

COR/2014/06093

JAN 13 2015

Honourable Dan Crummell
Minister of Environment and Conservation
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Crummell:

**RE: Environmental Assessment Registration,
Noel's Pond Bypass, Route 460**

In accordance with Section 49 of the Environmental Protection Act, 2002, I am submitting for your review and consideration, an Environmental Assessment Registration for the proposed Noel's Pond Bypass.

Attached is a digital copy plus 10 paper copies of the registration. The site is indicated on the attached topographic map. The road will be constructed to a Rural Local Undivided 80 km/hr road standard and is 3.59 km long with an upgrade of the existing Route 460 for 2.1 km. Site clearing and grubbing will be undertaken through highway construction activities.

The route is to provide a bypass of a section of Route 460 near the community of Noel's Pond which has had a history of frequent flooding resulting in temporary closures of the road. This area is within the Stephenville Flood Risk Mapping Area.

An Environmental Protection Plan and a Contractor Environmental Mitigation Plan will be produced to minimize environmental impacts and a Stage 1 Historic Resources Overview Assessment will be determined for the proposed route.

We would like to complete the requirements of the Environmental Protection within 45 days of your receipt of this registration. The Department of Transportation and Works intends to call tenders for this project as soon as possible to allow construction to commence early within the 2015 construction season.

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If your officials have any questions, they should be directed to contact Ken Hannaford, Environmental Scientist with our Highway Design and Construction Division at 729-5540 or E-mail: hannafordk@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



Brent Meade
Deputy Minister

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Attachments

cc: Gary Gosse, ADM (Transportation)
Don Matthews, Regional Engineer (Western)
Cyril McCarthy, Regional Director (Western)
Ken Hannaford, Environmental Scientist



Newfoundland Labrador

REGISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 49
OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 2002,
FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE NOEL'S POND BY-PASS
ROAD, ROUTE 460, STEPHENVILLE

PROPOSER:(I) Name of Corporate Body

Department of Transportation and Works
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador

(ii) Address

6th Floor, Confederation Building (West Block)
St. John's, NF
A1B 4J6

(iii) Chief Executive Officer

Brent Meade
Deputy Minister
729-3676

(iv) Principal Contacts for the Purpose of Environmental Assessment

Ken Hannaford
Environmental Scientist
Highway Design and Construction Division
729-5540

THE UNDERTAKING:(I) Name of the Undertaking

Construction of a By-Pass Road near Noel's Pond, Route 460, Stephenville.

(ii) Nature of the Undertaking

The construction of a by-pass road at Route 460 (Hansen Highway) near Noel's Pond, Stephenville for an approximate distance of 3.6 km and the upgrading of 2.1 km of Route 460.

(iii) Purpose / Rationale / Need for the Undertaking

The purpose of this construction is to by-pass a section of Route 460 near the community of Noel's Pond which has had a history of frequent flooding resulting in temporary closures of the road. This area is within the Stephenville Flood Risk Mapping Area.

The general benefits of the by-pass are:

- Allowing Route 460 to operate when flooding occurs within the community of Noel's Pond;
- Providing a safe, efficient and reliable road transportation route for area residents businesses and emergency vehicles;
- Improving the road standard thereby reducing the risk of highway accidents and improving highway safety;
- During flooding events at Noel's Pond, there would be less travel distance and reduced travel time for motorists travelling on Route 460.

Description of the Undertaking

(I) Geographic Location

The west end of the by-pass intersects with Route 490 at the southeast end of Noel's Pond and extends in an easterly direction to Route 460 1.3 km from Long Gull Pond. The by-pass road will be approximately 3.6 km long and the length of the upgrading of Route 460 is 2.1 km. The

proposed by-pass road is shown on a topographic map section (approx. scale 1:20) and a Google Earth Image, Appendix A.

(ii) Physical Features

The highway will be constructed to a Rural Local Undivided 80 km / hr. Standard (RLU 80 km/hr.). This is a much improved standard compared to the existing Route 460. A typical cross section drawing is appended in Appendix B. A 10 m wide top will be provided with a 7 m paved driving surface. The right-of-way width of an RLU 80 is 30 m and this would be completely cleared; however, due to the sparse tree growth, clearing will be minimal. The grubbing width will be 20 m.

