

COR-2023-228

FEB 01 2023

Reg. #2230

Paul Wylezol
International Appalachian Trail-
Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter Inc.
Corner Brook, NL A2H 2Y6
Email: iatnl.org@gmail.com

Dear Paul Wylezol:

RE: Humber Valley Hiking Trail (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 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.
- The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) advises the following:
 - The registration document includes two maps that provide slightly differing illustrations of the trail location. The trail under Crown lands application 159964, which was reviewed in its entirety in the environmental assessment, is the trail that will be considered for issuance of a licence to occupy. A copy of the Crown lands map is attached.
 - Some sections of the proposed trail are located within suitable habitats for botanical species of conservation concern. You must contact the Wildlife Division by email at endangeredspecies@gov.nl.ca prior to vegetation clearing activities to discuss appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that listed plants or their habitats are not negatively impacted.

- Vegetation clearing is not to occur within 800 metres of a bald eagle or osprey nest during the nesting season (March 15 to July 31) or within 200 metres during the remainder of the year. The 200-metre 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 sites must be reported to the Wildlife Division. For further information please contact FFA at (709) 637-2353.
- 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 EAProjectComments@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 EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

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

The Government Service Centre (GSC) of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises that brush should be chopped/shredded, and may be burnt on-site with the approval of Forestry and Wildlife, or may be removed to an approved waste disposal site for proper disposal with the permission of the owner/operator of the waste disposal site. Tires and used or waste oil are not to be used to aid in the burning of brush. For further information, please contact the GSC at (709) 637-2369.

The Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) of my Department advises that all waste material shall be considered prior to disposal for reuse, resale or recycling. All waste material generated during construction and operation is to be placed in suitable refuse containers and removed to an approved waste disposal site. The PPD further advises you to take measures, which may include erecting signage, to prevent littering along the trails. For further information, please contact the PPD at (709) 729-2556.

The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) of my Department informs that the proposed trail crosses streams at five locations and the trail is located within 15 metres of a pond. A map of the stream crossings is attached for your convenience. The WRMD advises that permits are required under the **Water Resources Act** for any work, including

infilling, in or within 15 metres of a body of water (including wetlands), and for the use of water from any source for any purpose. For further information, please contact the WRMD at (709) 729-1646.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) advises that a commercial cutting permit is required prior to any harvesting or timber removal in the area. During the forest fire season, an operating permit is required prior to the start of any work and a permit to burn must be obtained prior to igniting a fire within 300 metres of forest land. FFA advises that your crown lands application is under review and development is not to take place unless/until your application is approved and the title has been issued. FFA further advises that the proposed Project site is located in an area where some species are listed under the Newfoundland and Labrador **Endangered Species Act (ESA)** therefore, no person shall disturb, harass, injure, or kill an individual of a species designated as threatened, endangered, or extirpated as per Section 16(1) of **ESA**. For further information, please contact FFA at (709) 637-2353.

The Department of Industry, Energy and Technology (IET) informs that northeastern portions of the trail overlap a large mining grant area within which there have been recognized mineral occurrences, and southern portions of the trail pass through an area where there have been documented thick deposits of sand and gravel. IET suggests that mineral exploration and quarrying are land uses that may be proposed within the vicinity of the Project in the future. IET further informs that the Project is located within an area having oil and gas potential. For further information, please contact IET at (709) 729-6437.

The Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (MAPA) advises that the Project intersects the City of Corner Brook Municipal Plan, where hiking and walking trails are listed as discretionary uses. A permit is required from the City of Corner Brook prior to Project construction. For further information, please contact MAPA at (709) 729-3090.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (TI) advises that its approval is required prior to activities on any TI properties. For further information, please contact TI at (709) 729-5399.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada advises you to follow the modernized **Fisheries Act** that 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** 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-enq.html>. For further information, please contact the Fisheries Protection Program at (709) 772-4140.



