Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

Preferred by Nature OÜ
Evaluation of Granules Combustibles Energex inc.

Re-assessment

Sustainable Biomass Program
sbp-cert.org

Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 2.1 and SBP Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 (REDIII)

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

Document history

Version 2.0	**Published 10 August 2023**
Version 2.1	Published 21 May 2025

© Copyright Sustainable Biomass Program Limited 2025

Table of contents

1 Overview

Certification Body (CB) Name:	Preferred by Nature OÜ
Primary CB contact for SBP:	Pilar Gorria Serrano
Primary CB contact email:	pgorria@preferredbynature.org
Audit team leader:	Lennart Holm
Audit team members:	Jordan Thibault
Name of the Company:	Granules Combustibles Energex inc.
Company legal address:	3891 Président Kennedy, G6B 3B8 Lac-Mégantic (Québec), Canada
Company contact for SBP:	Alain Perreault
Company contact email:	aperreault@lignetics.com
Company website:	https://energex.com
Date of installation:	
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-08-39
Date of certificate issue:	25 May 2026
Date of certificate expiry:	24 May 2031

Audit closing meeting date:	05 Mar 2026
Audit cycle:	Re-assessment

2 Audit conclusions

2.1 Certification decision

Based on the auditor's recommendation and the Certification Body's technical review, the following certification decision is taken:	
Certification decision:	Certification approved
Certification decision by (name of the person):	Mikhail Rai
Date of decision:	05 May 2026
Other comments:	N/A

2.2 Open non-conformities and observations

2.2 Closed non-conformities

NC number 8583 copied from 6538 copied from 5505	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0
Requirement:	1.1.3 The Organisation shall include a description of all operators involved in the production, harvesting and transport of feedstock and having an impact on conformance with SBP standards, including at least the following: – company names, – addresses of operating sites, – key contact person, – status of certification against SBP-recognised scheme (where relevant), and – stages within the feedstock supply chain from the sourcing area up to and including the Organisation's own operations. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
During the audit, the BP has not prepared a description of all operators involved in the production, harvesting and transport of feedstock and having an impact on conformance with SBP standards, including at least the following: • company names, • addresses of operating sites, • key contact person, • status of certification against SBP-recognised scheme (where relevant), and • stages within the feedstock supply chain from the sourcing area up to and including the Organisation's own operations. Major NC is issued.	
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next surveillance audit, but no later than 12 months from report finalisation date
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	All operators involved in the production, harvesting and transport of feedstock and having an impact on conformance with SBP standards are listed in supplier list, stakeholder list and on SAGE accounting software
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Operators involved in the production, harvesting and transport of feedstock and having an impact on conformance with SBP standards are listed in supplier list, stakeholder list and on SAGE accounting software. This information is sufficient to close the NC.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 8584 copied from 6539 copied from 5507	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0
Requirement:	7.4 The Organisation shall ensure that the RMP identifies: a. to whom in the Supply Base the RMMs applies, to address all specified risks; b. the timeframe by when the RMMs shall be implemented; and c. the Means of Verification of the effectiveness of the RMMs to reduce the risk rating to low risk. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The BP has not identified in the RMP (SBR/ ProcessusMesuresAttenuation-GestionRisquesEnergex.docx) b. the timeframe by when the RMMs shall be implemented. Minor NC is issued.	

