

Environment and Climate Change

October 13, 2023

Environmental Assessment Bulletin

The Honourable Bernard Davis, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, has announced the following relative to Part 10 Environmental Assessment of the **Environmental Protection Act**.

UNDERTAKINGS RELEASED:

Northwest River Bridge Replacements

(Reg. 2264)

Proponent: Scouts Canada (NL) Properties Inc.

The Project is released from environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- The Proponent must uphold all commitments made in the environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the Project on the environment.
- The Proponent 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, within one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if required.

Gander to Gambo Transmission Line 146L Rebuild

(Reg. 2265)

Proponent: Newfoundland Power Inc.

The Project is released from environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- The Proponent must uphold all commitments made in the environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the Project on the environment.
- 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 800-metre buffer around the nest site must be maintained until they are fledged. Any short-eared owl occurrences/potential nests outside but within 800-metre 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 800-metre 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 200-metre 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.
- 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).
- The Proponent 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.
- The Proponent 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, within one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if required.

Learn more

Environmental Assessment Division
 Department of Environment and Climate Change
 West Block, Confederation Building
 P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Environmental assessment information is available at:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/env-assessment/>

https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/GUIDE-TO-THE-PROCESS_September-2023.pdf

Follow us on Twitter: [@GovNL](https://twitter.com/GovNL) and [@ECC GovNL](https://twitter.com/ECC_GovNL)

Project comments may be forwarded to: Aprjectcomments@gov.nl.ca

Anyone submitting comments on a project under environmental assessment is asked to please advise the Department if they DO NOT wish to have their comments shared with the Project Proponent.

Media contact

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