMUs are part of the territory ruled by the Agreement concerning a new relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec⁶, also called “La Paix des Braves”.

Two wildlife reserves complete the profile of the region: the Assinica reserve and the reserve of Lacs-Albanel-Mistassini-et-Waconichi.

Four Outfitters with exclusive fishing and hunting rights are also operating on the territory.

Approximately **64% of the wood fiber volume used by Granule 777 Inc.** is sourced from this region.

⁴ <http://www.iucnredlist.org>.

⁵ <http://www3.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/especes/menacees/liste.asp>

⁶ http://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/2420765?docref=nhXcRHddRJltQPATP_iKg

Mauricie

Total surface area of the Forest Management Units: 4 115 080 ha

Total surface area of productive forest: 2 415 480 ha (59 %)

Total volume of round softwood annually allocated to the forest industry: **2 558 898 m³**

The forest land of la Mauricie cover 85% of the total surface area of this region which extend on more than 33 800 Km². From North to South four bioclimatic domains are found: Spruce-moss domain, Balsam fir-white birch, Balsam fir-yellow birch and Sugar maple-yellow birch domain in the Southernmost part of the region.

This North-South distribution determines a gradient of composition, forest structure and silvicultural treatment that varies according to Latitude.

Regional specifications:

The 5 FMUs are FSC certified.

As opposed to some other regions, the defoliation due the spruce budworm infestation covers a negligible area.

For the period of 2018-2023, the softwood AAC has increased by 27% compared to the previous period (2015-2018).

Approximately **20% of the wood fiber volume used by Granule 777 Inc.** is sourced from this region.

Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (FMU 25-71)

Total surface area of Forest Management Unit 25-71: 2 760 530 ha

Total surface area of productive forest: 2 055 140 ha (74 %)

Total volume of round softwood annually allocated to the forest industry: **2 235 794 m³**

Regional specifications:

Only one FMU (25-71) is used as a fiber source for Granule 777 or Barrette-Chapais

This Forest Management Unit is SFI certified.

Seven First Nation communities are located on the territory.

Four Outfitters with exclusive fishing and hunting rights are found on the territory and one wildlife reserve (443 623 ha).

This region is not part of the Timber Supply guarantee hold by Barrette-Chapais, but some primary fiber can be purchased in this Forest Management Unit on a regular basis.

Approximately **16% of the wood fiber volume used by Granule 777 Inc.** can be sourced from this region.

Summary of Non-forestry Activities

Mining and a wide range of other activities take place on the public land;
 Recreational activities (canoeing, hunting, trapping, fishing, snowmobiling, etc.);
 Wildlife reserves;
 Privately-managed outfitting operations;
 Camp ground sites;
 Etc.

Socio-economics conditions⁷

	Province of Québec	Nord-du-Québec	Mauricie	Lac St-Jean
<i>Surface area (km²)</i>	1 300 000	707 164	35 448	95 761
<i>Population (2017)</i>	8 390 499	45 558	269 332	277 406
<i>Employment</i>	%	%	%	%
<i>Primary sector</i>	2.2	10.0	3.7	4.4
<i>Construction</i>	5.8	4.4	4.8	6.5
<i>Public services</i>	27.1	32.2	30.3	29.5
<i>Manufacturing</i>	11.7	11.1	14.6	11.6
<i>Social services</i>	27.5	31.1	30.3	30.4
<i>Technical Services</i>	25.8	11.1	17.0	17.5
<i>Available revenue per individual (2016)</i>	27 723 \$	25 179 \$	25 151 \$	25 915 \$

Population of the municipalities of interest⁸

Nord-du-Québec	Population (2019)
<i>Chibougamau</i>	7 559
<i>Mistissini</i>	3 803*
<i>Waswanipi</i>	1 759*
<i>Chapais</i>	1 609
<i>Oujé-Bougoumou</i>	900*

* 2016 Statistiques Canada

⁷ https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/contenu/documents_soutien/regions/portraits_regionaux/20200113-PERQ-2019.pdf

⁸ <https://www.donneesquebec.ca/recherche/fr/dataset/repertoire-des-municipalites-du-quebec>