Timeline for Conformance:	By the next surveillance audit, but no later than 12 months from report finalisation date
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	A column of "frequency" have been added to the RMM, for clarity of timeframes for when the RMMs shall be implemented
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	RMM verified with timeframes defined for implementation of RMMs. NC Closed
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 8585 copied from 6540 copied from 5508	**NC Grading: Minor**
Standard:	SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0
Requirement:	7.6 The RMP shall be signed off by senior management in the Organisation. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
RMP (SBR/ ProcessusMesuresAttenuation-GestionRisquesEnergex.docx) has not been signed by senior management in the Organization. Minor NC is issued.	
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next surveillance audit, but no later than 12 months from report finalisation date
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	Updated RMP signed by Stephane Poirier on 17/02/2026.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Updated RMP signed by Stephane Poirier on 17/02/2026, sufficient to close the NC
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 8586 copied from 6541 copied from 5509	**NC Grading: Minor**
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0
Requirement:	1.24 The Organisation shall maintain an up-to-date self-assessment covering the implementation of 1.21, 1.22 and 1.23. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The BP has completed a self-assessment of its compliance to laws and regulations related to health & safety, anti-harassment, anti-corruption, environment, gender equity and commitment towars people and indigenous peoples' rights.(Auto-Evaluation lois et règlements Energex.pdf). However, it does not comply to SBP's Guidance for this requirement (see Guidance for Standard 4). Minor NC is issued.	
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next surveillance audit, but no later than 12 months from report finalisation date

Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	updated Exhibit 9-EnergexPrincipesFondamentauxMDO conforms with normative requirement.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	updated Exhibit 9-EnergexPrincipesFondamentauxMDO conforms with normative requirement. NC Closed
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 8639	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0
Requirement:	1.14 The Organisation shall identify stakeholders, develop, implement, monitor, evaluate and adapt as necessary, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) appropriate for their business operations and scope of certification. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The company has produced a procedure for stakeholder consultation "Gestion des Risques SBP-consultation des tiers Granules Combustibles Energex Inc. risques determines Approvisionnement primaire – directe de la forêt" but this document does not describe company engagement with stakeholders post consultation.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Prior to (re)certification
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Exhibit 2-_EnergexProceduresEngagementPartiesPrenantes was produced.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	On March 5, 2026, the company produced a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Exhibit 2-_EnergexProceduresEngagementPartiesPrenantes, which is sufficient and appropriate for their business operations and scope of certification. NC Closed
NC Status:	Closed

2.3 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalisation

NC 2026-002331 was closed prior to report finalisation.

2.4 Notes for the next Audit

-

3 Scope of the audit and SBP certificate

Scope item	Check all that apply to the Certificate scope
Primary activity	Biomass Producer
Secondary activity	
Approved Standards	SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance v2.0; SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0; SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0; SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data v2.0; Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1; Instruction Document EU RED: Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 v2.0
Product Group IDs	☐ Forest feedstock (1A) ☐ Trees outside forest (TOF) - Urban and landscape feedstock (2A) ☐ Trees outside forest (TOF) - Agricultural land feedstock (3A) ☒ Processing residues feedstock (4A) ☐ Post-consumer feedstock (5A) ☐ Other (please specify)
SBP Feedstock types	☒ SBP Compliant; ☒ SBP Controlled
Includes Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	Yes
Includes EU RED Scheme	No
Includes EU RED Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	No
Products	WB 1.1 Wood pellets
Feedstock origin (countries):	Canada
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: **Public link:** **https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/**	SBP-RRA-CA-QC-FOR_v2.0 RRA for Quebec FOR_Interim
Chain of custody system	☐ Physical separation ☒ Mass balance
Outsourcing	No
Changes in the scope	-

3.1 Description of the company

Guidance: Please describe the type, structure and operations of the company including its role in the supply chain, its inputs and outputs as they related to SBP Standards.

Granules combustibles Energex inc. is a pellet producer located in Lac-Mégantic (Québec) , Canada with production capacity of 110 000 t. The organization source secondary feedstock only (in form of wood chips, sawdust and shavings) from one supplier only who further supply this feedstock from many different sub-suppliers located in Eastern Ontario, Quebec, and New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island (United States). All material is received with FSC claim - FSC Mix Credit or FSC Controlled wood. In the dryer, the BP use the same material as in the pellet production and pellets diverted from the production. The material used is at least FSC controlled wood. The final product is transported to Port of Quebec, Becancour or Grande Anse by trucks.