The subgrade of the by-pass road will be constructed mostly in a fill situation. The fill will be obtained from nearby borrow sites. Granular material for asphalt aggregates and paving purposes will come from an existing quarry site in the area. Blending sand for paving will also come from an existing borrow source in the area.

The route in some road sections will skirt areas of wetland while in other road sections; the road subgrade will be constructed in the wetland. Where possible, horizontal alignment adjustment will be made in the field to minimize wetland impacts. Within the wetlands and where the subgrade is built, excavation of the organic material will be carried out and replaced with rock fill. Excavated organic material will be utilized to rehabilitate disturbed areas.

Drainage pipes will be installed within the subgrade to convey storm water flows and snow melt. In wetland areas, subgrade drainage pipes will be installed such that the existing surface water elevations and flows are maintained. All drainage pipes will be manufactured of high density polyethylene.

Two small brooks will be crossed. Grubbing activities around watercourses will be restricted

until such time as the crossing structures are installed.

All water crossing sites will be examined in greater detail as soon as field conditions permit. Engineering field surveys and a fish /fish habitat assessment will determine if modifications to structures are necessary to allow for fish passage. All stream crossing structures will be designed to withstand the 1:100 year flood event. Flood Risk Mapping for the area (Appendix C) will be used in the design of stream crossing and drainage structures. The Department of Transportation and Works will consult with the Water Resources Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DOE&C) to ensure that the best available data is utilized to design stream crossing and drainage structures. For this purpose, Water Resources Division, DOE&C climate change data will be used.

The Water Resources Division's Environmental Guidelines for work around watercourses will be used during the design and construction phases. These guidelines include:

Chapter	Title
3	Watercourse Crossings
4	Bridges
5	Culverts
6	Fording
7	Diversions, New Channels, and Major Alterations
9	Pipe Crossings
13	General Construction Practices

Stream crossing structures will be designed and constructed in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). An Assessment of Fish Habitat along upstream and downstream areas adjacent to significant stream crossings will be carried out. Stream crossing structures will be designed and constructed to have minimal impact on fish and fish habitat and in Accordance with:

- DFO's Guidelines for Protection of Freshwater Fish Habitat in Newfoundland and Labrador (1998);
- DFO Fact Sheets for environmental protection measures; and
- Fish passage guidelines and other applicable guidelines.

(iii) Construction

Road construction will be performed by contract forces over a two year period. Subgrade construction will be carried out over a one year period starting in 2015. Paving is planned for the 2016 construction season. The project will involve:

- (a) Engineering field surveys and environmental assessments;
- (b) Right-of-way clearing;
- (c) Grubbing / excavation;
- (d) Subgrade construction;
- (e) Stream crossing structures;
- (f) Sediment control measures
- (g) Clean-up and rehabilitation;
- (h) Grading and
- (i) Paving

The potential sources of pollution during construction would be limited to the possible siltation of watercourses/water bodies during grubbing/excavation operations. In addition, the potential exists for hydrocarbon spillage from temporary fuel storage facilities. Contractors will be advised of the environmental requirements for stream crossing work and for hydrocarbon spill reporting/clean-up and the necessity of strict compliance.

The potential for adverse environmental impacts during construction will be minimized. All

construction activities will be undertaken in accordance with the environmental requirements of the Department of Transportation and Work's Specification Book for highway projects and in compliance with other environmental and related project documents. Where necessary, the results of environmental assessment field work as well as special mitigation measures will be incorporated into project contract documents.

(iv) Operation

The road is a permanent operation. Periodic summer maintenance will be necessary and will include such activities as grading, shouldering, ditch cleaning and repairs to guide rails and road signs. Winter maintenance will consist of snow clearing and the application of a sand/salt mixture for ice control.