Mauricie	Population (2019)
<i>Trois-Rivières</i>	136 134
<i>Shawinigan</i>	49 571
<i>La Tuque</i>	10 933
<i>Louiseville</i>	7 176
<i>Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel</i>	5 970

Ref : MESI Portrait Régional été 2018 Mauricie

Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean	Population (2019)
<i>Saguenay</i>	146 606
<i>Alma</i>	30 831
<i>Dolbeau-Mistassini</i>	14 039
<i>Saint-Félicien</i>	10 266
<i>Roberval</i>	9 886

Ref : MESI Portrait Régional automne 2018 Saguenay-Lac-Saint- Jean

Forest industry⁹

Mill category	Province		Regions					
	Québec		Nord-du-Québec		Mauricie		Saguenay-Lac St-Jean	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
<i>Pulp and paper</i>	22	22	-	-	4	4	4	4
<i>Sawmilling products</i>	201	183	6	6	8	7	18	17
<i>Veneer and plywood</i>	10	10	-	-	2	2	-	-
<i>Particle boards and OSB</i>	9	10	-	-	1	-	-	-
<i>Turned and shaped wood</i>	6	4	-	-	1	-	-	-
<i>Cogeneration and pellets</i>	31	33	1	1	3	3	6	7
<i>Others</i>	8	4	-	-	1	-	2	-

⁹ https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/PortraitStatistique_2018.pdf

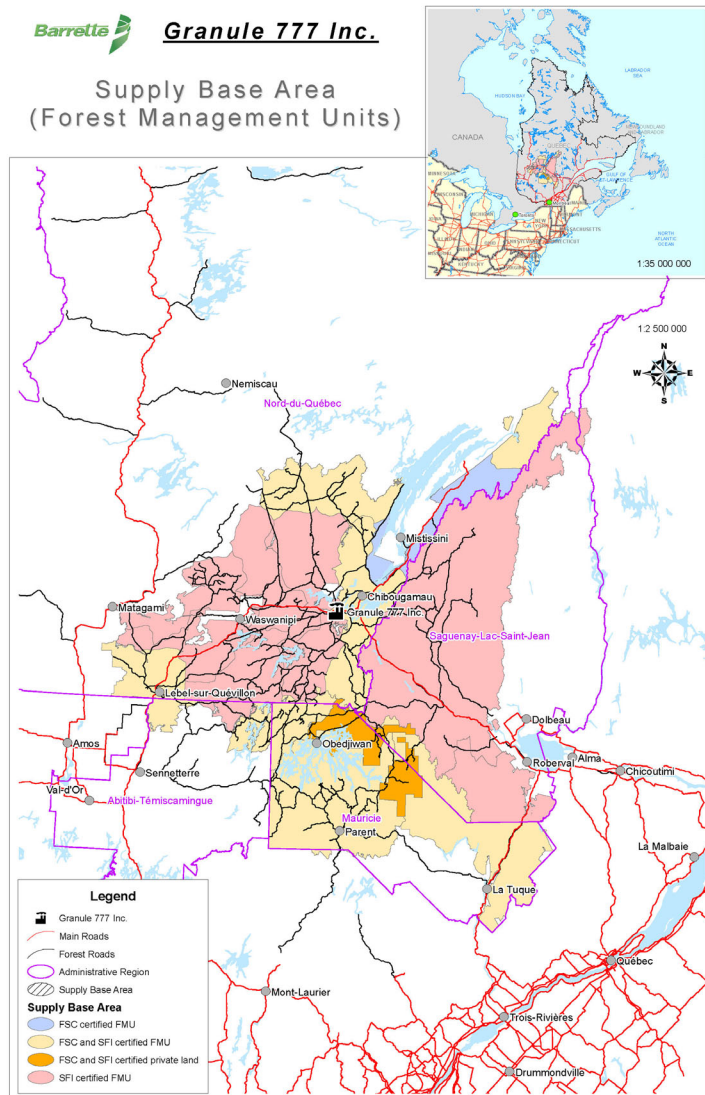
Proportions of SBP feedstock product groups

- Controlled Feedstock: -
- SBP-compliant Primary Feedstock: -
- SBP-compliant Secondary Feedstock: 100%
- SBP-compliant Tertiary Feedstock: -
- SBP non-compliant Feedstock: -

Proportions of feedstock certified and uncertified.¹⁰

- SFI certified Feedstock: 100%
- FSC certified Feedstock: 0%
- Uncertified Feedstock: 0%

Note: All % are in terms of volume.