3.2 Site details

Legal entity name	Address	Site Activity	Visited during the audit
Granules Combustibles Energex inc.	3891 Président Kennedy, G6B 3B8 Lac-Mégantic (Québec), Canada	Biomass Producer	☒

3.3 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system and Product Groups

Guidance: Please describe the operation of the CoC system including details of the mass balance management and a list of established Product Groups.

The BP holds valid FSC CoC certificate covering the pellet production https://search.fsc.org/fr/certificate/a02f300000gIHNxAAO/ The feedstock (wood chips, shavings and sawdust) are all processing residues purchased with different claims: FSC Mix Credit or FSC Controlled Wood. Feedstock from non-certified sub-suppliers, controlled under the direct supplier DDS is supplied with FSC CW claim. Non-certified feedstock is not accepted. The BP implements an FSC credit system of claims. All pellets are made form secondary feedstock, the material is weighted at the entrance and the volume is recorded. The credit account is updated against information received from the invoice delivered by the supplier. The conversion factor is calculated using the input - feedstock used in the dryer and output ratio. The credit account is updated monthly and it includes a description of the feedstock (sawdust, wood chips, shavings), the volume of physical input, production results and other relevant information. Purchased feedstock is provided with relevant trade and transport documents.

4 Specific objective of the audit

The objective of this evaluation was to confirm that the Biomass Producer's management system is capable of ensuring that all requirements of specified SBP Standards are implemented across the entire scope of certification. The scope of this evaluation also covered the Supply Base Evaluation and their mitigation measures as well as EU RED requirements for primary and secondary feedstock.

The scope of the evaluation covered:

- Review of the BP's management procedures, including requirements designated in applicable SBP Standards and Instruction Documents;
- Review of the production processes, production site visit;
- Review of the updated Supply Base Report;
- Review of the mitigation measures implementation;
- Review of SBP system control points, analysis of the existing FSC Coc system;
- Review of the records, calculations and conversion factors;
- GHG data collection analysis
- Interviews with responsible staff;
- EU RED bridging requirements for meeting RED III

5 Evaluation process

5.1 Timing and duration of evaluation activities

Audit Level of Effort (LoE)		
Activity	**Auditors**	**Auditor hours**
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Lennart Holm, Jordan Thibault	28.0
3. Report writing	Lennart Holm	8.0
1. Preparation	Lennart Holm	4.0
4. Other	Lennart Holm	4.0

5.2 Auditor team qualification

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	**Role**	**Qualification**
Lennart Holm	Auditor	Lead SBP, GGL, SDE+, ENplus and FSC, SFI and PEFC FM/COC auditor and successfully passed the SBP auditor training programme
Jordan Thibault	Auditor in training	Jordan is a registered forestry engineer in Québec and previously worked in the private forestry sector. He joined Preferred by Nature as a Forestry Coordinator in January 2025. Since then, he has completed training to become a qualified FSC Chain of Custody and Forest Management auditor and has led more than 20 audits as the lead auditor. He is bilingual in French and English.

5.3 Description of evaluation activities

The SBP re-assessment was carried out on March 2-5, 2026, thus a total of 4 days were used for this audit which was combined with the FSC COC annual audit. The audit was carried out through visits to the pellet production site and office in Lac-Mégantic, QC, Canada, as well as a visits to suppliers of primary raw materials to supplying sawmills and fvisits to sawmills where the raw material is currently obtained.
The audit consisted of an opening meeting, during which the scope was confirmed. The auditor also explained the methods to be employed during the audit. Opening meeting was followed by review of EU RED III procedures. Risk assessment prepared by the organization as well as the mitigation measures were evaluated, evaluation was also supported by findings from the last annual audit where other document revision was conducted.
During the audit, all relevant requirements of the applicable SBP standards were verified on compliance through the use of a report template and checklists, as well as interviews with the below mention individuals were made. Field visits to forest sites were done.
Sourcing program with company management system, procedures, instructions and records were reviewed during the assessment to evaluate compliance with STD 2 together with sites visits under the RRA to evaluate mitigation measures. (See 5.4 below for details). Standard 4 with Critical Control points were evaluated and found