Although the undertaking as proposed is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. You must 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 periods of one year. 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,

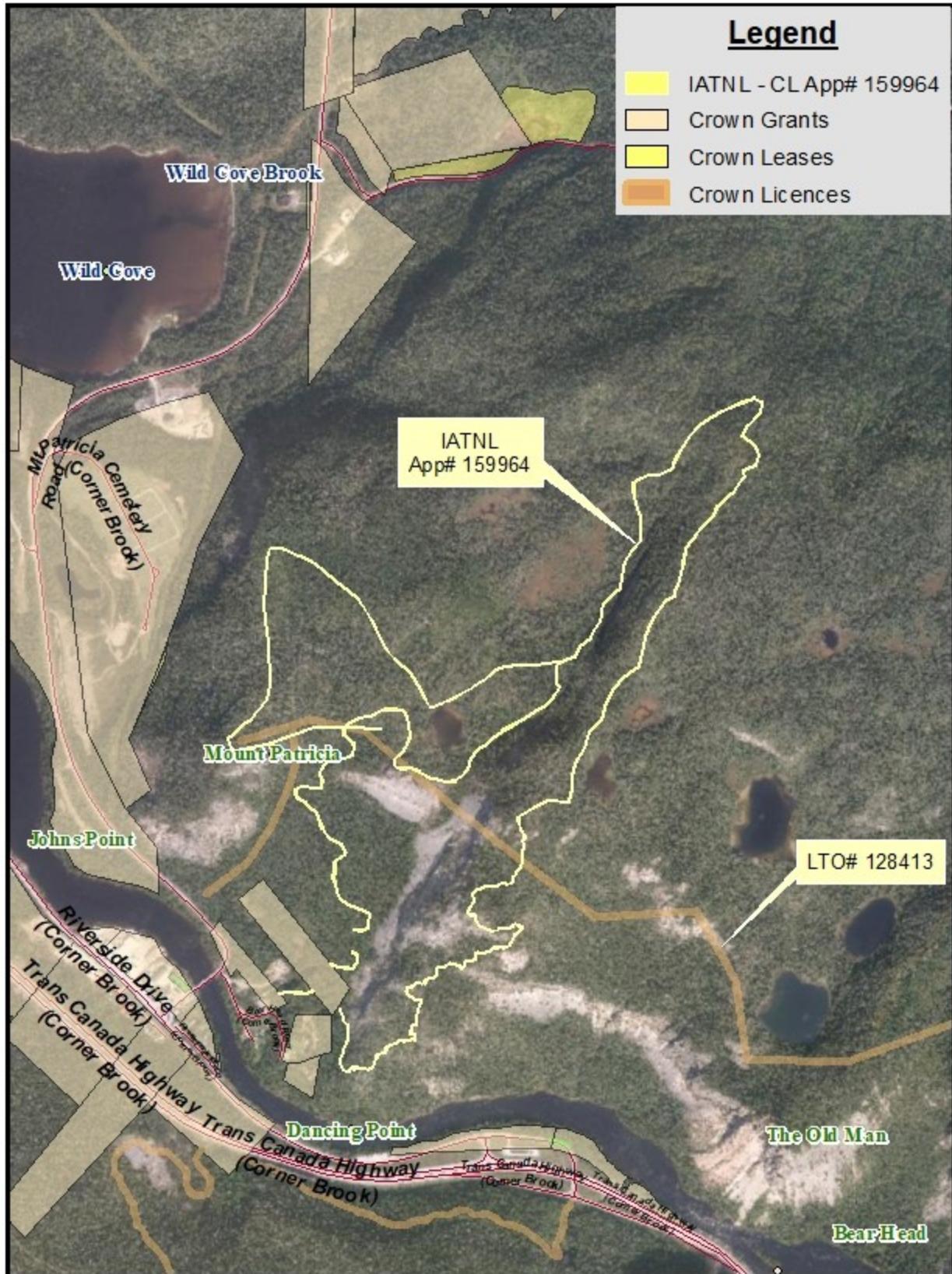
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hon. Bernard Davis".

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

Enc. FFA and WRMD Maps

Cc: Hon. Gerry Byrne, MHA – District of Corner Brook

Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Crown Lands Division
EA Registration No. 2230 - IATNL



0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Meters



Scale 1:15,000
Compiled on January 04, 2023

EA Registration 2230 - Humber Valley Hiking Trail