(v) Occupations

The various types of occupations anticipated for this project include:

- (a) Civil Engineers;
- (b) Structural Engineers;
- (c) Engineering Technicians;
- (d) Environmental Planner
- (e) Environmental Scientist
- (f) Road Surveyors;
- (g) Heavy Equipment Operators;
- (h) Drillers and Blasters;
- (i) Electricians;
- (j) Carpenters;
- (k) Heavy Equipment Mechanics;
- (l) Labourers;

(m) Truck Drivers;

(vi) Project-related Documents and Assessments

- An **Environmental Protection Plan (EPP)** will be prepared for the project and it will form part of the tender documents. The EPP will be a field usable document which will outline the environmental protection measures to be implemented during the construction phase. The EPP will clearly outline the location of any environmentally sensitive areas which are known and specify any restrictions on the timing of construction due to wildlife/fisheries/water resources/historic resources/aboriginal concerns, etc. Rehabilitation measures for disturbed areas of the project will be clearly outlined.
- A **Contractor Environmental Mitigation Plan (CEMP)** will be required from the contractor for department review and acceptance prior to the commencement of construction.
- Before construction begins, an Environmental Awareness Session will be held between the contractor and department officials to review and discuss the EPP and the CEMP.
- The need for a Historic Resources Assessment will be determined through consultation with the Cultural Heritage Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. If necessary, the appropriate assessment work will be undertaken. The EPP will outline reporting procedures and other mitigation actions to be taken in the event historical material is discovered during construction operations.
- A Fish and Fish Habitat Assessment will be carried out on the stream crossing sites for those watercourses which will be crossed during construction. The assessment will determine the presence of fish and the type of fish habitat which is present and if modification to structures may be necessary to ensure fish passage.
- A Vegetation Assessment will be conducted along the proposed route to determine the presence of rare or special plants within or adjacent to the proposed right-of-way.

The Wildlife Division, DOE&C will be consulted.

- The project area will be assessed for the presence of raptor and migratory bird nests. Consultation will take place with both the provincial Wildlife Division and with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada.
- The flood risk mapping and related data in the Hydrotechnical Study of Stephenville, (DOE&C/Hatch, March 2009) will be used to design stream crossing and drainage structures for the project.

APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:

The following is a list of the permits, licences, approvals which may be necessary for this project:

MAJOR REGULATORY APPROVALS BY TYPE AND AGENCY

Type of Permit	Agency
1. Stream crossing approvals	Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans
2. Wood cutting permits	Dept. of Natural Resources
3. Fuel storage & handling	Government Service Centre
4. Solid waste disposal	Government Service Centre
5. Water supply/sewage disposal for construction camps (if applicable)	Government Service Centre
6. Borrow/quarry site approvals	Dept. of Natural Resources
7. Stream Crossing Approvals for temporary crossings required by the contractor	Dept. of Environment and Conservation & Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans

SCHEDULE:

The Department of Transportation and Works would like to complete the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act and seek approval for the project no later than 2014 06 23. A tender call could take place in June of 2015 with subgrade construction starting shortly after. Paving would take place in 2016.

FUNDING:

The project will be funded by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$6 million.

