

NOV 16 2022

COR-2022-2784

Reg. # 2216

Karl Dessureault
Signal Gold Inc
20 Adelaide St. East, Suite 915
Toronto, ON M5C 2T6

Dear Karl Dessureault:

Re: Baie Verte Stog'er Tight Expansion - 278 Open Pit Mine (the Project)

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental environmental assessment screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by Part X of the Newfoundland and Labrador **Environmental Protection Act**, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Please be advised that the Project undertaking is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- You are required to uphold all commitments made in your environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the Project on the environment.
- You shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Resources Management Division of my Department for the installation of a real-time water quality/quantity network to monitor impacts on water flows and quality downstream of the project. You are to bear all costs associated with the monitoring network and must install the required network prior to site operation activities. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-2563.
- The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) requires the following:
 - You must submit a Fish Relocation Plan and Fish Habitat Offsetting Plan for approval by FFA Wildlife Division prior to implementation. Both plans must include specific mitigations with respect to American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) as this species is listed as Vulnerable under the Newfoundland and Labrador **Endangered Species Act** (2006) (and designated as threatened by Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (2012)).

- You must consult with FFA Wildlife Division on required bat colony survey protocols prior to any tree clearing occurring during the period from April 15 to September 30th. If a bat colony or overwintering/hibernacula site is discovered within the project area, activities must halt and FFA Wildlife Division must be immediately contacted at 709-637-2025 or by emailing endangeredspecies@gov.nl.ca.
- For slopes less than 30 percent, a minimum 30 metre naturally vegetated riparian buffer zone shall be established around all waterbodies, from the high water mark, that are identified on either the 1:50,000 scale National Topographic System maps, or the topographic mapping layer shown in the Provincial Land Use Atlas. No land use activities involving grubbing, ground or soil disturbance, or timber harvesting activities will take place in this zone.
- For slopes greater than 30 percent, there shall be a naturally vegetated riparian buffer zone calculated using the following formula: 30 metres + 1.5 metres x slope (%). No land use activities involving grubbing, ground or soil disturbance
- No vegetation clearing is to occur within 800 meters of a bald eagle or osprey nest during the nesting season (March 15 to July 31) and 200 meters during the remainder of the year. The 200m buffer also applies to all other raptor nests (e.g. Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl). The location of any raptor nest site must be reported to the Wildlife Division. For further information, please contact Fisheries Forestry and Agriculture at (709) 637-2025.

- You are required to advise the Environmental Assessment Division when the conditions of release have been met, by emailing a written description, documents, and images (where applicable) to demonstrate that the conditions have been fulfilled to EAPProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.
- You are required to update the Environmental Assessment Division on the status of the Project, including a copy of all permits, licences, certificates, approvals and other authorizations required for the Project, one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if required. Please email the Project updates to EAPProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

Federal and provincial government departments and agencies that reviewed the Project during the environmental assessment provide the following advice:

The Pollution Prevention Division of my Department advises that if pesticide use is required, all pesticide purchases, storage, and use are to comply with the Pesticide Control Regulations. For more information, please contact the Pesticide Control Section at (709) 729- 6054. Furthermore, you must obtain a Certificate of Approval (COA) for the

construction and operation of Pit 278 and, the COA that is currently issued will require an amendment. Any surface water, groundwater and effluent discharge monitoring requirements will be incorporated into the new and amended COAs. You are also advised to refer to the following guidance documents:

- Best Management Practices for the storage of waste dangerous goods/hazardous waste (WDG/HW) at business sites:
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/env-protection-waste-guidancedocs-gd-ppd-077-best-management-practices-for-the-storage-of-waste-dangerous-goodshazardous-waste-wdghw-at-business-sites.pdf>
- GD-PPD-010.1 - Environmental Standards for Remote Camps:
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/env-protection-waste-guidancedocs-gd-ppd-010.1-environment-standards-for-remote-camps-copy.pdf>

For further information, please contact the Pollution Prevention Division at (709) 729-5782.

The Water Resources Management Division of my Department advises that you must apply for and obtain permits under the **Water Resources Act** for any work in or within fifteen metres of a body of water (including wetlands) prior to the start of the work and for any infilling work within fifteen (15) metres of a body of water (including wetlands) prior to the start of infilling. You are advised to comply with my Department's Policy for Infilling Bodies of water: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/regulations/policies/bodies-of-water/>. You must also apply for and obtain a water use licence for the use of water from any water source for any purpose prior to the start of Project construction. Any effluent or runoff leaving the site must conform to the requirements of the Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003.

Although the current Project description does not include work within the Middle Brook Pond Protected Public Water Supply Area (PPWSA), please be advised that a permit will be required should any work within the PPWSA be necessary. In addition, should the structures required to retain water within the settling ponds exceed 1.0 meter in height, they may be considered dams and a permit would be required. For more information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-2563.

The Government Service Centre of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises that the extent of land clearing and grubbing should be restricted such that naturally vegetated areas between the Project site and surrounding properties and thoroughfares are maintained, as well as any existing tree screen concealing the operation from public view. In addition, you are advised that a contingency plan specific to the proposed undertaking should be developed and spill response equipment should be readily available on site to enable a quick and effective response should a spill occur. Any spill or leak of gasoline or associated product is to be reported immediately by calling the Environmental Emergencies Telephone Line at 772-2083 or 1-800-563-9089. For more information, please contact the Government Service Centre at (709) 673-4218.

The Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises you to ensure that the activities associated with the development are conducted in compliance with the **Occupational Health and Safety Act** and its Regulations. This includes the responsibility for ensuring that contractors hired to perform work also comply with this legislation. You are advised to prepare a spill response plan in the event of spills of fuel, oil or other fluids and to also ensure that an emergency response plan is in place, which includes the provision and maintenance of first aid kits. For further information, please contact the Occupational Health and Safety Division at (709) 729-6690.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture requires that you obtain a cutting permit, prior to any harvesting or timber removal in the area. In addition, during the forest fire season, you are to obtain an operating permit prior to the start of any work and a permit to burn if igniting a fire on or within 300 metres of forest land. For further information, please contact the Springdale Forest Management District Office at (709) 673-3821.

The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology advises that Section 4 of the **Mining Act** requires you to submit a development plan, a rehabilitation and closure plan and provide financial assurance for this Project. In addition, you are required to provide the results of the acid rock drainage (ARD) study and a metal leaching study. Study results must be interpreted by a qualified ARD professional, whose recommendations must be incorporated into the development plan and the rehabilitation and closure plan. For additional information on the above, please contact (709) 729-6164. Furthermore, you are advised to contact Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for any future connection requirements and possible hydro assets in the area. For more information, please contact the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology at (709) 729-5811.

The Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs advises that a development permit is required from the Town of Baie Verte. The Project site is located within a Rural Zone, where mineral operations are a discretionary use and subject to public notice requirements. For further information, please contact the Town of Baie Verte at (709) 532-8222.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure advises that no work or occupation is permitted on any property or near any infrastructure owned by the Department including, but not limited to, land, roads, bridges, buildings and other built structures, wharves and other shore infrastructure, etc., without prior approval of the Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. It is your responsibility to identify any such property and infrastructure and to engage with the Department. A Permit to Work within the Department's Right of Way will also be required prior to any work conducted within 30 metres of the center line of a Provincial Government road or highway. For further



information on permitting, please contact the Baie Verte highway depot at (709) 532-4404 prior to any applicable work.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) recommends that you prepare the following plans:

- an Oil Spill Prevention and Response Plan;
- a contingency plan that considers potential accidents and malfunctions for site specific activities;
- a management plan that includes appropriate preventive measures to minimize the risk of impacts on migratory birds, and should include processes to follow should an active nest be found at any time of year; and
- a Wetland Compensation Plan.

ECCC further recommends that in order to avoid nest destruction and to accommodate the breeding season of migratory songbirds and waterfowl, operations should consider nesting locations between April 15 and August 15 in this region. The use of nest searches or pre-clearing surveys for active bird nests during the breeding season as a mitigation is not recommended, given the difficulty associated with finding nests reliably and the high likelihood of disturbing nesting birds when searching. Vegetation clearing should be avoided during the time period noted above. ECCC provides advice on managing revegetation and invasive species, stockpiles, minimizing disturbance due to noise and lighting, effective wildlife response plans, minimizing impacts on species at risk and avoiding effects on wetlands. For further information, please contact ECCC at (709) 689-8915.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans advises that the modernized **Fisheries Act** includes fish and fish habitat protection provisions which came into effect on August 28, 2019. If you are conducting work in or near water you should refer to the Projects Near Water website to get information about how to comply with the **Fisheries Act** and as well as information on the project review process. The "Projects Near Water" website is located at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>. For further information, please contact the Fisheries Protection Program at (709) 772-4140.

Health Canada advises that if there is the potential for impacts to human receptors from noise and/or air quality changes from the project, you should consider establishing mitigation measures. They also recommend that you prepare a response plan in the event of an accident or malfunction with the potential to impact drinking water/recreational water quality and in the event of an accident or malfunction with respect to country foods. For further information, please review Health Canada's Guidance on Water Quality at <http://publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.832511&sl=0> and Guidance on Country Foods at <http://publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.855584&sl=0>.

Transport Canada advises that Camp Pond has been determined to a non-navigable water way and approval is not required for de-watering. You should consider whether any other Project infrastructure requires approval under the **Canadian Navigable Waters Act** for works located on navigable waterways not listed in the schedule, which may interfere with navigation. You are also advised that compliance with the **Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act** is mandatory when handling and/or transporting any regulated dangerous goods. For further information, please contact Transport Canada at (709) 351-3200.

Although the undertaking as proposed is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. You shall comply with all relevant legislation and obtain all necessary permits and approvals. You are required to inform this Department of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

Please note that in accordance with Section 17 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, my decision is valid for a period of three years from the date of this letter. If you have not commenced the Project within this three-year period you may apply to extend the term of my decision for a maximum of three, one-year periods, if needed. Should the term of my decision expire, the Project will have to be registered again for environmental assessment, if you wish to proceed. For further information, please email EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

If you have any questions about the environmental assessment process, please contact Joanne Sweeney, Director of the Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or email joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature, appearing to be "BD", written over a horizontal line.

HON. BERNARD DAVIS, MHA
District of Virginia Waters – Pleasantville
Minister

Enclosures

Cc: Brian Warr, MHA – District of Baie Verte-Green Bay
Deidre Puddister – Signal Gold Inc.