¹⁰ BCL Superficies et volumes vs certification_2019-20.xlsx

Number of suppliers for each SBP feedstock product group.

Granule 777 procures its feedstock exclusively from Barrette - Chapais Ltée but over time, secondary and tertiary feedstock could also be sourced from other sawmilling and planing mills of the Province.

Species mix.

The following species, typical of the Canadian boreal forest, will be used by Granule 777:

Species		
English	French	Scientific name
Black Spruce	Épinette noire	<i>Picea mariana</i>
White Spruce	Épinette blanche	<i>Picea glauca</i>
Jack Pine	Pin gris	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>
Balsam Fir	Sapin baumier	<i>Abies balsamea</i>
Eastern Larch	Mélèze Laricin	<i>Larix Laricina</i>

2.2 Actions taken to promote certification amongst feedstock supplier

Granule 777's unique supplier (Barrette-Chapais Ltée) is an SFI/FSC chain of custody certificate holder and all of the wood supply of Barrette-Chapais is certified against the SFI FM standard and/or the FSC FM standard.

2.3 Final harvest sampling programme

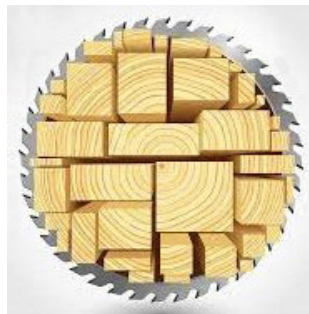
Every single cubic meter of wood harvested on the Supply Base Area is first sent to a sawmill or some other primary processor. In some exceptional circumstances (salvage plan after a wild fire) wood can be chipped on the road side and chips sent to a paper mill.

2.4 Flow diagram of feedstock inputs showing feedstock type



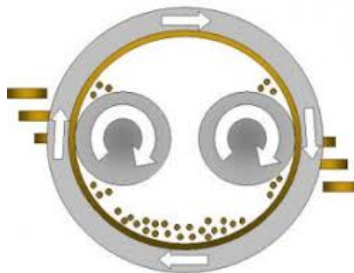
SFI/FSC certified Forest Management Units

Barrette-Chapais Ltée and other sawmills' Supply Base Area of **primary feedstock** (logs)



Barrette-Chapais Ltée SFI/FSC Chain of custody

Secondary feedstock (wood chips, sawdust, shavings and bark)



Granule 777's FSC chain of custody and SBP certification

SBP Compliant biomass

2.5 Quantification of the Supply Base

Provide metrics for the Supply Base including the following. Where estimates are provided these shall be justified.

Supply Base¹¹

- a. Total Supply Base area (ha): **6 642 087 ha**
- b. Tenure by type (ha): **Public: 6 371 950 ha; Private: 270 137 ha**
- c. Forest by type (ha): **11 438 472 ha of Boreal forest**
- d. Forest by management type (ha): **6 642 087 ha natural**
- e. Certified forest by scheme (ha):
 - FSC: **908 890 ha**
 - SFI: **4 163 750 ha**
 - FSC and SFI: **6 365 832 ha**

Note: **a; b; d;** are hectares of productive forests; while **c. and e.** refer to the total surface areas of the Supply Base.