to be sufficiently managed, a sample of purchases, sales and records from the management system were reviewed to evaluated, traceability and mass balance requirements were also covered. SAR document was reviewed and data cross checked with the company internal IT system.
A key part of the assessment was the evaluation of the management system for STD 1 and RED III requirements; in this context, the auditor was evaluating how company staff is doing audits for the suppliers and evaluating their compliance with the SBP standards and how risk from the risk assessment is implemented on the ground. An evaluation of suppliers training program was made. The audit was completed by filling in the audit checklist and discussing the audit results. During this closing meeting it was also discussed how evidence can be submitted of corrective action with respect to nonconformities that were identified during the audit.
This report is the result of the findings of a follow-up audit carried out by an independent lead auditor. The purpose of the assessment was to assess the client's compliance with the standards used within the scope of the certificate.
A sufficient amount of people were interviewed during the site and field visits.
Critical Control points were evaluated and found to be sufficiently well managed and controlled.
A closing meeting was conducted where auditor summarized scope change audit conclusions and next steps where clarified.
Impartiality commitment: Preferred by Nature commits to using impartial auditors and our clients are encouraged to inform Preferred by Nature management if violations of this are noted. Please see our Impartiality Policy here: http://www.preferredbynature.org/impartiality-policy

5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited

☐ N/A – No forest sites or suppliers visited during this evaluation

Site name
Arbec Prouxville
Site location
Prouxville
Site description
Planermill
Rationale and focus of visit
To verify secondary feedstock classification
Description of audit activity
Site visit to evaluate that the feedstock is processing residues.

Site name
Arbec St Rock
Site location
St. Rock
Site description
Sawmill

Rationale and focus of visit
Remote audit to verify secondary feedstock classification
Description of audit activity
Remote visit to evaluate that the feedstock is processing residues.

Site name
Bois Daaquam
Site location
St-Juste de Bretonniere
Site description
Sawmill
Rationale and focus of visit
To verify secondary feedstock classification
Description of audit activity
Site visit to evaluate that the feedstock is processing residues.

Site name
Clarmont Hamel
Site location
Saint-Éphrem-de-Beauce
Site description
Sawmill
Rationale and focus of visit
To verify secondary feedstock classification
Description of audit activity
Site visit to evaluate that the feedstock is processing residues.

Site name
Scierie VP
Site location
Saint-Odilon-de-Cranbourne
Site description
Sawmill
Rationale and focus of visit
To verify secondary feedstock classification
Description of audit activity

Site visit to evaluate that the feedstock is processing residues.

Site name
Rue de Ruisseau
Site location
Lac de Fortin
Site description
Ongoing partial cut on a 8.8 ha stand of mixed species, spruce, pine and poplar. Less than 40% extraction. Boundry of harvest area exclude wet ground.
Rationale and focus of visit
To verify implementation of mitigation measures of supply to sawmills where Energext purchase secondary feedstock
Description of audit activity
On-site verification of harvest prescription and plans, mitigation measures. Interview with workers and the supplier.

Site name
Rue de Cedrés n
Site location
Lac de Fortin
Site description
Concluded partial cut on a 3.5 ha spruce stand. 32% was extracted. Mitigation measures implemented for SBE.
Rationale and focus of visit
To verify implementation of mitigation measures of supply to sawmills where Energext purchase secondary feedstock
Description of audit activity
On-site verification of harvest prescription and plans, mitigation measures. Interview with workers and the supplier.

