

## **Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities**

November 20, 2020

### **Environmental Assessment Bulletin**

The Honourable Derek Bennett, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities, has announced the following events relative to Part 10 Environmental Assessment of the Environmental Protection Act.

#### **UNDERTAKING REGISTERED:**

**Norris Arm Rattling Brook Hydroelectric Upgrades** (Reg. 2109)  
**Proponent: Newfoundland Power Inc.**

The proponent is proposing to make modifications and upgrades to the Rattling Brook hydroelectric development, located in Norris Arm. The project will include modifications and expansion of the substation, construction of the 136L and 137L transmission line extensions, relocation and replacement of the garage, repairs to the surge tower, and generator unit refurbishment.

The undertaking was registered on November 20, 2020; the deadline for public comments is December 25, 2020; and the minister's decision is due by January 4, 2021.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PREVIEW REPORT GUIDELINES ISSUED:**

**Exploits River (Bishop's Falls South Side)**  
**Cottage Development** (Reg. 1990)  
**Proponent: Alex Cooke**

The minister has approved the final guidelines for the preparation of the Environmental Preview Report (EPR) for the Exploits River (Bishop's Falls South Side) Cottage Development project. The EPR guidelines identify the information that the proponent will be required to include in the EPR. The EPR guidelines document is available on the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities website at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/projects/project-1990/> or by contacting the Chair of the Assessment Committee, Paul Carter at (709) 729-0188 or by email at [pcarter@gov.nl.ca](mailto:pcarter@gov.nl.ca)

**Hammerdown Gold Mine** (Reg. 2091)  
**Proponent: Maritime Resource Corporation**

The minister has approved the final guidelines for the preparation of the Environmental Preview Report (EPR) for the Hammerdown Gold Mine project. The EPR guidelines identify the information that the proponent will be required to include in the EPR. The

EPR guidelines document is available on the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities website at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/projects/project-2091/> or by contacting the Chair of the Assessment Committee, Paul Carter at (709) 729-0188 or by email [pcarter@gov.nl.ca](mailto:pcarter@gov.nl.ca)

## **UNDERTAKINGS RELEASED:**

**Upper Humber River Vegetable Farm**  
**Proponent: Riverside Farms**

(Reg. 2098)

The project is released subject to the following conditions:

- The release from environmental assessment is for the agricultural activities described in the environmental assessment registration document. Any changes to the undertaking must be presented in writing to the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities for a determination as to whether or not environmental assessment is required.
- The proponent is required to 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 requires the following:
  - a minimum 30-metre undisturbed buffer must be maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands that appear on a 1:50,000 topographical map to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat; and,
  - 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 raptor nests (e.g. Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl); and, the location of any raptor nest site must be reported to the Wildlife Division.
- The proponent is 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](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).
- The proponent is required to update the Environmental Assessment Division on the status of the project, including a copy of all permits, licenses, certificates, approvals and other authorizations required for the project, one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if requested. Project updates should be emailed to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).

**Huguette Lake Quarry**  
**Proponent: Allard Distributing Ltd.**

(Reg. 2099)

The project was released subject to the following conditions:

- The proponent is required to 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 requires the following:
  - a minimum 30-metre undisturbed buffer must be maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands that appear on a 1:50,000 topographical map to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat; and,
  - 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 raptor nests (e.g. Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl); and, the location of any raptor nest site must be reported to the Wildlife Division.
- A Water Resources Management Plan must be prepared and submitted to the Water Resources Management Division for review and approval, prior to commencing any work related to this project. The Water Resources Management Plan should address the following concerns:
  - If there are any brooks, rivers, ponds, streams or wetlands present in or within 30 metres of the boundaries of the project site, then please provide the type of water body and its distance from the site;
  - If any of the above-mentioned water bodies are impacted by site operations, describe how the water body will be impacted. A permit/licence from the Water Resources Management Division may be required; and,
  - If there is any potential for onsite drainage water or dewatering water to discharge into a natural water body, describe the measures that are to be deployed, such as the establishment of vegetative cover, filter strip or silt curtain to ensure the effluent or runoff meets the requirements of the Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003.
- The proponent is 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](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).
- The proponent is required to update the Environmental Assessment Division on the status of the project, including a copy of all permits, licenses, certificates, approvals and other authorizations required for the project, one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates if requested. Project updates should be emailed to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).

**Round Pond (South) Quarry**  
**Proponent: JCL Investments Inc.**

(Reg. 2101)

The project was released subject to the following conditions:

- The proponent is required to uphold all commitments made in your environmental assessment submission to mitigate the effects of the project on the environment.
- The quarry should be constructed using landscape design techniques that provide adequate tree screening and elevation parameters so that the project is not visible from the Trans-Canada Highway and Butter Pot Park. A viewshed management plan shall be submitted to the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities for approval prior to the start of construction.
- Drilling, blasting and crushing activities in the quarry must not occur between May 1 and September 30 annually, due to the proximity of the quarry to Butter Pot Park.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada 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<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> in this region.
- The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture requires the following:
  - a minimum 30-metre undisturbed buffer must be maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands that appear on a 1:50,000 topographical map to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat; and,
  - 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 raptor nests (e.g. Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl); and, the location of any raptor nest site must be reported to the Wildlife Division.
- A brief Water Resources Management Plan must be prepared and submitted to the Water Resources Management Division for review and approval, prior to commencing any work related to this project. The Water Resources Management Plan should address the following concerns:
  - if there are any brooks, rivers, ponds, streams or wetlands present in or within 30 metres of the boundaries of the project site, then please provide the type of water body and its distance from the site;
  - if any of the above-mentioned water bodies are impacted by site operations, describe how the water body will be impacted. A permit/licence from the Water Resources Management Division may be required; and,
  - if there is any potential for onsite drainage water or dewatering water to discharge into a natural water body, describe the measures that are to be

deployed, such as the establishment of vegetative cover, filter strip or silt curtain to ensure the effluent or runoff meets the requirements of the Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003.

- The proponent is required to advise the Environmental Assessment Division when each of the conditions of release has 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](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca).
- The proponent is 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, within one year from the date of this release letter and to provide additional updates, if requested. Please email project updates to [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca)

### **Learn more**

Environmental Assessment Division  
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Public comments may be forwarded to: [EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca)

Environmental assessment information: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/env-assessment/>

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