

March 31, 2021

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Reg. # 2117

Tony Sheppard, General Manager
Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation
7 Wellon Drive
Deer Lake, NL A8A 2G6
info@nlsf.org

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

Re: Cormack Snowmobile Trail Connection

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 this undertaking 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.
- 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, 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.

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

The Climate Change Branch of my Department would like to note that climate change is expected to result in more precipitation and more frequent extreme weather events that may result in increased flooding. Given the proponent has indicated that measures will be implemented (e.g. ditching, culverts or bridges) to prevent sediment runoff, CCB suggests

that the proponent consider provincial climate change projections for Deer Lake (the nearest regional sites) in the planning for this undertaking. These projections suggest that extreme precipitation events will become more intense. For further information, please contact the Climate Change Branch at (709) 729-1485.

The Local Governance and Land Use Planning Division of my Department advises that the proposed trail is located in two zones in two separate municipalities, and you are to contact the Town of Cormack and the Town of Deer Lake to obtain appropriate permits prior to any work. For further information, please contact the Local Governance and Land Use Division at (709) 729-4318 and each Town Office.

The Water Resources Management Division of my Department advises that permits are required for any work in shore water zones and any infilling work within fifteen (15) metres of a body of water. In addition, any effluent or runoff leaving the site will be required to conform to the requirements of the Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003. For further information, please contact the Water Resources Management Division at (709) 729-2563.

The Pollution Prevention Division of my Department advises that you must comply with the *Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations, 2003*. You should develop a contingency plan specific to the proposed undertaking to enable a quick and effective response to a spill event and spill kits should be kept on site. Any spill or leak of gasoline or associated product is to be reported immediately to Service NL by calling the Environmental Emergencies telephone line at 772-2083 or 1-800-563-9089. For further information, please contact the Pollution Prevention Division at (709) 729-5782.

The Government Services Centre of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises that a development permit is required under the *Protected Road Zoning Regulations* for any construction within 400 metres of the centre line of Route 430. A permit is required from the Government Services Centre in accordance with the *Urban and Rural Planning Act* for the construction of an access road in a protected area, or for any access onto a protected road. Any proposed access roads to the site must be approved by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. For further information, please contact the Government Service Centre at (709) 637-2229.

The Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Digital Government and Service NL advises you to ensure that the activities associated with the development are conducted in compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its Regulations.

This includes the responsibility for ensuring that contractors hired to perform work also comply with this legislation. The Occupational Health and Safety Division reminds you to consider procedures related to the protection of workers related to COVID-19. Procedures must follow the requirements set forth by the Chief Medical Officer of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Mines Branch of the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology advises that any quarry materials (e.g., aggregate, fill, rock, stone, boulders, gravel, sand, clay, borrow material, etc.) required for the project must be sourced from either a site covered by a quarry permit or quarry lease, an external source as a by-product of an approved development, or within the legal boundary of the project site (e.g., within the legal boundary of the corresponding land title) provided that their excavation would be in compliance with other permits and understandings. The Mines Branch advises that a portion of the snowmobile route overlaps with the proposed access route to a nearby quarry permit (located west of the highway, just west of where the existing and new sections of the trail meet). While quarry operations are often seasonal, it is possible that the quarry permitted at this location may be accessed during cold weather months, in which case the route would have to be plowed. The Crown Lands Division of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture advises that this will be addressed during the application process. Should the Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation be successful in obtaining a Licence to Occupy the proposed land for the trail, then the Crown Lands Division will consult with IET to work out a route for the quarry access road in the permitting stages. For further information, please contact the Mines Branch at (709) 729-5748.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture advises that 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 raptor nests (e.g. Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl). The location of those raptor nest sites must be reported to the Wildlife Division. For further information, please contact the Wildlife Division at (709) 256-1450.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada advises that as this project involves work in or near water you should refer to the “Projects Near Water” website located at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html> for information about how to comply with the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act* and on the project review process. For further information, please contact the Fisheries Protection Program at (709) 772-4140.

The Department of 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 15th and August 15th in this region. However, as some species protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA) do nest outside of this period, it is your responsibility to ensure that project activities are in compliance with the MCBA and associated regulations. Environment and Climate Change Canada requests that you provide a GIS file of the project boundaries and study area so that the project can be mapped. For further information, please contact Environment and Climate Change Canada at (709) 772-2126.

Although the undertaking as proposed is released from further environmental assessment, it is still subject to other legislative requirements. A summary of the comments received from government agencies during the review is attached to provide an indication of likely applicable permits, approvals and 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, the Minister's decision is valid for a period of three years from the date of this letter. If you have not commenced your project within this three-year period, you may apply to extend the three-year period for a maximum of three one-year periods, if needed. For further information, please email EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Sweeney, Director (A), Environmental Assessment Division, at 709-729-0673 or joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Bennett".

DEREK BENNETT
Minister

Enclosures