Site name
P9761
Site location
Beauceville
Site description
Ongoing partial cut on a 58 ha property where 8 ha was being harvested. Property was previously pasture and trees planed in 1972. . Property has an approved management plan. Mitigation measures implemented for SBE.
Rationale and focus of visit
To verify implementation of mitigation measures of supply to sawmills where Energext purchase secondary feedstock
Description of audit activity
On-site verification of harvest prescription and plans, mitigation measures. Interview with property owner who is also the logger

Site name
Rte Saint Alexandre
Site location
Saint Joseph de Beaure
Site description
Ongoing partial cut on two parcels, 9 ha and 1 ha. All maple and all standing dead trees are protected. Wet areas identified and properly mapped. Mitigation measures implemented for SBE.
Rationale and focus of visit
To verify implementation of mitigation measures of supply to sawmills where Energext purchase secondary feedstock
Description of audit activity
On-site verification of harvest prescription and plans, mitigation measures. Interview with property owner, forest technician and loggers

Site name
Rang Ste Marie
Site location
Saint Joseph de Beaure
Site description
Terminated commercial thinning in a 12 ha stand where 36% was extracted. Harvest company has a forest technician accompany the activities to ensure that extraction doesn´t exceed 40% All maple and all standing dead trees are protected. Water course in the stand are protected with a 10 meter buffer zone on each side. Mitigation measures implemented for SBE.
Rationale and focus of visit
To verify implementation of mitigation measures of supply to sawmills where Energext purchase secondary feedstock
Description of audit activity
On-site verification of harvest prescription and plans, mitigation measures. Interview with forest technician and loggers

5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used

During audit preparation, a sampling plan was developed based on the following criteria: - A review of documentation related to energy and carbon data for the chosen SAR reporting period.   – An assessment of the DTS.   – Inspection of the pellet plant and interviews with the team. Granules Energex has one main supplier of secondary feedstock with 40 sub-suppliers. 5 were visited based on the square root of 40 x 0.8.   Sampled 5 forest sites based on based on the square root of 30 x 0.8. All applicable and existing documents and procedures subject to the applicable SBP requirements were reviewed. The focus was on key responsible staff while all relevant staff were interviewed

5.6 CB stakeholder engagement

☐ N/A – Certification Body stakeholder consultation not applicable for this evaluation

Guidance: Please specify the number and types of stakeholders engaged, method of engagement and its outcomes.

The BP engaged with stakeholders through a public consultation between February 3 to March 4, 2026.

5.7 Stakeholder feedback and response

☐ N/A – Certification Body stakeholder consultation not applicable for this evaluation

The BP has received comments from stakeholders and responded to them. The comments were not concerns, mostly questions about SBP. The BP responded to them with explanations, as demonstrated to the auditor during the audit.

5.8 Main strengths and weaknesses of the management system and operations

Strengths: The audit of Energex demonstrated a good level of compliance with the required criteria of Standards 1, 2, 4 and 5, and the EU RED III requirements. There was reasonable evidence provided to support compliance where a Non-Conformity was not detected.
The existence of a FSC Chain of Custody system are considered a main strength with respect to Energex overall conformity with the relevant SBP standards. The organization has implemented well functional system and has a close relationship with the suppliers and forest owners.
Weaknesses: See NC raised.

5.9 Summary of evaluation activities for robustness of the Supply Base Evaluation

☐ N/A – Standard 1 not in the scope of the evaluation

The BP supply base covers Quebec, Ontario, and US states in northeast US. The BP can receive feedstock as FSC Mix or FSC CW. All feedstock received as FSC controlled wood are not added to the SBP credit account.

For the province of Québec, Canada, the BP has conducted a supply base evaluation (SBE) in 2025 per SBP Standard 1 using the latest regional risk assessment for Québec for SBP V2 (Feb. 2025). The BP implements mitigation measures for the following specified risk indicators: 1.1.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.10, 3.2.2. The only feedstock that is sold as SBP-compliant is either FSC Mix or sourced from Québec using the SBE and RRA with mitigation measures implemented.

The BP is in regular contact with their unique supplier to verify the supply base and the sub-suppliers validity and location.

5.10 Summary of evaluation activities for Processing residues and/or Post-consumer feedstock requirements per Standard 2 and EU RED

Traceability procedures and records were reviewed, following a sampling by the auditor of purchases and sales documentation. Site observations and interviews were also completed to confirm the veracity of the information. Sampling for EU REDIII suppliers of secondary feedstock was done with on-site audits for 5 different sub-suppliers to ensure feedstock delivered to BP is coming from processing. Additional documentation sampling was conducted remotely for other suppliers.

