

MAY 20 2016

Reg. 1725

Mr. Bradley Chislett
Eagleridge International Limited
PO Box 14063
Conception Bay South NL A1W 3J1

Dear Mr. Chislett:

RE: Big Triangle Pond Mineral Exploration and Access Road Project

Further to my 15 February 2016 correspondence, the appeal process is now complete. Bearing in mind the purpose of Part X of the *Environmental Protection Act* and after careful consideration of the Appellants' and your submissions, comments received during the public review period as well as government agency comments and recommendations received during the review of the 2014 Environmental Preview Report (EPR), I have decided to revise the 10 October 2014 release decision and require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The reasons for my revised decision are as follows:

- The rationale provided by Eagleridge for the road and alternative means of conducting the mineral exploration activities have not been adequately presented and analyzed by Eagleridge.
- The potential effects of project activities, including the road, on the biophysical and socio-economic environments of the project area have not been adequately presented and analyzed by Eagleridge.
- Significant public concerns identified by the Appellants and public during both the EPR review and appeal processes.
- The Environmental Assessment Committee (EAC), by way of the EAC Chair, recommended on 4 April 2014 that the Minister require an EIS. The issues identified by the EAC overlap with those noted in the public submissions both in the initial EA and during the appeal process.
- A public and EAC review is required of the additional information that you submitted on 22 March 2016 including the background information referenced but not provided in that submission.

The EAC previously appointed will continue to provide technical and scientific advice to you regarding the preparation of the EIS. As per the legislation, you will be issued guidelines for the completion of the EIS.

Project and baseline information requirements will have to address, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Discussion and analysis of alternative means of carrying out the proposed mineral exploration work.
- An assessment of the potential effects of the proposed project on the social, economic, recreational, cultural and aesthetic values of the area to be affected.
- An assessment of the potential effects of the proposed project on the bio-physical environment.

Please note that in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act*, project activities may not proceed until the proposal is released from the environmental assessment process. The project will also be subject to cost recovery to offset the costs incurred by the Crown in conducting the environmental assessment.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division at (709) 729-0673 or Mr. Brent Keeping at (709) 729-4223 or by email at bkeeping@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Trimper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P".

PERRY TRIMPER, MHA
District of Lake Melville
Minister