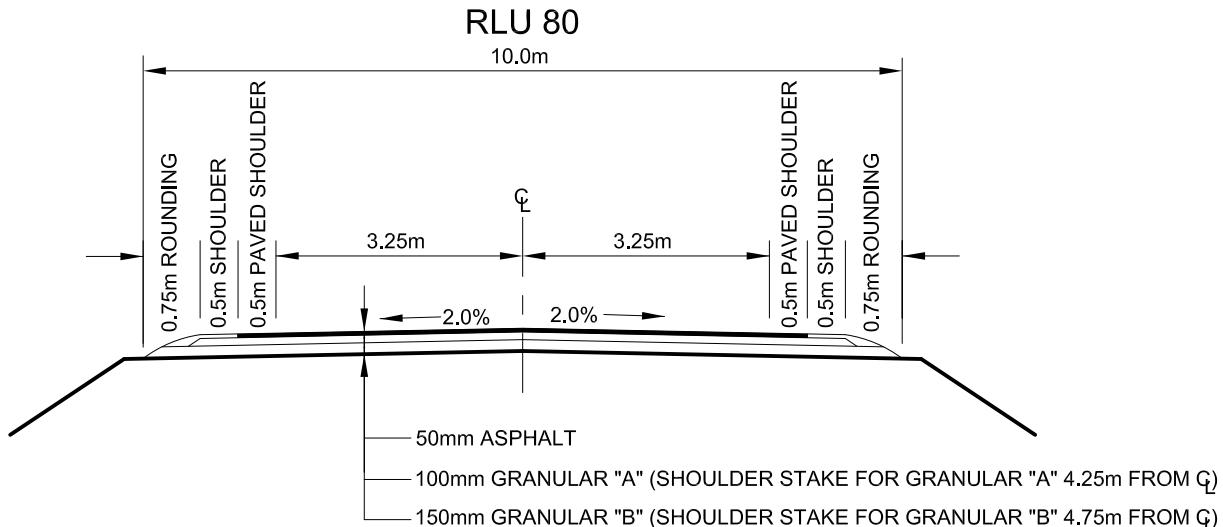
JAN 13/15

Date

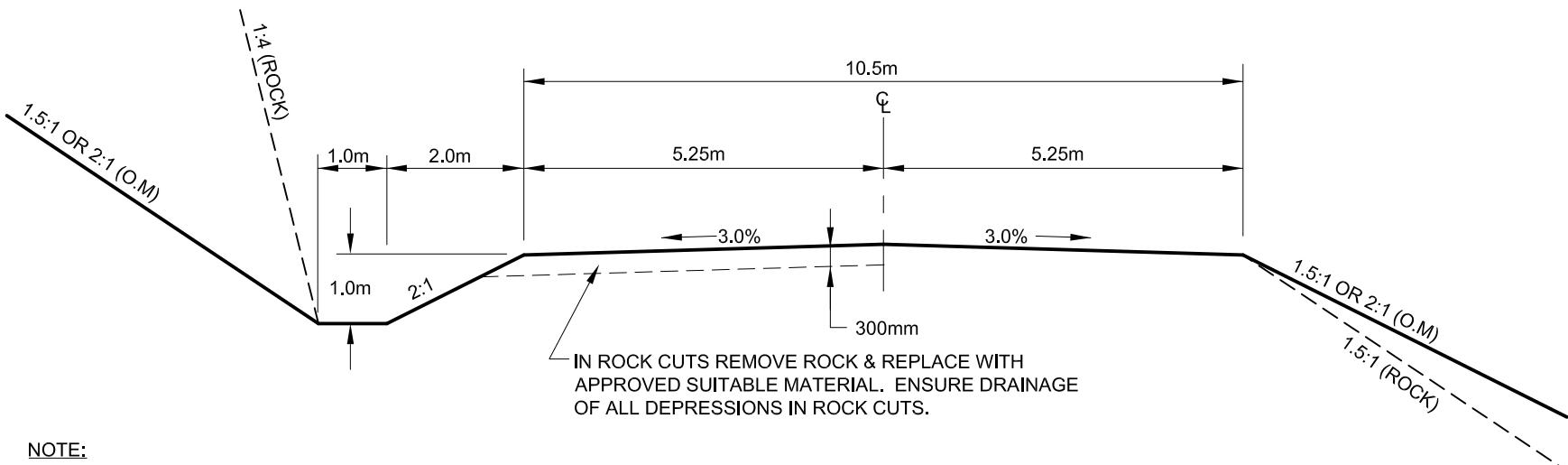

Brent Meade
Deputy Minister

TYPICAL CROSS SECTION RLU80 FOR NOEL'S POND BYPASS

STANDARD WIDTH OF R.O.W. 30.0m
STANDARD WIDTH OF CUTTING 30.0m
STANDARD WIDTH OF GRUBBING 20.0m



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION FOR RLU 80 FINAL CONSTRUCTION

