

COR-2023-3301

October 12, 2023

Reg. #2265

Kathleen Fillier
Newfoundland Power Inc.
55 Kenmount Road, PO Box 8910
St. John's, NL A1B 4P2
Email: kfillier@newfoundlandpower.com

Dear Kathleen Fillier:

RE: Gander to Gambo Transmission Line 146L Rebuild (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 must uphold all commitments made in your environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the Project on the environment.
- The Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) with the Department of Environment and Climate Change requires you to submit a Waste Management Plan for approval prior to commencement of the Project. The plan must explain how all potential waste streams will be managed. For more information, please contact Marie Ryan of the PPD at ryanm@gov.nl.ca.
- The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) requires the following:
 - A short-eared owl nest (ground nesting birds) survey must be completed within seven days of any ground disturbance (e.g. road maintenance, laydown areas) or clearing during the breeding season (May 01 – Aug 15). If any nests or young are found within the Project footprint, an 800m buffer around the nest site must be maintained until they are fledged. Any short-eared owl occurrences/potential nests outside but within 800m of the Project footprint must be mitigated to avoid negative impacts on breeding success. Possible mitigation would be to move active work site where these birds are no longer disturbed (e.g. outside an estimated 800m buffer of such a nest site).



- No vegetation clearing is to occur within 800 metres of a bald eagle or osprey nest during the nesting season (March 15 to July 31) and 200 metres during the remainder of the year. The 200m buffer also applies to all other active raptor nests (e.g. Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl) during the nesting season. The location of any raptor nest site must be reported to the Wildlife Division.

For more information, please contact the Wildlife Division at (709) 637-2353.

- The Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation has advised that there are two known aircraft wreck sites located east of Gander. These sites are protected under the **Historic Resources Act** and should not be interfered with in any way. The PAO requires a 50-metre buffer to be maintained around these sites. The coordinates for the sites are:
 - LAT_DD 48.926737, LONG_DD -54.579904; and
 - LAT_DD 48.926398, LONG_DD -54.58314 (NAD 1983).

For more information, please contact the PAO at (709) 729-2462.

- You must 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 must 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.

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 must 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. It appears to start with 'HON. BERNARD DAVIS' followed by 'MHA' in a smaller box, with a flourish at the end.

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

Enclosures

Cc: John Haggie, MHA – District of Gander