

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Environment and Climate Change

Office of the Minister

SEP 16 2016

File# <u>2.2211.0201</u> Reg. No. 1844

Mr. Brent Sellars Nalcor Energy Hydro Place, 500 Columbus Drive PO Box 12400 St. John's NL A1B 4K7

Dear Mr. Sellars:

## RE: Grand Falls Main Dam 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. Please be advised that this undertaking is **released** from further environmental assessment subject to the following conditions:

- Prior to the start of construction, the proponent must apply for and obtain a water use licence under the Water Resources Act, 2002 for the use of water from all bodies of water for water power generation purpose at Grand Falls hydroelectric power generating development as well as water use licences for Star Lake, Bishop's Falls and Buchans hydroelectric power generating developments. These applications must be submitted during the month of September 2016 to enable review, evaluation and processing.
- Prior to the start of construction, the proponent must apply for and obtain a permit under the *Water Resources Act*, 2002, specifically Section 48 for any work in any body of water (including wetland), including but is not limited to, bridges and dams with the need for a Site Drainage Plan. These applications must be submitted during the month of November 2016 to enable review, evaluation and processing.
  - The following information must be submitted to the Department:
    - o A Site Drainage Plan;
    - The 2016 flood study and the revised flood inundation mapping for the entire Exploits River including digital GIS layer of mapping, upon completion;
    - o A revised Emergency Preparedness Plan/Emergency Response Plan (EPP/ERP), following completion of the Exploits River flood study;
    - o Flood Risk and Vulnerability Analysis Report, AMEC, 2012; and
    - o 2012 update on dam stability, if available.
    - o Revised Operation, Maintenance & Surveillance (OSM) Manual, upon completion.

- The proponent shall test the existing Emergency Preparedness Plan/Emergency Response Plan (EPP/ERP) prior to the proposed work.
- The proponent is required to adhere to the Memorandum of Agreement as set forth by the Department of Environment and Climate Change relating to the operation of hydrometric and climate stations for the Exploits River. The Department may require the setup of additional monitoring stations, including visual webcamera monitoring stations, in the Memorandum of Agreement as per provisions of Section 31 of the Water Resources Act, SNL2002 Chapter W-4.0.
- A Women's Employment Plan must be developed for the project and approved by the Women's Policy Office.

Please be advised that the Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour requested that additional information be provided on the project regarding employment and skilled trades required during various phases of construction. The Department also requested that the proponent provide summary reports (preferably quarterly) for the various construction phases of the project. Contact Mr. Sean Hoyles, Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour, tel. 709-729-6406 or seanhoyles@gov.nl.ca.

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. 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. Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division at 729-0673.

Sincerely.

PERRY TRIMPER, MHA
District of Lake Melville

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Minister

Attachment