Ref: BCL Superficies forestières des UA vs certification.xlsx

Feedstock

- f. Total volume of Feedstock: **0 - 200 000 ODMT** (Oven Dry Metric Tons)
 - *Justification of using 0-200K range instead of exact value: The mill has reached a stable production for only 5 months. The production is expected to be at around 200 000 ODMT but could be higher.
- g. Volume of primary feedstock: **None**
- h. List percentage of primary feedstock: **Not applicable**
- i. List all species in primary feedstock, including scientific name: **Not applicable**
- j. Volume of primary feedstock from primary forest: **None**
- k. List percentage of primary feedstock from primary forest: **Not applicable**
- l. Volume of secondary feedstock:
 - Chips, sawdust, shavings and bark: 100%
 - Origin: Barrette-Chapais Ltée - Primary processor (sawmill)
Province of Québec, Canada
- m. Volume of tertiary feedstock: **None**

¹¹ BCL Superficies et volumes vs certification_2019-20.xlsx

3 Requirement for a Supply Base Evaluation

SBE completed	SBE not completed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All the feedstock of Granule 777 is procured from an SBP-approved Chain of Custody certificate holder (SFI and FSC CoC) and the Supply Base Area of the supplier(s) is certified against an SBP-approved Forest Management Schemes (FSC and/or SFI). Therefore, we concluded that Granule 777 Inc. is exempted from a Supply Base Evaluation.

4 Supply Base Evaluation

4.1 Scope

Not applicable.

4.2 Justification

Not applicable.

4.3 Results of Risk Assessment

Not applicable.

4.4 Results of Supplier Verification Programme

Not applicable.

4.5 Conclusion

Not applicable.

5 Supply Base Evaluation Process

Not applicable.

6 Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholders comments were not solicited for the implementation of this SBP certification but seeking for stakeholders' comments is part of the requirement for the FSC CoC/CW system.

6.1 Response to stakeholder comments

Not applicable.

7 Overview of Initial Assessment of Risk

Not applicable.

8 Supplier Verification Programme

Not applicable.

8.1 Description of the Supplier Verification Programme

Not applicable.

8.2 Site visits

Not applicable.

8.3 Conclusions from the Supplier Verification Programme

Not applicable.

9 Mitigation Measures

Not applicable.

9.1 Mitigation measures

Not applicable.

9.2 Monitoring and outcomes

Not applicable.

10 Detailed Findings for Indicators

Not applicable.

11 Review of Report

11.1 Peer review

The first version (2019) of this Supply Base Report was independently peer-reviewed by Nate Ryant, RPF from NMR Resource Management Ltd, a consultant to the Forest Industry in Canada. Mr. Ryant is a registered professional forester and forestry consultant with 20 years of forest certification experience and 32 years of work experience in the forest industry.

This updated version (2020) has not been submitted to an external review.

11.2 Public or additional reviews

This report is publicly available and is accessible online at www.granule777.com.

12 Approval of Report

Approval of Supply Base Report by senior management			
Report Prepared by:	<i>François Grimard</i>	<i>Forestry Consultant GFG-Camint Inc</i>	<i>April 23, 2020</i>
	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:	<i>Denis Chiasson</i>	<i>Responsable planification, Barrette-Chapais Ltée</i>	<i>May 15, 2020</i>
	Name	Title	Date
Report approved by:	<i>Yann Sellin</i>	<i>General manager, Granule 777 Inc.</i>	<i>May 15, 2020</i>
	Name	Title	Date
Report approved by:	<i>Benoit Barrette</i>	<i>President, Granule 777 Inc.</i>	<i>May 15, 2020</i>
	Name	Title	Date

13 Updates

Note: This report is an update of the original SBP supply base report published in May 2019.

13.1 Significant changes in the Supply Base

No significant changes to the supply base.

13.2 Effectiveness of previous mitigation measures

Not applicable.

13.3 New risk ratings and mitigation measures

Not applicable.

13.4 Actual figures for feedstock over the previous 12 months

Total volume of Feedstock: 0 - 50 000 ODMT (Oven Dry Metric Tons)

*Justification of using 0-50K range instead of exact value: The mill has reached a stable production for only 5 months.

13.5 Projected figures for feedstock over the next 12 months

*Using the categories in Section 2.5 'Quantification of the Supply Base' (above), give an updated projection for the coming 12 month period. Volume may be shown in a banding between XXX,000 to YYY,000 tonnes or m³ if a compelling justification is provided**

Total volume of Feedstock: 0 - 200 000 ODMT (Oven Dry Metric Tons)

*Justification of using 0-200K range instead of exact value: The mill has reached a stable production for only 5 months. The production in the next 12 months is expected to be at around 200 000 ODMT.