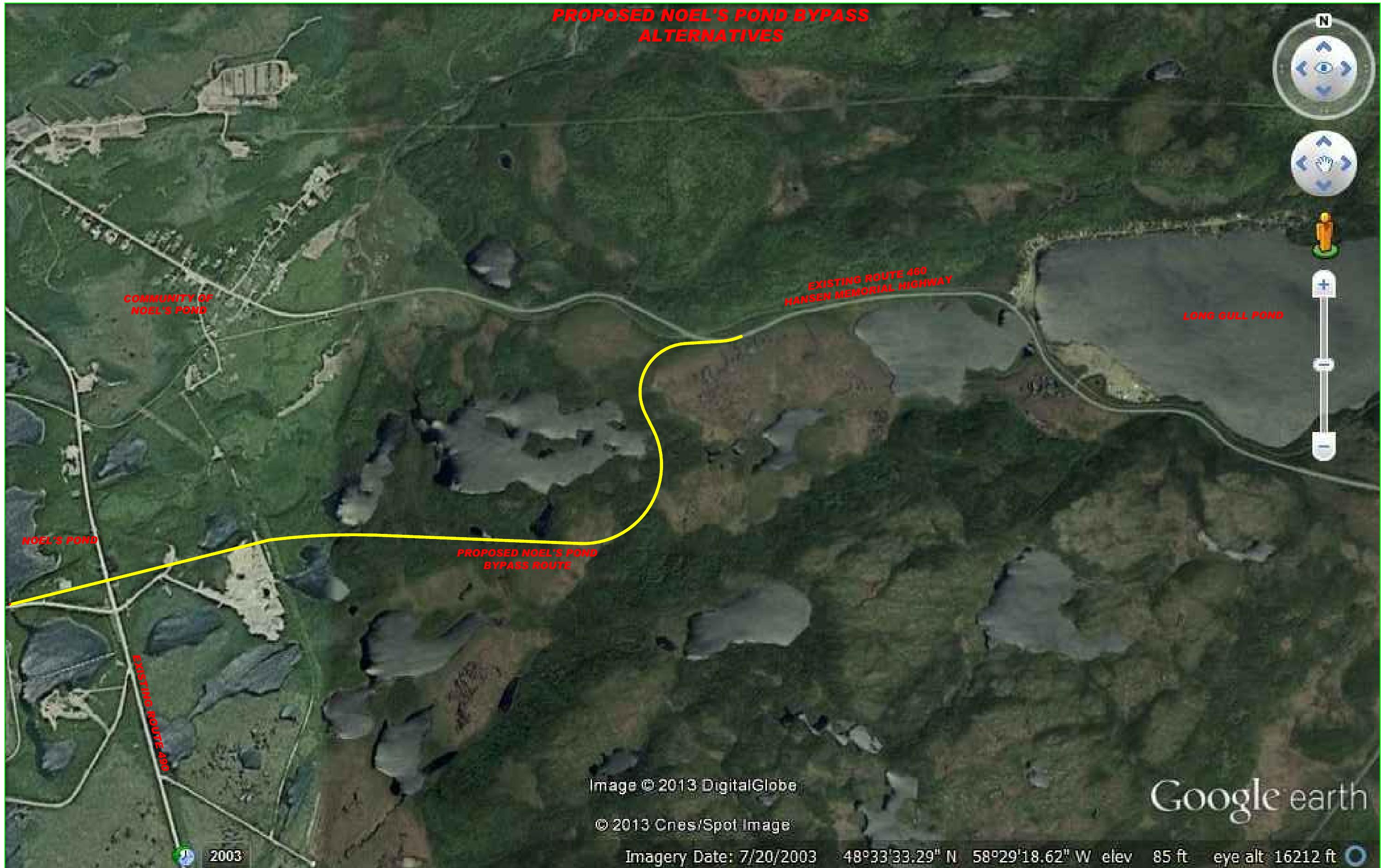


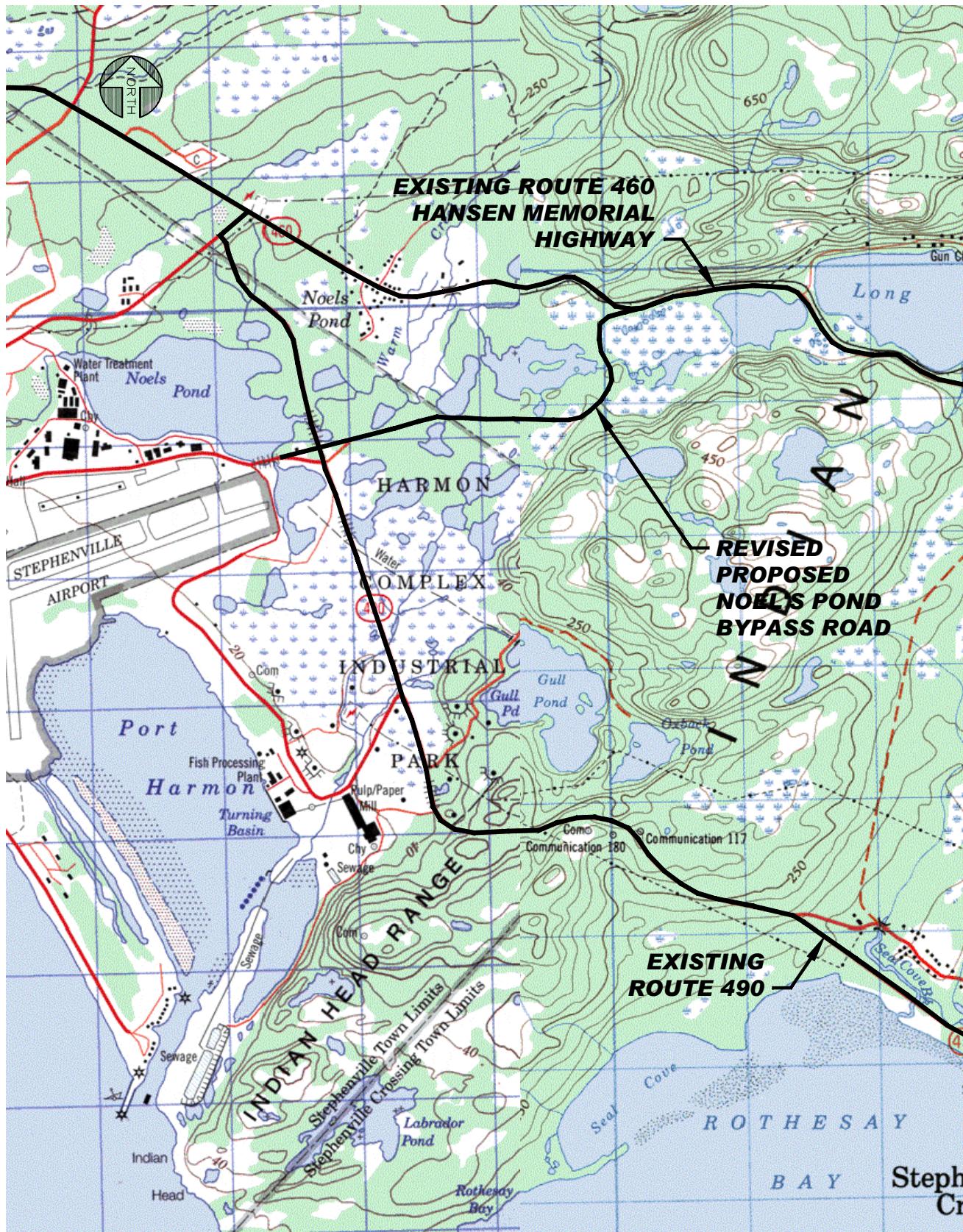
NOTE:
SHOULDER STAKE 4.5m FOR SHOULDERING
MACHINE TO ACHIEVE REQUIRED ROUNDING.

IF SCARIFYING IS REQUIRED WIDTH OF SCARIFYING SHALL BE WIDTH OF PAVEMENT PLUS 300mm ON BOTH SIDES.

TYPICAL CROSS SECTION FOR RLU 80 SUB-GRADE CONSTRUCTION

**PROPOSED NOEL'S POND BYPASS
ALTERNATIVES**





TRANSPORTATION AND WORKS
HIGHWAY DESIGN DIVISION

Proposed Noel's Pond Bypass Road Revised Route

DRAWN BY: JM

DATE: Rev Nov. 20, 2014

Scale Approx 1:42,500