

Reg No. 1825

FEB 29 2016

Mr. Clifford T. Smith
Executive Vice President of Business Development
Cliffs Natural Resources
200 Public Square Suite 3300
Cleveland OH 44114
United States

Dear Mr. Smith:

Re: Wabush Mines Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental screening 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, please be advised that this undertaking is released. However, the release is subject to a number of conditions, all of which must be met before any physical work can commence on the site.

The following plans are required:

- An Avian Monitoring Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada and Department of Environment and Conservation prior to start of the project.
- A Gender Equity and Diversity Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Department of Natural Resources and the Women's Policy Office prior to start of the project.
- An Implementation Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Department of Natural Resources prior to start of the project.
- An Employment Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Department of Advanced Education and Skills prior to start of the project.
- A Public Consultation Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Department of Environment and Conservation prior to start of the project. This Plan must describe consultation with the Town of Wabush, Aboriginal groups and include a detailed inspection schedule.

Please be advised, the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the site is to follow the Department of Environment and Conservation's Policy Directive and Guidance Document for the Management of Impacted Sites. Long term monitoring will be required following completion of the decommissioning and rehabilitation activities. The timeframe for monitoring will be determined by the Department and may extend beyond the 10 years proposed. For more information on the Department of Environment and Conservation's regulatory requirements contact Mr. Dexter Pitman, Manager of Industrial Compliance, Pollution Prevention Division at (709)729-6771 or dpitman@gov.nl.ca. Also, for permits and licences required under the *Water Resources Act* contact Dr. Abdel-Zahar Kamal Abdel-Razel, Manager, Water Rights and Investigations Section at (709)729-4795 or aabdelrazek@gov.nl.ca.

The rehabilitation should use native species where possible for areas of revegetation and use of hydro-seeding. Efforts should be to attain a natural landscape continuous with the surrounding landscape, in order to encourage native flora to grow and fauna to repopulate the area. Also, appropriate permits must be sought from the Town of Wabush for activities occurring within their Municipal Planning Area.

Cliffs Natural Resources shall abide by all commitments made by it in the Environmental Assessment Registration dated November 2015 unless one or more of the commitments or a part of a commitment is specifically waived by the minister.

Once the above referenced conditions are met, the project 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. Please note that you must comply with all relevant legislation and obtain all necessary permits and approvals. You are required to inform this Department and seek approval of any proposed significant changes to the undertaking.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division, at (709)729-0673.

Sincerely,



PERRY TRIMPER, MHA
District of Lake Melville
Minister

Attachment

cc: Hon. Siobhan Coady, Minister
Dept. of Natural Resources

Hon. Gerry Byrne
Dept. of Advanced Education and Skills

Hon. Cathy Bennett
Women's Policy Office

Town of Wabush