

MAR 16 2010

Mr. Paul Wylezol
Chairperson
International Appalachian Trail
Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter Inc.
302-14 Beothuck Crescent
Corner Brook, NL
A2H 6A6

Dear Mr. Wylezol:

Subject: Proposed Port Aux Basques to Crow Head Hiking Trail

Your proposal has been reviewed and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public and government agencies as required by the *Environmental Protection Act*.

Upon consideration of the comments received, please be advised that this undertaking is released from further environmental assessment. However, you should be aware of the following matters regarding your proposal:

- The trail overlaps with onshore petroleum permits # 03-101, # 03-102 and # 03-103 held by Nalcor Energy-Oil and Gas Inc. Therefore, the Crown Land Licence when issued, will not provide any rights with respect to adjacent land developments.
- The Labrador-Island Transmission Link proposal will take precedence over this undertaking, in that it was registered prior to the Port aux Basques Hiking Trail. Therefore, Lands Branch will not issue any title for the trail where it overlaps the proposed Labrador-Island Transmission Link until the transmission project completes the current environmental assessment review.
- The trail on map 14AB has already been refused by Lands Branch, so the International Appalachian Trail NL Chapter Inc. will be required to resubmit an alternate trail route, preferably a single defined route. Lands Branch will refer the application to the Environmental Assessment Division to determine the requirement for registration.
- The trail must not be an impediment to current or future timber harvesting activities, either domestic or commercial and there must be an allowance for re-routing sections of the trail should timber harvesting operations prove feasible along some sections of the trail.
- The trail is not permitted to cross Agricultural Leases at Portland Creek. Therefore, you must consult with the Agriculture Branch of the Department

of Natural Resources and the Crown Lands Branch of the Department of Environment and Conservation to identify alternative routes in these areas. For further information, contact Ms. Tara Morgan, Manager (A), Soils and Mapping Services, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, P.O. Box 2006, Fortis Building, Corner Brook, NL, A2H 6J8 at (709) 637-2084 or email at taramorgan@gov.nl.ca.

You are reminded that the Crown Land applications pertaining to this undertaking are currently under review. Therefore, this release is for the environmental assessment only. No activity or land clearing is to take place until the Lands Branch has issued the Crown Land Title pursuant to the Lands Act. Further information on the Crown Land Application is available from Mr. Calvin Payne, Regional Lands Manager-Western Region, Lands Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation, P.O. Box 2006, Corner Brook, NL, A2H 6J8, Tel: (709) 637-2393.

Please be aware that you are obliged to inform this Department of any significant changes to your project.

A summary of comments from the reviewing agencies received during the review period is attached for your consideration. Note that the list of permits and approvals in the comment summary attached may not be complete, and you are required to comply with all relevant legislation.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Bas Cleary, Director of the Environmental Assessment Division, at 729-0673.

Sincerely,



CHARLENE JOHNSON
Minister

Attachment