5.11 Summary of evaluation activities for chain of custody system per Standard 4

Energex has developed and implemented Chain of custody system according Standard 4 requirements, including Business Integrity self assessments and produced a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
Energex operates a controlled and traceable chain-of-custody system covering the sourcing, production, and delivery of wood pellets in compliance with applicable sustainability and legality requirements.
The Organisation is implementing mass balance accounting system for inputs and outputs. After the reception, incoming feedstock is unloaded into piles according to type of feedstock and load is registered into the recordkeeping system. All input material is weighted and recorded in tones.

The volume of sold pellets are withdrawn from the recordkeeping system.

5.12 Summary of evaluation activities for collection and communication of data per Standard 5

Energex do have in depth procedures for this and have supplied actual data on Greenhouse Gas emissions, as well as provided a good overview of the requirements for energy data collection.

5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel

Overall, BP staff showed a general understanding of the most recent SBP requirements that were released in the months prior to the audit. Awareness and understanding can be perfected. A very few staff members are involved in SBP certification. Since 2024, Alain Perreault, Director of Finances is now responsible for the BP's FSC and SBP certification. The BP relies heavily on INCOS Stratégies (Nicolas Blanchette, external consultant).

5.14 Summary of audit findings for GHG methodology per Standard 6 (if applicable)

☒ N/A – Standard 6 not in the scope

6 Detailed evaluation of BP's Supply Base Evaluation (if applicable)

☐ N/A – Supply Base Evaluation not in the scope of the evaluation

6.1 Overview of BP's risk assessments and mitigation measures including EU RED scope

The BP is sourcing FSC CW or FSC Mix processing residues from secondary and tertiary producers. The BP has an agreement with one supplier (Tafisa) to use their network of sub-suppliers of processing residues located in Québec, Northeast US and Eastern Ontario. The SBE applies only to feedstock sourced from the province of Québec covered by SBP-RRA-CA-QC-FOR v2.0. Implementing mitigation measures for specified risks identified by SBP-RRA-CA-QC-FOR v2.0 Interim RRA (Feb. 2025) will allow the BP to increase its output of SBP EU REDIII Compliant Biomass out of its sourcing of FSC CW inputs. Feedstock from the Northeast US and Eastern Ontario will either be SBP-Compliant if sourced as FSC Mix or SBP-Controlled if sourced as FSC CW.
For the province of Québec, the BP is sourcing from public forests and private forests. Per SBP-RRA-CA-QC-FOR v2.0 Interim RRA (Feb. 2025), specified risks are mostly for private forests outside the program and only one specified risk for public forest for 2.1.3 (biodiversity).
Most of the mitigation measures and many of monitoring/outcomes selected by the BP's consultant have been deemed insufficient or not properly demonstrated as sufficient by auditor to mitigate the risks. See Section 2. Audit Conclusions for more details.

6.2 CB evaluation of specified risk indicators and mitigation measures

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Private forests, Quebec
Indicator
1.1.1 Operations related to feedstock sourcing and biomass production shall comply with all existing applicable laws and regulations.
Specified risk description
Compliance with all laws and regulations could not be confirmed at the provincial level due to the absence of professional supervision for forest activities undertaken without the use of assistance programs for private woodlots.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
The annual reports of regional forest agencies, as well as marketing boards, confirm a sustained level of outreach efforts promoting sustainable forest management best practices among private woodlot owners, notably through training activities on sound forestry practices (e.g., legal compliance, maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, and protection of soils and aquatic environments).
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
Interviews with selected staff, supplier and workers conforms evidence of the outreach efforts promoting sustainable forest management best practices among private woodlot owners, notably through training activities on sound forestry practices (e.g., legal

compliance, maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, and protection of soils and aquatic environments). If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed.

