

1 (b) Harvest notification; pilot. The Commissioner shall establish a harvest
2 notification pilot program under which a landowner of property may notify the
3 Commissioner prior to commencement of a timber harvest. The process
4 established by the Commissioner shall allow for a harvest notification by
5 electronic means, telephone, or paper submission.

6 (c) Requested information. The Commissioner shall designate the
7 information to be submitted to the Department in a voluntary harvest
8 notification. The requested information shall contain, at a minimum, the
9 following information:

10 (1) the landowner's name; mailing address; physical address of
11 residence; e-mail address, if any; and telephone number;

12 (2) the name of the logger or contractor conducting the harvest and his
13 or her mailing address; address of the principal place of business or residence;
14 e-mail address, if any; and telephone number;

15 (3) the name of the landowner's agent or consulting forester, if any, and
16 his or her mailing address; address of the principal place of business or
17 residence; e-mail address, if any; and telephone number;

18 (4) the location of the timber harvest, including the town and the nearest
19 public town highway used to access the timber harvest;

20 (5) the school property account number (SPAN) of the parcel where the
21 timber harvest will occur;

1 (6) the estimated date the timber harvest will commence and the
2 estimated date the harvest will be completed;

3 (7) the estimate of the acreage of the timber harvest area; and

4 (8) whether the parcel where the timber harvest will occur is enrolled in
5 the use value appraisal program.

6 (d) Harvest number; technical assistance. Upon receipt of a complete
7 harvest notification, the Commissioner shall assign a unique harvest number to
8 the timber harvest and shall provide the landowner with technical guidance or
9 information, including: a sample timber sale contract; voluntary harvesting
10 guidelines; guidance on compliance with maintaining water quality protection
11 during a timber harvest; and referral, where applicable, to appropriate natural
12 resource professionals.

13 (e) Confidentiality. Information submitted by a landowner in a voluntary
14 harvest notification under this section is confidential and exempt from public
15 inspection under the Public Records Act.

16 Sec. 6. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION;

17 HARVEST NOTIFICATION REPORT

18 On or before February 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and
19 Recreation shall testify before or submit written testimony to the House
20 Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Agriculture and Forest
21 Products and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

1 regarding implementation of the Harvest Notification Pilot Program
2 established under 10 V.S.A. § 2612a. The testimony shall:

3 (1) Summarize implementation of and participation in the Pilot Program,
4 including the number of harvest notifications received.

5 (2) Summarize the technical assistance and information provided to
6 landowners under the program.

7 (3) Summarize the effectiveness of the program in increasing
8 compliance with the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water
9 Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont.

10 (4) Summarize whether the Pilot Program increased the amount or
11 quality of information collected by the Department of Forests, Parks and
12 Recreation regarding timber harvests in the State.

13 (5) Recommend whether harvest notification should continue as a
14 voluntary or mandatory program.

15 Sec. 7. SUNSET; HARVEST NOTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM

16 10 V.S.A. § 2612a (Harvest Notification Pilot Program) shall be repealed
17 on February 15, 2020.

18 Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 2613. HARVEST NOTIFICATION; RULEMAKING;
19 REQUIREMENT

20 (a) On or before July 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and
21 Recreation shall adopt rules requiring a landowner of property where timber is

1 or will be harvested to notify the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
2 of the harvest. The rules shall:

3 (1) specify the time period within which the landowner will be required
4 to provide notice of the harvest;

5 (2) identify the method or means by which the landowner shall provide
6 notice, provided that the rules shall allow for a harvest notification by
7 electronic means, telephone, or paper submission;

8 (3) establish exemptions from the harvest notification requirement based
9 on the size of the harvest or other criteria;

10 (4) the information to be submitted in a harvest notification, provided
11 that the rules shall require the following information:

12 (A) the landowner's name; mailing address; physical address of
13 residence; e-mail address, if any; and telephone number;

14 (B) the name of the logger or contractor conducting the harvest and
15 his or her mailing address; address of the principal place of business or
16 residence; e-mail address, if any; and telephone number.

17 (C) the name of the landowner's agent or consulting forester, if any,
18 and his or her mailing address; address of the principal place of business or
19 residence; e-mail address, if any; and telephone number;

20 (D) the location of the timber harvest, including the town and the
21 nearest public town highway used to access the timber harvest;

1 (E) the school property account number (SPAN) of the parcel where
2 the timber harvest will occur;

3 (F) the date the timber harvest commenced or will commence and the
4 estimated date the harvest will be completed;

5 (G) the estimate of the acreage of the timber harvest area;

6 (H) whether the parcel where the timber harvest will occur is enrolled
7 in the use value appraisal program;

8 (5) whether a harvest identification number will be assigned to each
9 harvest and whether the harvest identification number shall be posted at the
10 harvest site; and

11 (6) the duration of any harvest identification number issued by the
12 Commissioner.

13 (b) Beginning July 1, 2018, a landowner of property where timber is or will
14 be harvested shall submit to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
15 the harvest notification required by the rules adopted under subsection (a) of
16 this section.