

Reg. 1751

MAR 21 2017

Mr. Rajesh Sharma
CEO and Managing Director
Howse Minerals Limited
Suite 809, Atlantic Place
215 Water Street
St. John's NL A1C 6M9

Dear Mr. Sharma:

RE: Howse Direct Shipping Ore Mine Environmental Assessment

Your proposal has been reviewed by the appointed Environmental Assessment Committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protection Act*, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Upon consideration of the comments received and recommendation from the Environmental Assessment Committee, you are advised that this undertaking is released from further provincial environmental assessment, subject to the following conditions:

- The Direct Shipping Ore Project Newfoundland and Labrador Benefits Plan must be updated to include the Howse DSO Project. The update must be done in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources and meet the approval of the Minister of Natural Resources prior to the start of construction.
- A Gender Equity and Diversity Plan for the Howse DSO Project must be approved by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and the Minister of Natural Resources prior to the start of construction.
- Howse Minerals Limited will be required to consult with Indigenous governments and organizations according to the Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines developed by Government for the project. All permits for the project must be processed according to these guidelines.
- An updated Environmental Preview Report document and concordance table must be provided to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment that incorporates any new project information resulting from the federal environmental assessment process prior to the start of construction.
- The Wildlife Division must be contacted to discuss appropriate action prior to initiating any deterrents to move caribou away from the project area.

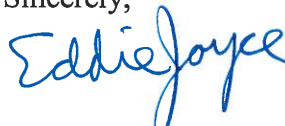
Please be advised, a Certificate-of-Approval is required from the Pollution Prevention Division of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. A Development Plan is required under the *Mining Act*, and, a Mining Lease under the *Mineral Act* including surface rights from the Department of Natural Resources.

You are advised to review and consider the enclosed Government of Newfoundland Labrador responses to Aboriginal organizations and public comments on the EPR.

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 enclosed to provide an indication of likely applicable permits, approvals and legislative requirements. Please note that 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.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Martin Goebel, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment Branch at (709) 729-2559.

Sincerely,



EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber - Bay of Islands
Minister

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Siobhan Coady, Minister
Natural Resources