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Private forests, Quebec
Indicator
2.1.1 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be identified.
Specified risk description
The regional risk analysis for the province of Quebec concludes that it is not able to confirm that the main biodiversity-related characteristics of Indicator 2.1.1 are identified within the organization's supply area for harvesting activities carried out without the private forest development program.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
The annual reports of regional forest agencies, as well as marketing boards, confirm a sustained level of outreach efforts promoting sustainable forest management best practices among private woodlot owners, notably through training activities on sound forestry practices (e.g., legal compliance, maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, and protection of soils and aquatic environments).
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
1. Auditor analyzed outreach efforts and conducted interviews with loggers and landowners. 2. Auditor analyzed geo-coordinates of a sample of entries and verified with geo databases potential HCV 3. Auditor witnessed how BPs staff evaluated harvesting practices and HCV. 4. Mitigation found sufficient to ensure that the feedstock is received as low risk The control system for feedstock includes regular follow-up of suppliers and inspections to suppliers harvesting operations to check if harvesting is made according to best practices, including for this indicator. If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed.

Country

Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Private forests, Quebec
Indicator
2.1.2 Threats to and impacts on the identified key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be identified and evaluated.
Specified risk description
The regional risk analysis for the province of Quebec concludes that it is not able to confirm whether the impacts of harvesting activities carried out outside the private forest development program on the main biodiversity-related characteristics of Indicator 2.1.1 are known.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
The annual reports of regional forest agencies, as well as marketing boards, confirm a sustained level of outreach efforts promoting sustainable forest management best practices among private woodlot owners, notably through training activities on sound forestry practices (e.g., legal compliance, maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, and protection of soils and aquatic environments).
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
1. Auditor analyzed outreach efforts and conducted interviews with loggers and landowners. 2. Auditor analyzed geo-coordinates of a sample of entries and verified with geo databases potential HCV 3. Auditor witnessed how BPs staff evaluated harvesting practices and HCV. 4. Mitigation found sufficient to ensure that the feedstock is received as low risk The control system for feedstock includes regular follow-up of suppliers and inspections to suppliers harvesting operations to check if harvesting is made according to best practices, including for this indicator. If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed.

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Private forests, Quebec
Indicator
2.1.3 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.
Specified risk description

The regional risk analysis for the province of Quebec concludes that it is not able to confirm whether key biodiversity features and HCV areas are being maintained or enhanced within the supply zones.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
The forest landowners met and/or the activities visited demonstrate an appropriate understanding of sound forestry practices, particularly with respect to legal compliance, maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, and the protection of soils and aquatic environments.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
1. Auditor analyzed outreach efforts and conducted interviews with loggers and landowners. 2. Auditor analyzed geo-coordinates of a sample of entries and verified with geo databases potential HCV 3. Auditor witnessed how BPs staff evaluated harvesting practices and HCV. 4. Mitigation found sufficient to ensure that the feedstock is received as low risk The control system for feedstock includes regular follow-up of suppliers and inspections to suppliers harvesting operations to check if harvesting is made according to best practices, including for this indicator. If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed.

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Private forests, Quebec
Indicator
2.2.3 Soil quality in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced
Specified risk description
The regional risk analysis for the province of Quebec concludes that it is not able to confirm the maintenance or improvement of soil quality within the supply zones of harvesting activities carried out outside the private forest development program.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
The annual reports of regional forest agencies, as well as marketing boards, confirm a sustained level of outreach efforts promoting sustainable forest management best practices among private woodlot owners, notably through training activities on sound

forestry practices (e.g., legal compliance, maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, and protection of soils and aquatic environments). The field visits confirm the maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, the identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, as well as the protection of soils, riparian zones and water resources.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
Field visits are performed during and after the field work to check compliance to soil quality maintenance in the forest lots. Mitigation measures such as erosion mitigation are implemented according to the best practices and site specific prescriptions. Verified on several sites during the audit. If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Private forests, Quebec
Indicator
2.2.4 Where the removal of harvest forest residues and/or stumps occurs, this shall not lead to irreversible negative impacts to the ecosystem.
Specified risk description
The regional risk analysis for the province of Quebec concludes that it is not able to confirm whether the harvesting of logging residues and/or stumps in private forests causes negative or irreversible impacts on forest ecosystems.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
The wood fibre does not originate from sensitive sites to nutrient loss or recognized as low-productivity sites. Furthermore, the organization does not source residues derived from forest harvesting operations.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
Verified maps of sensitive sites and low productivity sites. Field visits are performed during and after the field work to check if removal of harvest forest residues and/or stumps occurs. Verified on several sites during the audit that no stumps or forest residues have occurred. . If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Private forests, Quebec
Indicator
2.2.5 Quality and quantity of ground water, surface water and water downstream shall be maintained or enhanced.
Specified risk description
The regional risk analysis for the province of Quebec concludes that it is not able to confirm the quality and quantity of groundwater, surface water, and downstream water are maintained or improved in the supply zones for activities outside the private forest development program.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
The annual reports of regional forest agencies, as well as marketing boards, confirm a sustained level of outreach efforts promoting sustainable forest management best practices among private woodlot owners, notably through training activities on sound forestry practices (e.g., legal compliance, maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, and protection of soils and aquatic environments). The field visits confirm the maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, the identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, as well as the protection of soils, riparian zones and water resources.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
1. Auditor analyzed a sample of harvest sites in the reporting period and evaluated management plans, harvest prescriptions, maps etc. 2. Auditor evaluated during field visits harvesting practices and potential impacts on water. During field visits auditor witnessed BP staff to verify their own evaluation. No discrepancies were found between auditor and energex staff criteria. The mitigation measure is considered sufficient. Verified on several sites during the audit. If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Private forests, Quebec
Indicator

2.2.10 Harvested areas shall be regenerated
Specified risk description
There is no public database to validate the regeneration of stands after final felling carried out without recourse to management aid programs. Consequently, the risk is Specified.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
The annual reports of regional forest agencies, as well as marketing boards, confirm a sustained level of outreach efforts promoting sustainable forest management best practices among private woodlot owners, notably through training activities on sound forestry practices (e.g., legal compliance, maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, and protection of soils and aquatic environments). The field visits confirm the maintenance of forest cover/site regeneration, the identification/maintenance/restoration of biodiversity and HCVs, as well as the protection of soils, riparian zones and water resources.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
1. Auditor analyzed a sample of harvest sites in the reporting period and evaluated management plans, harvest prescriptions, maps etc. 2. Auditor evaluated during field visits harvesting practices and potential risk of not reforesting the site. During field visits auditor witnessed BP staff to verify their own evaluation. No discrepancies were found between auditor and energex staff criteria. The mitigation measure is considered sufficient. Verified on several sites during the audit. If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Private forests, Quebec
Indicator
3.2.2 Primary feedstock shall not be sourced from forest areas where site productivity is low and, according to local definitions or norms, the areas are classified as low-productive or difficult to regenerate.
Specified risk description
The regional risk assessment for the province of Quebec concludes that it is not able to confirm that impacts are minimized on sites sensitive to nutrient loss and unproductive for harvesting activities carried out outside the private forest development program.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure

The organization does not source Category 1 (i.e., primary) raw materials.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
During the audit it was verified that Energex does not source Category 1 (i.e., primary) raw materials. If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
Public Forest Quebec
Indicator
2.1.3 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.
Specified risk description
The federal recovery plan for the boreal caribou aims to reduce the rate of disturbance to its habitat and targets the maintenance and restoration of large forest areas important for the boreal caribou.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
Energex's non-certified feedstock is not sourced from the habitat of the boreal caribou neither from Intact Forest Landscapes, according to supplier declarations and traceability tools.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
During the audit it was verified that Energex does not source non-certified feedstock from the habitat of the boreal caribou neither from Intact Forest Landscapes, according to supplier declarations and traceability tools. If any deviations or non-conformities from this visit or other observations occur, the risk approach and its mitigation measures shall be reviewed